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This Week

National

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ARGENTINE JEWS SEEK NEW FUTURE, ARRIVE IN ISRAEL: **The first group of immigrants from Argentina since riots erupted recently in Buenos Aires arrived in Israel last week. The group comprised 63 new arrivals, young couples and seniors who were welcomed at Ben-Gurion Airport by Jewish Agency officials.** *See related story p.24* *[Israel Sun photo]*

More Canadians blame Arafat: poll

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Twice as many Canadians hold Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat rather than Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon responsible for the resurgence of Mideast violence, according to a survey by Léger Marketing. Among respondents who say they follow the conflict, 26 percent said Arafat is responsible, while 12 percent said Sharon is at fault.

Among the rest, 24 percent hold both men equally responsible and 38 percent either did not know or refused to answer.

Interpreted another way, Léger states that half of Canadians believe Arafat bears responsibility, while 38 per cent feel the same way about Sharon.

Sharon has his greatest number of critics in Quebec, where 18 percent hold him responsible for the renewed violence. Arafat is most likely to be singled out for blame in the Atlantic provinces (32 percent) and least likely in Manitoba/Saskatchewan (21 percent).Prairie respondents were also the least likely to finger Sharon (7 percent).

The study was conducted by phone among a representative sample of 1,521 English- and French-speaking Canadians, 18 and older, between Dec. 4 and Dec. 10. That was just after Palestinian suicide bombers killed 28 Israelis in two incidents over one weekend.

Léger says the results are accurate within a margin of plus or minus 2.6 per cent, 19 times out of 20. (The margin of error is higher for regional

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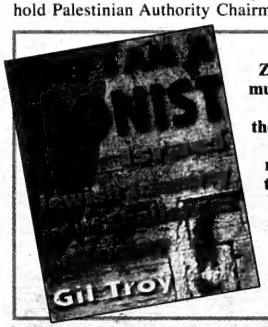

"We Jews need to 'take back' Zionism from its critics. Not only must we not let them define us, we also cannot let our reaction to them define us. Too much modern Judaism is defined by our enemies - of yesterday and today. In taking back Zionism, we need to articulate a positive vision that speaks to us - and inspires us."
- Gil Troy

Please see related stories pages 4 and 21

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Benjamin Ben-Eliezer elected leader of Labor Party – see page 23

The News in Brief

CANADA

Definition Expanded

OTTAWA — Ottawa has expanded its list of suspected terrorist groups to include all elements of the Hamas organization. The federal government had previously excluded the charity arm of Hamas from its list of groups and individuals whose financial assets will be frozen if found in any Canadian financial institution. The charity arm was added to the list kept by the government's Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions.

ISRAEL

Bomber Visited

JERUSALEM — The man who allegedly tried to blow up an American Airlines flight from Paris to Miami late last month using explosives in his shoe had visited Israel earlier in 2001, according to a report in the French newspaper *Le Monde*. The report said British national Richard Reid also visited Egypt and Turkey. Israeli security services and the FBI are investigating the purpose of Reid's stop in Israel seven months ago. Israeli Army Radio reported Reid was detained briefly at Ben-Gurion airport.

Prickly Situation

JERUSALEM — Israel's foreign ministry is hosting some prickly guests. Porcupines have moved into the ministry's compound in Jerusalem. While some ministry employees don't appreciate after-dark encounters with the creatures, a memorandum circulated by the Nature Reserves Authority assured workers the animals are timid and, contrary to popular myth, do not shoot their spines.

Tennis Title

JERUSALEM — An Israeli teenager has won a prestigious international girls tennis title. Shahar Peer, a 14-year-old from the town Maccabim, won the 14-and-under division at the Junior Orange Bowl championship in Miami.

WORLD

Delicacies Served

NEW YORK — Clean-up workers at Ground Zero recently enjoyed a taste of Israel recently when Israeli chef and TV personality Gil Hovav prepared a traditional Israeli breakfast for firefighters, police officers and construction workers. Working out of Nino's Restaurant in Manhattan, Hovav prepared shakshuka, an Israeli dish of fried eggs and tomato sauce. Two firefighters from Brooklyn said the food was different, but tasty.

Muslim Bomb

NEW YORK — The former president of Iran is calling on the Muslim world to develop nuclear weapons to annihilate Israel. At a recent lecture at Tehran University, Ali Hashem Rafsanjani said if "the world of Islam" obtains nuclear weapons, it should use them against Israel, whose second-strike capability is not enough to destroy the entire Muslim world, he said."Nothing will remain after one atom bomb is dropped on Israel, while a similar [retaliatory] attack would only hurt Islam," Rafsanjani said. Still one of the most powerful leaders in Iran, Rafsanjani described the founding of Israel as "the worst event in all of history."

Afghanistan Aid

JERUSALEM — Afghanistan's deputy president said her country would welcome Israeli humanitarian aid. But Sima Samar said she would prefer the aid come from non-governmental agencies. Samar, the only woman in Afghanistan's new government, said her country likely would consider diplomatic relations with Israel if Israel and the Palestinians come to a peace agreement.

Envoy Excess

LONDON — France's ambassador to Britain, Daniel Bernard, is being urged to resign after speaking about "that shitty little country Israel" at a private dinner party. The remark sparked outrage in Israel, where the prime minister's spokesperson called it "a pure anti-Semitic expression." Bernard did not deny the remark, insisting that what he said had been distorted. His spokesperson claimed he was referring only to Israel's small geographic size.

Real Estate Agent Regrets Flyer

GUELPH, Ont. — A real estate agent and his employer have announced they will apologize for a flyer the agent distributed in which he pointed out he is not Jewish.

Peter Ysselstein, a sales representative, and Re/Max Realty Specialists Inc. are attempting to mitigate the damage caused by the flyer, which was sent to about 200 Guelph homes last month to solicit home value estimates near the University of Guelph campus.

"And one last assumption," the back of the flyer stated in bold print. "Does the 'stein' in my last name automatically make me Jewish? Don't let 'stein' stop you from calling me for a 'Home Value' Estimate!"

Members of the local Jewish community were outraged by the flyer.

Ysselstein admitted the comments on his flyer were "wrong" and he said he and his employer are working out an apology. Ysselstein is still working at the Guelph office.

"It definitely was wrong, because everybody had the same take on it, although maybe I only hear from the people that have a problem with it."

Ysselstein, who is not Jewish, said his name is of Dutch origin and had been a "lightning rod" that attracted anti-Jewish discrimination when he was growing up in Guelph.

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Tory leadership hopefuls clash on tax credit

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ontario's finance minister and would-be premier, Jim Flaherty, praised his government's tax credits for private school tuition before a meeting last month of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools (OAJDS). But earlier the same week, Ernie Eves, Flaherty's main rival for the Tory leadership, attacked the credit as "ludicrous" because it does not impose basic controls over curriculum.

Flaherty's stand is popular with Jewish education officials because he supports the tax credit almost unconditionally. But privately, some communal professionals warn of a looming battle with Eves, the frontrunner in the race to replace Premier Mike Harris. They worry that some Jewish schools, particularly chassidic yeshivot, may resist more controls over their curricula should Eves become premier and tighten eligibility criteria for the credit, as he has hinted.

Flaherty, addressing a Dec. 19 OAJDS meeting, repeated his view that the tax credit, which came into force Jan. 1 after seven months of ironing out regulations, is all about parental choice.

He said that when he introduced the measure in last May's budget, he knew "the education tax credit would be controversial.

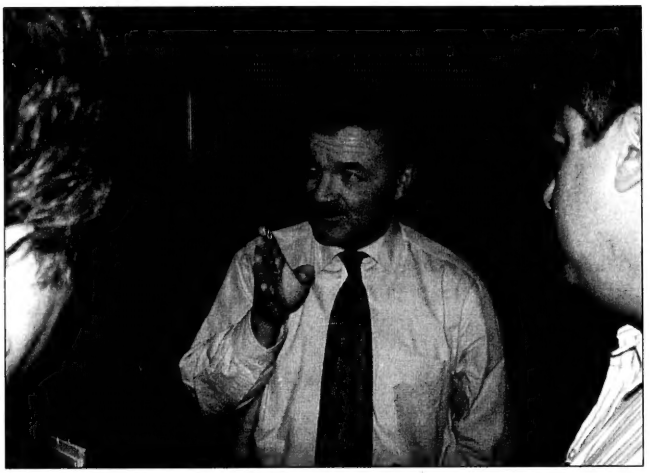
"I knew that the opposition would attack it. But I thought then... and remain firmly of the view that the tax credit is based on an important principle: support for educational choice; support for parents who want their children to be educated in their own culture and religion; support for educational equality."

Starting this year, parents of children in Jewish day schools will be eligible for a tax credit of up to $700 per child, or 10 percent of the first $7,000 of tuition fees. To be phased in over the next five years, the credit will increase 10 percent per year, and by 2006, will be worth up to $3,500 per child annually.

The move will eventually return about $300 million a year to parents of the 102,000 students in Ontario's private schools, including the 12,000 children enrolled in 42 Jewish day schools and yeshivot.

Flaherty later told *The CJN* he supports the

Continued on page 14



Finance minister and Tory leadership hopeful Jim Flaherty makes a point at a recent meeting of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools. [Ron Csillag photo]

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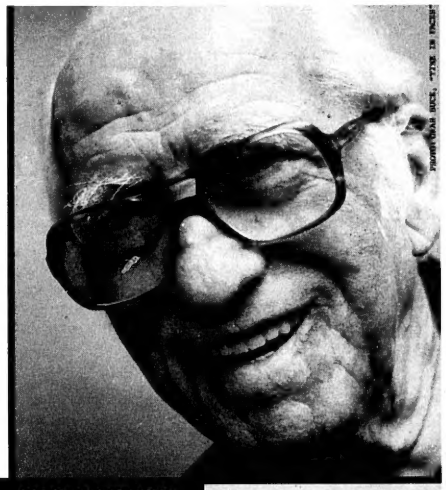

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A 'must buy' book

There are a number of sourcebooks, references, texts and films on the Middle East conflict to which we can all turn for invaluable guidance. A history of the Jewish people is a good place to begin. There are many reliable, well-written history texts, such as those authored by Heinrich Graetz, Solomon Grayzel, Simon Dubnov, Ben-Zion Dinur, Cecil Roth, H.H. Ben-Sasson, Jacob Katz, Howard Sacher and Paul Johnson, to name but a few.

Recently in this space, I wrote about two resources other than history texts that are very important sources of context and information for individuals interested in carrying the "battle" for public opinion on behalf of Israel.

One was the Web site of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) – www.cicweb.ca – which publishes highly instructive documents and other publications. The other was *Myths and Facts: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict* by Mitchell G. Bard.

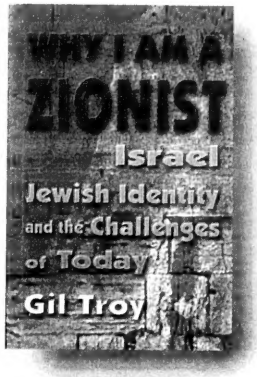
To this list must now be added the recently published *Why I Am A Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today*, by Gil Troy.

Since the start of the violent rejection of the Oslo Accords by the Palestinians some 15 months ago, Troy has emerged as the pre-eminent advocate for Israel on Canadian campuses and in the general media.

A professor of history at McGill University, Troy wears the mantle in Canadian academic and intellectual circles, so proudly, ably and elegantly worn in the United States by Ruth Wisse, as a bold, unabashed defender of Israel's legitimacy and right to exist as a free, sovereign Jewish State in the Muslim Middle East.

Troy's book is one of the most important works to appear on the subject of Jewish survival and continuity, at least since 1967. It is not an overstatement to join Zionism, the ostensible subject of the work, to Jewish survival and continuity. Troy uses the term Zionism in a wide, inclusive manner that begins with "peoplehood, history and homeland," and concludes with a discussion on a reinvigorated, modern Zionism geared to Jews both in Israel and in the Diaspora.

Troy writes in a direct, forthright manner, in language that is as clear as sunlight in a noontime summer sky in Jerusalem. He never avoids or evades difficult issues. His arguments are forceful but never overbearing. Moreover, and perhaps most refreshing, Troy is never defensive about Israel or Israel's cause. When there are blemishes on Israel's record, he acknowledges them. But he refuses to allow the enemies of Israel to distort that record as if it only had such blemishes.



The book has its genesis in the morally inverted world that once again, alas, wields truth topsy-turvy, upside down, as a sword against the Jewish State.

Like many of us, Troy was shocked at the nature and extent of the anti-Israel and anti-Semitic rhetoric that has returned from the malodorous sinkholes of a former time. But unlike most of us, he has decided to take action.

This book arises from that action.

From its very first pages, the book glistens with high thought and inspiration. In the prologue, Troy tells how and why it was written.

He reproduces his famous shining essay *I am a Zionist: A Twenty First Century Manifesto*, the reactions it evoked, and his personal call-to-arms that resulted from those reactions.

The book is a specially effective armament for students on campus, where the vitriol against the Jews and the Jewish State has been the most poisonous.

Indeed, Troy has included an appendix that tells the reader "how to talk about Israel on campus and elsewhere without apologizing, cringing, crying or yelling." It should be made available for all our students on campuses throughout Canada.

Why I am a Zionist flows with facts, argument, history and context like a strong river whose unwavering current is able to smash the menacing rocks that lurk mostly hidden in its path.

Helping to make the book even more illuminating is the renowned Israeli illustrator of the *Jerusalem Report*, Avi Katz, whose many drawings add poignant visual accents to Troy's writings.

All of the author's royalties from the book will be donated to the Israeli MIA families' individual efforts to free their children. All other profits from the book will be donated to the Birthright Israel program. *Why I am a Zionist* can be ordered from the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre in Montreal by phone at: 514-345-2610, by fax at: 514-735-2175 or by email at: bjec@bjec.org.

There is no more informative, exciting, impassioned and inspiring voice today on Israel's behalf than Troy's. His book is a must buy.

* * *

Two weeks ago in this space, I wrote about Ralph Shedletsky, the new president of the UJA Federation of Greater Toronto. I inadvertently "lost" one of his sisters. Shedletsky has three siblings, not two.

—MBD

See JN

ADOLESCENTS' CENTRE RENOVATED: The Jerome D. Diamond Centre, the day treatment centre for adolescents operated by Jewish Family & Child Service, recently celebrated its $800,000 renovation. Prior to the renovation, the centre operated out of two buildings on the same street in mid-town Toronto. The program has now been consolidated in the renovated building, which has five classrooms and serves over 40 young people. The second site has been sold.

Pictured cutting the ceremonial cake are, from left, John Baird, minister of community and social services; Cecile Zaifman, president of JF&CS; Gordon Wolfe, executive director of JF&CS.

Sept. 11 changed people for good, says famed rabbi

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Rabbi Harold Kushner's curiosity about people goes back as far as he can remember.

The bestselling author of *When Bad Things Happen to Good People* and rabbi laureate of Temple Israel in Natick Mass. said that from an early age, he always found characters to study in literature. "I enjoy learning what makes people tick."

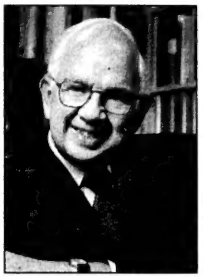
He was here recently to speak at Temple Sinai about his latest book, *Living a Life that Matters*, a talk originally scheduled for Sept. 11.

In an interview before his talk, Rabbi Kushner said he has observed a change in people since the terrorist attacks, but he can't say if the change is permanent.

"In the United States, we've had taken away from us the feeling of American exceptionalism.

"People who have believed that terrible things will not happen to them, have joined the rest of the world [in their feeling] of vulnerability."

We have learned that there are limits to what human ingenuity and technology can control, he said. "There is something religious about that. God begins where human self-sufficiency ends.



Rabbi Kushner

"People start believing in God when they [realize they] do not have the power they want. [Since Sept. 11] more people have recognized the need for God."

They have also recognized that there is no greater priority than their family, he said.

The Sept. 11 hijackers were not evil people, said Rabbi Kushner. "They were fanatics. They were misguided people who were sent [to their deaths] by someone evil."

Human beings differ from other creatures, he said, in that they can understand the difference between good and evil.

"There are choices we can make, and these choices are significant because we have a finite amount of time. We have no time to make other choices."

Everyone has the potential to do bad things, he said, and there are some who choose to exalt in death and destiny instead of life.

"There are, however, few people like that. Those who enjoy the suffering of other people are a different breed of creatures."

He believes, however, "that you cannot be a complete person without having to wrestle your own demons... Like the man or woman who lifts weights at the gym to become stronger, we strengthen our moral fibre by the exercise of resisting temptation."

As a congregational rabbi for 24 years, he said, he spoke to a lot of people who were unhappy because of moral compromises they had to make to attain certain goals. "They were like Jacob in the Bible who is ashamed of having deceived his father, and who cheated his brother to get ahead."

In the past three months, he said in his talk, it has been difficult to believe in the goodness of the world, and it has been hard "to get up and come to synagogue.

"God never promised, though, that life would be fair. He promised that when we had to face pain we would not have to face it alone."

The premise of his latest book, he said, is that human beings need to feel significant; they need to feel that they are taken seriously by the world.

"This craving for significance is why artists labour over the right colour, and musicians labour over the right note.

"People reveal themselves on talk shows because for one hour, they have held the attention of the audience; they have been significant."

Alongside the need to be significant, he said, is the need to be good. "These are two parallel needs, and if one is lucky, they will never conflict."

People can change the world for the good, he said, if they join with other people and do it together. "If thousands of people work with each other, they can make a difference.

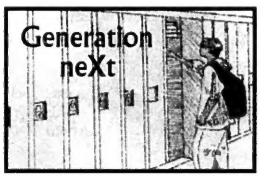
"Not everyone has to be a star. [It is also good] to be best actor in a supporting role. That is how we make good things happen, how we can make an impact on the world. We have no way of knowing the implications of [the sum total of many] little deeds of kindness."

People who really want to make a difference, he said, need to start with the people closest to them. "Love the people around you. Change people's lives by inviting them to change yours. Reach out to those closest to you and love them."

The turning point

By MARK DANIELS and JASON ROTSTEIN

As we approach a turning point in our education, we are faced with the dilemma of what we will become. We say, with confidence, that the choice, ultimately, lies in our hands; we alone can shape our destiny. With new opportunities arising at every turn, we are, for the first time, called upon to explore our nature in an effort to determine our identity.



As one chapter of our lives draws to a close, another abruptly begins. Adolescents strive for autonomy and adulthood. We are the authors of our autobiographies; the course taken is as direct or as circumventive as we choose. We are the sum total of our experiences.

In our youngest and most impressionable years, before we enter grade school, we rarely defy the intrinsic values of our role models, namely, our parents. Statistically, only a small percentage of Jewish children brought up in a relatively religious environment even consider intermarriage. However, as our intellectual horizons broaden, we instigate the important decisions which govern our lives. When unleashed upon the real world, we begin to question the importance of our Jewish values. The idealism of our childhood encounters the practicality of the real world, and it is necessary to reach a compromise; we begin to question those beliefs which had previously been undeniable.

It is here that our tradition is seriously called into question; this is evident from the high rates of assimilation and acculturation in North America. We must keep an open mind in our approach to life. Yet, at the same time, we must continue to preserve and develop the traditions of our fathers and forefathers. The youth of today will shape the Jewry of tomorrow – if we do not preserve our Jewish heritage, there is a danger of it becoming extinct.

The values that are central to our generation vary greatly from those of our parents. It is our primary task to discover an instrument of change that will unite our generation of Jewry in the same way that the Yom Kippur War and the Six Day War consolidated our parents' generation. We have seen how the war against America, stemming from the Sept. 11 attacks, has prompted a revolutionary posture of national pride and patriotism. It is not our choice as Jews to promote solidarity for Israel but our overwhelming obligation to strengthen our ties. Who are we without the security and safety of our Jewish homeland? In the history of the Jewish people, there has always been a force seeking to impede our progress as a nation. As Jews, we must accept the heavy responsibility of our past, discover our identity and proceed from it.

It is impossible to deny that the needs and feelings of Jewish youth are changing. Nevertheless, at the same time, we remain the products of our nurturing friends, family and teachers. Among us walk the Einsteins and the Freuds, the Jewish leaders of tomorrow, who will shape the next generation.

Mark Daniels and Jason Rotstein are students at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

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Leonard Asper defends CanWest vision

'You can't take one editorial stand across the board... It's not practical'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A little over a year ago, when the Asper family collectively made the decision to acquire the Canadian assets of the Hollinger newspaper group, they knew the purchase would raise eyebrows among those concerned about corporate concentration of the news media.

Then, when CanWest Global Communications, the Asper-controlled media giant, recently required its chain of 13 Southam newspapers (acquired from Hollinger) to run one editorial per week penned in the company's home base in Winnipeg, the editorial staff at the *Montreal Gazette* howled in protest. Other media watchers weighed in that the imposition of centrally-determined editorials – eventually numbering three a week – would reduce the diversity of voices reflecting the communities served by the papers.

Two years into his stint as CanWest Global's CEO and president, Leonard Asper is learning the hard way what it's like to be the target of outraged critics. The latest round of controversy is nothing new for him. As head of one of Canada's largest media companies, he's already locked horns with opponents who argue Global TV spends too little on news and domestic programming.

In a wide-ranging interview in CanWest's Winnipeg head office, and later in a telephone interview, Asper addressed those concerns, arguing the attacks on Global's spending patterns are the work of proxy spokespeople speaking on behalf of rival networks.

The acquisition of prime Hollinger assets, along with the purchase of WIC television stations and a 100-percent interest in the *National Post*, pushed CanWest's debt into the $4-billion range, and prompted it to pressure the money-losing *National Post* to stem the paper's flow of red ink.

"We knew it would put some debt in the company, change its profile for a number of years. And we knew it would put us more in the public spotlight," Asper acknowledged.

Speaking prior to the announcement of the centrally-mandated editorial policy, Asper agreed that local newspapers are best able to gauge the important issues in each community.

"You can't take one editorial stand across the board... It's not practical."

CanWest's policy is to "give editors and station managers a fair bit of leeway on a number of issues. You have to let the people in the local markets understand their readership, the local issues, and make the call themselves."

Speaking after the *Gazette* controversy erupted, Asper said, "given the number of editorials written every day, the local editors have the final decision on 90 percent of the material that gets into the paper."

The editorials from head office are on "matters of national affairs, where we feel there should be a Canadian view instead of a regional, parochial view."

There is no stifling of dissent, he continued. The newspapers will be free to run contrary opinions on their commentary pages. And even though the papers' "editorial position may be pro-Israel, that does not mean that good, sound opposing material can't appear."

Leonard Asper

Speaking prior to the controversy, Asper said, "even if there was one editorial opinion in all the CanWest properties – which is physically impossible – but assume even if it was, there are so many sources [of information] today. What CanWest owns is just one of the apples in the barrel."

With the acquisition of the Hollinger properties to go along with its stable of television stations, CanWest is certainly one of the biggest apples in the barrel. But in the late 1960s, when Leonard's father, Israel (Izzy), launched CKND in Winnipeg, the Asper media holdings consisted of that single, independent station in a mid-sized market.

Over the years, CanWest Global was criticized for its heavy emphasis on American sitcoms, but Asper says that was part of the company's survival and growth strategy. In the mid-1970s, the company was in dire financial straits and "had to play *Love Boat* five times [a day] to pay the bills," Leonard said.

"We built the Global franchise in the 1970s and '80s through U.S. programming that funded the loss-making Canadian programming," he added.

By the 1990s, CanWest was investing more in Canadian programming, and some of its shows proved commercially successful, including *Traders*, *Blue Murder* and *Andromeda*.

Now, Asper said, "there comes a time of maturity in the CanWest organization when we can focus on news."

With the acquisition of the WIC stations, Global can be considered a national broadcaster, but the Aspers' goals are for more: "We desperately want a CBC Newsworld-type channel" and a specialty business channel, he said.

The end game for this ambitious growth phase – at least on television – would be to host "a group of channels we can move viewers back and forth from."

With a host of media properties to draw on, the natural evolution would be towards convergence, Asper continued.

Convergence is a buzzword that really animates him.

There's more than one kind of convergence, he points out. "We are not trying for the vertical integration" where a media company acquires content for its broadcast arm. "We are pursuing what we call horizontal integration, trying to take exhibitive advertising platforms across various media and bring better content to them."

In layman's terms, that would include sales and cross-promotions through various outlets, such as directing Global's TV viewers to CanWest's canada.com Web site or to the *National Post*.

Warming to the topic, Asper points to a new role for journalists in which they will be expected to be comfortable in various media-delivery platforms. That might mean a Calgary print reporter providing up-to-date news coverage for a TV broadcast out of Halifax. Not only would that provide "a much better product, because we have a bigger news pool," there are financial benefits as well, he said.

Instead of Global TV, the *National Post* and Southam papers all sending reporters to a single news event, perhaps only one journalist will draw that assignment, freeing the others to cover different stories.

And offering advertisers a number of platforms – TV, newspapers, the Internet – to deliver their product is a big advantage when advertisers and media buyers are co-ordinating their campaigns, he added.

"It's a new source of profits to the company," he continued. "It won't happen overnight... Convergence selling is a journey. It's a process, not an event."

Developing CanWest's vision and strategy clearly excites Asper, but it's still the family patriarch, Izzy, executive chair of CanWest, who must sign off on all major decisions.

Izzy also sets the direction in another sphere in which the family looms large: philanthropy.

Last November, the Winnipeg Foundation and the Jewish Foundation of Manitoba announced a $20-million gift, to be split equally between them, from Izzy Asper and the Asper family. It is the largest single monetary gift in the charities' histories.

The gifts are a part of a much larger list of donations by the Aspers to a variety of charities, ranging from theatre groups to the Jewish community.

His father is the driving force behind the charitable impulse, Leonard said. "The way he described it is that his parents were immigrants who came with nothing." Fleeing European pogroms to safety in Canada, "they felt they were treated very well by an open and tolerant society.

"They instilled a sense in my father that the only thing one can do is to give back... He's passionately lived by these morals all his life."

Now, he continued, "it's just a family value, a core value... It's as axiomatic to us as breathing and eating."

The three Asper children – Leonard, Gail and David – are all involved in the Asper Foundation. One of the foundation's key programs is the "Joshua Project," which focuses on helping aboriginals in Winnipeg's downtown core to improve their lives.

A lawyer by training, Leonard also serves on the boards of the Asper Jewish Community Campus of Winnipeg, the Sharon Home, the Business Council of Manitoba and the Canada West Foundation.

HEARTS OF STONE!

For Jews, this past year has been the most difficult in 50. Filled with bombings, terrorism, shock, sorrow and tears in Israel and New York - perhaps no one has suffered as much as The Schevischurder family in Israel.

They lost five members in the Jerusalem "Sbarro" bombing.

The parents were with 5 of their 8 children when a suicide bomber detonated a knapsack filled with nails and explosives. The mother and two daughters A"H were killed instantly. The father and son A"H lay mortally wounded and died after reciting the Shema Yisrael together. Two young girls aged 8 and 10 were injured, one very seriously.

The 3 brothers not with the family found their sisters in the hospital. Then they came together for the five concurrent funerals which took place on Mount Menuchot in Jerusalem.

The father Mati was a Jewish studies teacher and the mother Tzirel worked with deaf children. They left a small amount of life insurance. The remaining 5 children aged 8 to 21, are destitute and facing a crisis. The youngest girl faces many surgeries and long term therapy.

WON'T YOU PLEASE HELP?

We need every Jew to help these five orphans financially. We can defeat those with hearts of stone. Charitable tax receipts will be issued for donations of $18 and up. Please give generously. In the merit of this mitzva may you and all of Israel be blessed with a year of health, happiness and peace. Thank you.

THE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN FOR THE SCHEVISCHURDER FAMILY

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Aliyah shaliach faces challenges with equanimity

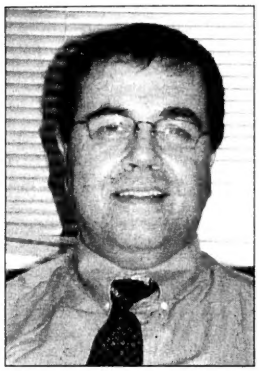
By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Gadi Anavi is unfazed by the impact of the current intifadah on his work as regional director of the Israel Aliyah Centre.

Israel's a tough sell now, he admits. But he's not here to talk people into making aliyah, he says. "I'm here to give a service. People will move to Israel because they want to, and because they believe it's what they should do."

If Anavi – who succeeded Offer Isseroff in November – can help one oleh, he will feel he has succeeded, he said. But if the past year is any indication, he will be called on to assist many times that number.

Since the intifadah began in Sept. 2000, 83 people have made aliyah through his office, which serves Ontario and Western Canada, excluding Vancouver, which has its own aliyah centre.



Gadi Anavi

Anavi, 47, doesn't believe his job description has changed since before the intifadah, "for the simple reason that Israel – no matter when, even in the good days when the peace process was happening and people believed this was taking us to a new era – there was violence in the Middle East, there were terrorist attacks on Israel, there were ups and downs. For me, I take the current situation as something that will end."

Although the situation in Israel "looks bad; still, life in Israel is pretty good," said Anavi.

Those currently making aliyah include a significant number who are affiliated with Orthodox or Conservative Judaism, as well as university-age olim whose parents lived in Israel at some point.

Very few, to his knowledge, move outside the Green Line. As aliyah shaliach, he neither encourages nor discourages such moves. "I give them the facts, which are [that] in some settlements definitely you get good services, the education can be good, but there is always a risky side. The settlements are under attack. It's very difficult to travel from place to place, [especially] at night, and they're at the centre of a political argument between Israel and the Arab world. It has nothing to do with opinions. It's up to them to decide."

His own mother escaped from Transylvania to Israel at age 17 in 1943. Her brother had been executed the day before she left, and a neighbour told her that she was next, said Anavi.

His late father emigrated around the same time, from Egypt via Lebanon and Sicily.

Coincidentally, Anavi was working for the Jewish Agency in the early 1990s when he learned of an opening for a Canadian Young Judaea shaliach in Montreal. He served in that position from 1990 to 1993. The organization's Israeli counterpart, Hanoar Hatzioni, was the group with that helped his mother escape wartime Europe.

Anavi himself was never involved in youth movements as a youngster. Living in Eilat, he explained, it was "the end of the world. There were no youth movements. Just desert."

After studying political science and Far Eastern studies at Hebrew University, Anavi returned to Eilat and worked in his father's business before joining Israel's ministry of education and working in the field of informal education.

Following his stint in Montreal, he served as director of an absorption centre for Ethiopian olim in Kiryat Gat, and then returned to the North American desk of the Jewish Agency's aliyah department in Jerusalem.

Being well prepared is key to successful aliyah, Anavi believes. He encourages prospective olim to visit Israel and live for a while as Israelis before making aliyah. "The more you prepare, the better."

The aliyah centre offers a number of Israel programs for potential olim. Anavi is working on developing an internship program for people age 35 and over, so they can experience life in Israel in their own line of work. He also hopes to start an intensive Hebrew ulpan here.

Anavi doesn't believe that cultural differences between Canadians and Israelis are a major issue, although dealing with bureaucracy requires different tactics. In Israel, you "may have to raise your voice" to get results, but overall, Anavi says, "it's not such a big gap. It looks deeper than it is."

REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA
GENERAL SETTLEMENT FUND FOR VICTIMS OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM
Allgemeiner Entschädigungsfonds für Opfer des Nationalsozialismus

The Republic of Austria has established a General Settlement Fund endowed with **USD 210 million,** which will be administered by the **National Fund of the Republic of Austria.** The **purpose** of the Fund is to acknowledge, through voluntary payments, the moral responsibility for losses and damages inflicted upon Jewish citizens and other victims of National Socialism as a result of or in connection with the National Socialist regime.
Eligibility: Persons and associations who/which were persecuted by the National Socialist regime or who left the country to escape such persecution and who suffered losses or damages as a result of or in connection with events having occurred on the territory of the present-day Republic of Austria during the National ocialist era are eligible to file an application. **Heirs** of such persons and legal successors of defunct associations are also eligible.

HAVE YOU BEEN A VICTIM OF NATIONAL SOCIALISM?

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***IN REM* RESTITUTION:** Applications for *in rem* restitution of real estate (land) and buildings (in case of Jewish organizations also tangible movable property) which were owned by the Federal Government or the City of Vienna on January 17, 2001, may be filed with an Arbitration Panel established with the Fund.

DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS: You may file applications in writing **until May 27, 2003.**

For **additional information and application forms** please contact the General Settlement Fund at:
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Telephone: +43/1/408 12 63 **www.nationalfonds.org** **Fax: +43/1/310 00 88**

ADDITIONAL SOCIAL BENEFITS: Upon achievement of legal closure (dismissal of all US class-actions against Austria and/or Austrian companies related to the National Socialist era) disbursement of "Pflegegeld" (nursing allowance) will be improved, and the prerequisites for the preferential right to retroactively purchase pension rights, as well as for the entitlement to a pension under the Victims Assistance Act ("Opferrente") will be eased. For further **information** please contact:

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or Sozialversicherungsanstalt der gewerblichen Wirtschaft, Wiedner Hauptstraße 84-86, A-1053 Wien
"OPFERRENTEN":
Amt der Wiener Landesregierung, MA12 – Referat Opferfürsorge, Schottenring 24, A-1010 Wien

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Dry Bones

A week when justice was mocked

Once, when dousing the fire of an impassioned debate in the House of Commons, Benjamin Disraeli proclaimed that "justice is truth in action." It was a pithy but nevertheless profound statement by the wily politician. Using the Disraeli formula that relates justice to truth, we must bitterly observe that justice suffered a number of setbacks last week.

In three different parts of the world, in three different ways, justice was invoked. Yet in each case it was "justice" severed from truth.

Justice as politics. The trial against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon resumed last week in Brussels. Under a law of the Belgian parliament passed in 1993 enabling Belgian courts to hear cases of atrocities, including crimes against humanity and genocide, Sharon has been accused by a number of Palestinians for the murders in 1982 of Palestinian refugees in Sabra and Shatilla, Lebanon.

That Elie Hobeika, currently a prominent member of the Lebanese parliament, and the head of the unit of the Phalange militia that actually committed the murders has not been charged, is proof beyond doubt that the process in Brussels has more to do with politics than with justice. It is not merely coincidence that the language of the complaints filed against Sharon in Brussels is the same as that of the anti-Israel, NGO resolutions in Durban. Brussels is simply another battlefield in which the campaign against Israel is being waged.

Justice as hatred. Osama bin Laden, once again, managed to ferret a video of himself to the Qatari television station Al Jazeera that willingly broadcast his self-serving, twisted message around the world.

"How many villages were annihilated without committing any crime?... Those who claim to uphold humanitarian values and freedom, we saw their true criminal nature... Our terrorism against the United States is blessed, aimed at repelling the oppressor so that America stops its support for Israel," bin Laden asked the videographer.

What "crime," one plaintively asks bin Laden did the 3,000 Americans murdered on Sept. 11 commit, that their deaths were hailed as "blessed?" Perverse and perfidious is his alchemy that converts raw hatred of the Jew into "blessed terrorism."

Justice as revenge. In Tehran, the judicial council sent a pro-reform member of parliament, Hossein Loqmanian, to jail for "insulting the judiciary." Loqmanian was sentenced to 13 months in prison; the sentence was affirmed on appeal.

The head of the judicial council is appointed by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Khamenei. Last year, he and his hard-line ruling clerics have intimidated, through false accusation, some 60 "reformist" members of the 280-member Parliament. Loqmanian was the first to actually be convicted and sentenced. In Iran, justice is the revenge judges wield against those who dare to speak their minds.

Were Disraeli alive today, he would have no difficulty agreeing that it was a bad week for justice, a week when justice was mocked.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Netmati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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Government should be accountable

In her column (*CJN*, Dec. 20), Shira Herzog writes that for the first time, some Canadian Jews are questioning the Israeli government's tolerant perspective on Canada's Middle East policy. She suggests that Israel's interests require that Canadian Jews remain complacent in the face of Canada's voting record at the United Nations, if that is the position taken by Israeli diplomats. While Ms. Herzog pays lip service to Canadians' right to be more critical of Canada than Israel is, the difference, in her view, should be subtle at best.

That Israel, for the most part, expresses appreciation for Canada's role in Middle East diplomacy is not particularly surprising. In judging UN voting records, Israel has no choice but to be guided by the aphorism, "In the land of the blind, the one-eyed man is king." In the context of its fellow UN members, including the Europeans, Canada comes out looking respectable.

Canadians, however, including Canadian Jews, are entitled to expect better.

We want our government to be guided by the standards of democracy and freedom, the guiding principles of this country. Moreover we want our government to be an influence for peace. A litany of one-sided and distorted attacks on Israel should not be met with affirmative votes or even abstentions from Canada. As we have seen, the abuse of the UN structures as a stick to beat Israel merely encourages Palestinian intransigence and violence, and delays the prospect of real peace.

Israel may not be in a position to criticize Canada's voting, but Canadians are. The government of Canada must understand that it cannot defend its amorality in the Middle East by resorting to the claim that the Israelis are satisfied.

Our community should, by all means, praise the positive aspects of Canadian policy. But on its shameful UN voting practices as indeed, on everything it does, the government should be held to account by Canadian citizens. That is our right and our responsibility.

Shoel Silver
Toronto

* * *

Comparing PA to Taliban valid

The horrific attacks last month on Israeli citizens in Jerusalem and Haifa by murderous Palestinian terrorists can aptly be compared to the Sept.11 assaults on New York and Washington. In both incidents, the victims were non-combatants and were killed or maimed within the national borders of Israel and the United States and not in the so-called occupied territories. One can then equate Palestinian Authority with the Taliban, Hamas and Islamic Jihad with Al Qaeda and Yasser Arafat with Osama bin Laden. Arafat and bin Laden have long and vicious records as terrorists and Israel's response in targeting his Gaza and West Bank headquarters is as appropriate as what the United States and its allies are doing in Afghanistan.

Countries that harbour terrorists in the rest of the world should beware.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

Jewish right deserves respect

More Israelis have been killed by terrorists in the eight years since the Oslo "peace process" than in the previous 45 years! This leads to two conclusions. Firstly, the proponents of Oslo owe Jews a huge apology for bringing on this scourge. To their credit, some have. A number of members of Israel's Shas Party have publicly apologized for supporting Oslo.

Secondly, it is way past time to reduce the amount of press given to the perenially wrong Jewish left and give much more press to proud Jewish nationalists. The Jewish right deserves more respect and positive coverage than it has been getting. It is time to completely abandon the disastrous policy of appeasement. Israel's problems with the Palestinians will not be solved over a negotiating table any more than the problems the Allies had with the Nazis or America has with Osama bin Laden. That is the hard truth.

Paul Rosen
Toronto

* * *

Canadian Jews can dissent too

I would like to register my surprise and consternation at the recent remarks of my colleague, Prof. Morton Weinfeld, in his column called "Anti-Zionism and the Jewish Community" (*CJN*, Dec. 20).

It is not that I disagree with his arguments. Far from it. A dismantling of the Jewish State makes sense neither to Israelis nor to Diaspora Jews.

What worries me is his readiness to rule out a person from the Jewish community who might be opposed to political Zionism. There is something in this that makes shivers run up and down my spine. Is Weinfeld advocating that the Jewish community close ranks and ostracize anyone who would dare to write or say something that is opposed to the mainstream wisdom? Does Weinfeld really think that Israel's cause is best served by trying to stifle dissent within the Canadian Jewish community? Is he not aware that in Israel itself there is a fierce debate going on in the press as to Israel's future course? Are these people less Israeli, less Jewish than other citizens? Are Israelis allowed freedom to dissent, but not Canadian Jews? I would humbly suggest that Israel is immersed in the painful process of learning how to live alongside the millions of Palestinians who inhabit the same land. Some adjustment to Zionist thinking will have to be made in order to make that accommodation. It need not be an abandonment of the idea of a Jewish state, but it will surely require some fresh and innovative thinking. Let us remember the strengths of a free and democratic society and open our minds, and the pages of our press, to new ideas, even if they trouble and discomfort us.

Michael Benazon
Verdun, Que.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

Some images from 2001

1. Rescue workers at the site of the Versailles wedding hall that collapsed in Jerusalem killing dozens of celebrants.

2. Former prime minister Ehud Barak congratulates prime minister-elect Ariel Sharon.

3. Ilanit Levi, 18-years-old from Haifa, is crowned Miss Israel.

4. A memorial ceremony in Jedwabne, Poland, commemorates the slaughter of the Jewish community there during World War II.

5. The contingent of Canadian athletes at the 16th Maccabiah Games in Jerusalem.

6. The aftermath of a suicide bombing at a pizzeria in downtown Jerusalem.

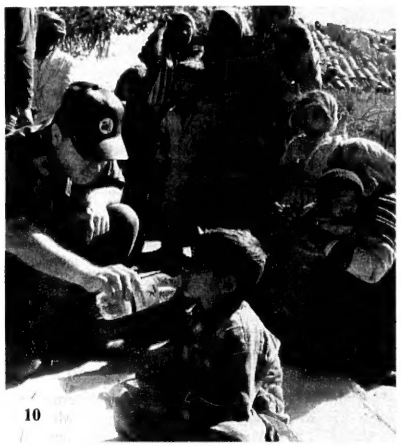
7. Remains from the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center in New York on Sept. 11.

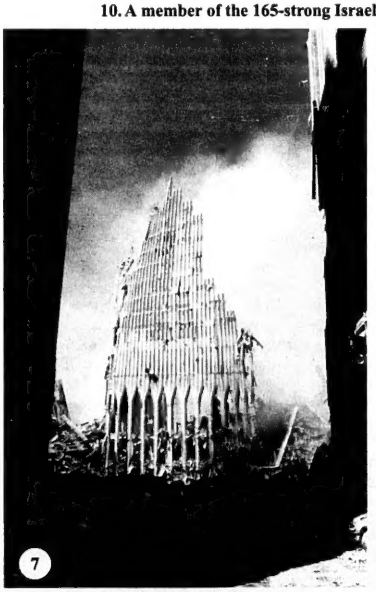
8. Pro-Israel demonstrators courageously take to the streets in Durban at the UN's World Conference Against Racism.

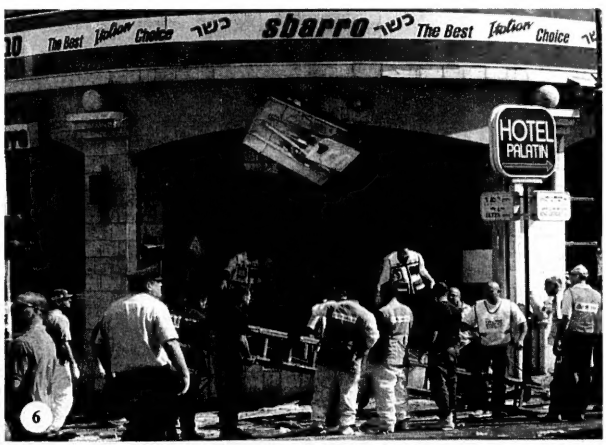
9. Ehud Barak consoles Haim Avraham, the father of one of three Israeli soldiers kidnapped by Hezbollah who were finally declared dead by the IDF.

10. A member of the 165-strong Israeli rescue team at an IDF field hospital helps some of the survivors of a devastating earthquake near Bhuj, India.

[Isranet, Israel Sun, RNS/Reuters Photos]







Balmy weather

Except for those who sell winter wear, it seems that people are generally delighted to have experienced such a mild fall. Balmy weather in the beginning of winter is certainly a welcome guest. Or is it?

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

All would be well if it were a temporary aberration, but if it is not, it is incumbent upon us to take the long view and, in that view, the balmy weather is a momentary delight, but a long-range curse.

If you ask the professionals in the weather business their opinion, you are likely to get a rather pessimistic answer. They are afraid that what we are witnessing is the beginning of a long-term trend which is potentially dangerous and even catastrophic.

If these pessimists are right, we are seeing the early effects of global warming – and that should frighten rather than delight us. For, in the long run, global warming will turn into global disaster. The normal course of nature will be upset. Our seasons will lose their characteristics, and the changes all of this will bring about will eventually be devastating.

What, then, can we do? If enough of us ask these questions and require the experts to give us some answers, we will have fulfilled a responsibility that we cannot disregard.

For hundreds of millions of years, we humans have been spectators in the arena of nature, but of late we have been active participants and in so doing have brought about some undesirable changes.

The Torah tells us that we have been put on earth to enjoy its benefits, but we have tried to do more than that; we have tried to manage it, and I fear that we have overreached ourselves. The balmy weather that has greeted us this fall is a temporary pleasure, but, in my opinion, a long-range warning.

The Almighty has given us the faculty of reason to discern between good and evil – not only in our personal behaviour but also in our impact on our environment. Yes, I too enjoyed the mildness of the fall, but I have shared with you my worries about it. I hope that if many of us worry about it, perhaps we will get back to where we belong: children of nature and not its managers.

I am writing this column during the festival of Chanukah. When you read these lines, the festival will be over, but I hope it will have brought you a sense of wellbeing and joy – and may the rest of the winter be good to all of us.

Yasser's last stand? Don't bet on it

For a moment there, it looked like it might be curtains for Israel's longtime nemesis, Yasser Arafat.

A few weeks ago, after a particularly deadly wave of terrorist attacks in Jerusalem and Haifa, the Palestinian Authority leader was on the ropes. Having done next to nothing to fight terrorism despite his many promises to the contrary, Arafat was scorned and isolated by Israel and reprimanded by the United States. Even the Yasser-friendly European Union gave him a slap on the wrist. With his international stature in tatters and even some of his colleagues contesting his decisions, many pundits and politicians in Israel were writing off the wily little PA chairman. They should have known better.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Arafat is nothing if not an artful survivor. Since taking charge of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1968, he has outlasted countless Israeli prime ministers, U.S. presidents and other world leaders. He has survived assassination attempts, overcome his many diplomatic blunders and even walked away from a plane crash in which others died.

His staying power is remarkable, as is his ability to command attention at home and abroad. Judging by his huge presence in the media, Arafat remains a superstar, albeit a dubious one. There's no escaping him. Rare is the day that he does not enter Israeli homes on the nightly news. And with a face only a beleaguered Palestinian could love, there's no mistaking his less than inviting appearance. Yet it obviously has not prevented him from becoming a poster boy of the Arab world, the darling of the United Nations and international media and a welcomed guest in most foreign capitals.

Recently, the Sharon government tried to wish Arafat away, when it issued a formal statement, saying it was cutting off all contact with him, declaring him "no longer relevant". I can think of many ways to describe Arafat, but irrelevant is not one. It's far more accurate to say he is a chronic liar and a Machiavellian manipulator. Or a corrupt and incompetent dictator. Or a shrewd performer who speaks with a forked tongue, inciting his people in Arabic to hatred and war against Israel while paying lip service in English to his so-called "peace of the brave." Or an incorrigible terrorist who regards Palestinian violence as a strategic asset to be used to win more concessions from Israel.

He is all of the above and a lot more, but irrelevant he's not. Assuming that ill health or a bullet don't do him in first, Arafat won't be leaving the scene any time soon. We're stuck with him.

In addition to his often-inscrutable manner, there's something pathetically comical about Arafat and the buffoonish way he often acts. If only the situation were not so volatile and fraught with dire consequences, he might be more amusing. Unfortunately, he's no laughing matter. He has far too much Jewish blood on his hands for that.

Today, 15 months after launching a terrorist war that so far has killed nearly 250 Israelis, any sympathy Arafat may have previously enjoyed from Jews has been destroyed. Those on the left, both in Israel and abroad, have been especially disillusioned.

Arafat even manages to offend Israelis when yielding to international pressure to condemn Palestinian atrocities. With hollow words, he and his cohorts criticize the attacks in tactical terms as being "against the Palestinian national interest." They never denounce the mass killings as immoral and despicable, but simply as damaging the Palestinian cause.

In mid-December, Arafat gave a lengthy interview to Israel Television as part of his charm offensive. He was asked if he had a message for the Israeli public. While thinking of an answer, one of his aides, unseen but clearly audible, prodded his boss to say, "I offer my hand in peace." That was about as convincing as many of his past supposedly conciliatory statements.

As much as Israelis may mistrust and despise Arafat, there's no getting around him if we hope to end the current conflict with the Palestinians any time soon. As he's demonstrated before, Arafat holds the key to halting the violence against Israel. He is still the only Palestinian who can make, and deliver, a peace agreement with Israel. That doesn't correspond to irrelevance in my books.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il

Defending the Concordia syndrome

University campuses in North America and Europe are very hostile environments for Jewish students and others who support Israel. Since 1967, the self-styled "intellectual classes" have adopted the cause of Palestinian victimization, combining massive ignorance with a political orthodoxy that blocks any debate. Demonstrations and seminars that echo Palestinian propaganda and Arab anti-Semitism are everyday events. When it comes to Israel and the Middle East, many universities are more like indoctrination centers than educational institutions.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Concordia University in Montreal is the most outrageously anti-Israeli campus in Canada and perhaps North America, and its academic activities are dwarfed by the pro-Palestinian events and atmosphere. The Arab lobby, supported by Arab governments and Islamic groups, brings in a stream of speakers and professional political activists. A well-funded group known as Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights exploited campus apathy to capture the Concordia student government, and then used compulsory student fees to publish and distribute propaganda. These fees pay for pamphlets entitled *From Sabra and Shatilla to the Intifada* and calendars with May 15 (Israeli Independence Day) labeled as "Nakba day" (the Arab term for disaster).

Supported by infamous malcontents and self-hating Jews such as Noam Chomsky, universities in Montreal and campuses elsewhere are flooded with pseudo-academics with Israeli-sounding names who promote the "Zionism-isracism" campaign.

Enemies of Israel cover the campuses with posters repeating the great lies of Palestinian victimization – "occupied Palestinian land," "stones versus tanks," "right of return," and "Israeli violations of international law." Socially maladjusted students, whose concepts of morality excuse the mass murder of Americans and Israelis, and who walk incongruously around Montreal in kaffiyehs, provide useful allies. While they know next to nothing, for members of this group, any cause that is anti-globalization and anti-American gets their support.

Despite this very hostile environment, a small but growing number of very committed Jewish students are fighting back. Response teams that receive training from the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) and groups such as Hillel organize seminars and prepare publications presenting the Israeli perspective and facts that expose the Palestinian myths.

When the CIC brought me to Concordia recently, students covered the Arab propaganda posters with huge announcements of my seminar, including an eye-catching photo of Palestinian children clustered around a tank aimed outward – clearly exposing the myth of innocent and unarmed Palestinian victimization. The title that they chose for this talk, Coping with Palestinian Terror, highlighted the real source of the violence. And despite the timing of my talk during exam period, they turned out to ensure that the presentation would not be interrupted by hecklers.

A concerted effort at Concordia has recently led to a change in control of the student government, after many students began to recognize the declining value of a degree from this university. This was an important victory, but it is only the first step to reversing years of neglect.

Jewish student groups are grossly underfunded, compared to the money and resources available for anti-Israeli propaganda. Workshops on changing the agenda from discussions of Palestinian victimization to talk of Palestinian terrorism and incitement and on how to use the Internet to find accurate information that is often hidden by the media (usually reported by journalists who are trained in the same universities and centres that are dominated by Arab propagandists) need to be held a few times a year.

The Jewish students from Halifax to Vancouver who are fighting these battles require support from local communities and national leadership across the spectrum of community organizations. Most Jewish faculty, some very well known in their disciplines, are silent or studiously neutral, and victims of the brainwashing that has swept the campuses and media. An effective offensive to restore some balance requires a long-term program and extensive cooperation between students, faculty and community leaders. The results will also echo in the media and among Canadian government officials, who often take their cues from the Arabist academic establishment.

If we can take back the campuses, we can begin to turn the tide in this war on other fronts.

The Kirshner File

IBM's census machines helped the Nazis

Edwin Black gazed intently at the gleaming black, beige and silver gadget exhibited at the United States Holocaust Museum in Washington, D.C., unable to avert his eyes from the IBM Hollerith D-11 card sorting machine.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Criss-crossed with slots, wires and circuits, it had been used by Nazi Germany in a national census to pick out German Jews.

Being the son of Polish Holocaust survivors, he wondered whether this innocuous-looking device had been put to use to still darker purposes.

Eight years on, Black, an American journalist who wrote a syndicated column for North American Jewish newspapers in the 1980s, still remembers the moment when he turned to his parents and promised them that he would try to discover more about that machine.

Little could he have known that this pledge would exact five years of his life. Backed by a team of 100 volunteers, researchers and scholars working in some 50 archives in seven countries, Black launched himself on a campaign to trace the relationship between IBM (International Business Machines) and Nazi Germany from 1933 until 1945.

In undertaking this complex topic, Black was not exactly a neophyte.

"I was fortunate to have an understanding of Third Reich economics and multinational commerce from my earlier book, *The Transfer Agreement*," he said.

Published in 1984, *The Transfer Agreement* was a blow-by-blow account of a 1933 deal with the devil signed by Nazi Germany and Zionist leaders in Palestine. Under the accord, Jews dropped their boycott of German goods in exchange for German Jews being allowed to immigrate to Palestine.

IBM and the Holocaust, published recently by Random House, is a troubling account of the mutually profitable business alliance this powerful, iconic American company – and its European subsidiaries – concocted with a regime whose demonization, ostracization, persecution, expulsion and murder of Jews has no parallel in history.

Indeed, it is the first comprehensive book about IBM's intricate ties with Nazi Germany. "Holocaust literature," he said, " was virtually devoid of references to Hollerith technology."

Black's book, which has been translated into 11 languages and released in 60 countries, is a best-seller, with 100,000 copies having been sold to date. A second edition, containing new material, is scheduled to be published in 2002.

Also available in CD-ROM format, *IBM and the Holocaust* builds a compelling case that IBM, with corporate headquarters in New York City, supplied the frightening machinery that enabled Adolf Hitler to isolate and kill Jews in Germany and the rest of Europe.

"In general, this technology was crucial to the Holocaust as we know it," explained Black in an interview during a promotional tour here. It enabled the Nazis to accelerate and intensify the Holocaust, an unprecedented industrial killing process.

He cited two telling examples.

In France, where the Hollerith machine was not in play, about 24 percent of its Jewish population was murdered. But in Holland, where Hollerith technology was well entrenched, the Jewish death toll in percentage terms was considerably higher.

Black does not claim that Hollerith machines, named after their German inventor Herman Hollerith, in and of themselves tipped the balance in Hitler's obsessive rampage against Jews. However, this sophisticated punch card and card-sorting system, a precursor to the computer, made possible the idea of quickly amassing great quantities of information. With this data in hand, the Nazis were able to identify, round up and exterminate European Jews.

Hollerith, who was born in 1860 and died in 1929, immigrated to the United States when he was a teenager. With a magical ability to identify and quantify, he invented a technique to count people. His automated counting machine, initially deployed for the 1890 U.S. census, was a tabulating sensation.

After Hitler's accession to power, the Nazis asked the German Hollerith Machine Corporation, or Dehomag, an IMB subsidiary, to devise an efficient census package to count and classify citizens according to racial criteria.

"Only after Jews were identified could they be targeted for asset confiscation, ghettoization, deportation and ultimately extermination," Black writes.

Hollerith machines were not sold, but leased, maintained and upgraded by IBM, whose legendary president, Thomas Watson, was awarded a medal by the Nazis in 1937.

As Black recounts in his methodically researched book, nearly every Nazi concentration camp possessed a Hollerith department. "Without IBM's machinery, continuing upkeep and service, as well as the supply of punch cards, Hitler's camps could have never managed the numbers they did."

Hollerith technology was especially effective in keeping track of slave labourers. Black recounts an incident in which Auschwitz camp commandant Rudolf Hoess was rebuked for having to failed to account for 21,500 Jews. And he points out that Polish railway companies that transported Jews to their deaths had access to Hollerith technology.

Having proved that Hollerith technology was extremely helpful to the Nazis, Black stops short of accusing IBM of actual complicity in their crimes.

As he puts it: "No one will ever know exactly how many IBM machines clattered in which ghetto zone, train depot, or concentration camp. Nor will anyone prove exactly what IBM officials in Europe – or New York – understood about their location or use."

IBM's official logo

Even after the United States prohibited American firms from conducting transactions with their subsidiaries in Nazi-controlled countries, IBM was still able to monitor events and exercise authority through branch offices in neutral nations, Black observes.

"IBM's business," he notes, "was never about Nazism. It was never about anti-Semitism. It was always about the money."

During the course of his investigation, Black gathered 20,000 pages of documentation, enough for several books. He and his assistants scanned books, technical and scientific journals, Nazi publications and newspapers.

"I received extraordinary cooperation from every private, public and governmnental source in every country. Sadly, the only refusal came from IBM itself, which rebuffed my requests for documents and interviews."

IBM's chief archivist agreed to let him review documents at its corporate archives in Somers, New York. But he did not set a date.

As a result, Black was kept waiting indefinitely. "Days turned into weeks and weeks into months. IBM was stonewalling."

When historians Sybil Milton and Robert Wolfe wrote letters to IBM on Black's behalf, it transferred six boxes of documents to the custodianship of Dead Sea Scrolls scholar Lawrence Schiffman, affiliated with the department of Hebrew and Judaic Studies at New York University. Black read the documents, making good use of them.

Edwin Black

Unbeknownst to IBM in New York, Black eventually received permission from IBM Germany to study its archive. "When I flew to Stuttgart for my appointment, IBM barred my entry," he said.

Last summer, just weeks before the publication of *IBM and the Holocaust*, IBM reportedly delivered thousands of pages of German subsidiary documents and newsletters to Hohenheim University in Stuttgart. These documents, yet to be inventoried, remain closed to public scrutinty.

Black believes that IBM is getting poor advice from its public relations personnel. IBM, he said, owes the world three things: an apology, an admission of its usefulness to the Nazis and a reversal of its closed-door archival policy.

"IBM has yet to open its archives in Somers. Nor has it opened its repositories in Europe and Latin America. Thousands of IBM documents on the period are hidden from view. The history lurking in its archives is invaluable."

He is not sanguine that IBM will relent. "IBM has a proven track record of document destruction and a policy of moving around documents to keep them out of public view," he charged.

Accusing IBM of sowing confusion among reporters and historians, Black said that its objective is obfuscation.

"What IBM wants, most of all, is a lack of clarity, because, if the facts are disclosed, IBM can't win."

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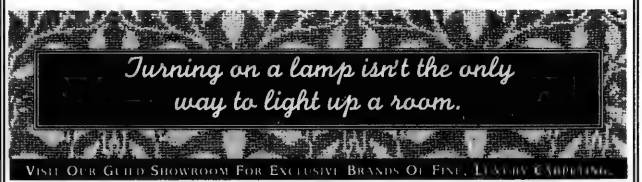

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What famous songwriting team wrote the music and lyrics to "Sound of Music"?
(Hint: the answer is printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 3 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 15/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Feb. 18/02 at 10 a.m. The winner will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

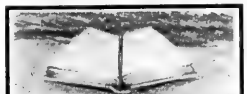
Send your response to: Sing-A-Long Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: Sing-A-Long Contest, 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of Flip Publicity, The Eglinton Theatre or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

Jewish Life

What was Pharaoh's daughter thinking?

By RABBI BARRY GELMAN



Rabbinic Reflections

What was Pharaoh's daughter thinking when she decided to save the infant Moses, whom she discovered floating in the Nile River? The Torah tells us that she knew the child was Jewish. If so, how could she blatantly disregard the direct order of her father Pharaoh? And how is it that the royal court (perhaps including Pharoah himself) allowed Moses to live?

The commentators point to a number of textual hints that shed light on these questions. As soon as Moses is born, the Torah says, "She [Yocheved, Moses' mother] saw that he was good and she hid him for three days (Ex. 2:2)." Some commentators define "good" as beautiful or fair. Perhaps, then, the daughter of Pharoh was taken by Moses' beauty (cuteness?) and had pity on him.

This idea is consistent with the Egyptian focus on beauty. We know that when Abraham and Sarah travelled to Egypt that Abraham was afraid Sara would be taken, precisely because she was beautiful. There was such an obsession with beauty in Egypt that the daughter of Pharoah was willing to disregard her father's order to throw every Jewish male child into the Nile. This also explains why the royal court and perhaps even Pharoah himself allowed Moses to live. Despite their hatred for the Jews, they were willing to let one live in order to have his beautiful face grace the palace.

Sforno (Rav Ovadiah ben Yaakov Sforno, Italy, 1470 – 1550) offers a suggestion based on the following verse (Exodus 2: 7). "She [Pharoah's daughter] opened it [the basket] and saw him, the *child*, and behold a *youth* was crying. She took pity on him and said, 'This is one of the Hebrew boys.'"

At least two questions arise from this verse. The first question is, was Moses a child (infant) or a youth (young boy)? The second question is, why did she have to declare that he was a Jewish child?

In answering the first question, Sforno suggests that while Moses did in fact look like an infant, he sounded and acted like a young boy "far more advanced than any child his age." This "supernatural" development certainly fascinated the daughter of Pharoah, perhaps leading to her decision to keep him.

The answer to the second question helps us understand how the others allowed her to do this. According to Sforno, her declaration – "this is one of the Hebrew children" – was more than a simple statement of the child's DNA – it was her way of convincing the royal court to let her keep him.

The midrash teaches us that Pharoah's astrologers saw that a Jewish child who would lead his people out of Egyptian bondage would be born. It was that "prophecy" that motivated Pharoah to have all the male children killed.

Sforno puts the following words into the mouth of Pharaoh's daughter: "This cannot be a foundling born illegitimately who would be prepared to betray his benefactor, as it is said, 'Children of transgression, seed of falsehood'" (Isaiah 57:4). This was her way of convincing the court that this child would not "betray" his benefactor by leading his people out of Egypt.

These two approaches point to some profound lessons. While one would hope for proper motivation in doing a mitzvah, its absence does not negate the value of the act. While it certainly would have been better had the daughter of Pharoah saved Moses out of concern for a fellow human being, her improperly motivated act saved Moses and ultimately led to the salvation of B'nai Yisrael.

Secondly, we learn that one cannot buy loyalty. Although the royal court did care for baby Moses, ultimately their actions were wrong and even Moses, who perhaps did not have complete objectivity, seemed to recognize that.

Rabbi Gelman is the spiritual leader at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim in Montreal.

Not quite the same

***Like Everyone Else... But Different: The Paradoxical Success of Canadian Jews*, by Morton Weinfeld, McClelland & Stewart, 2001**

Books
Bernard Reskin

The author of this absorbing, informative, and often entertaining sociological study is sure that "Jewish life in Canada today is as good as it has been anywhere since the Golden Age of Spain."

Is that an extravagantly optimistic opinion? No, declares Morton Weinfeld, because Jews have stumbled onto "a magical equilibrium." They live in an atmosphere of relative security and fulfill the twin promises of Canadian multiculturalism. They maintain their own vibrant culture and participate fully in all aspects of Canadian life.

How this balance is maintained and how it operates is Weinfeld's major concern. This wide-ranging work observes and evaluates Canadian Jews from many points of view: How they earn a living, where they live, their relationship with non-Jews, their encounters with anti-Semitism, the nature of marriage and family relations, religious denominations and differences, varieties of Jewish culture, how children are educated, they multiplicity of community organizations, attitude toward Israel, etc.

For the author, "Every part of the story is revealing; together they help us understand the enigma of Jewish survival."

In recent years, attitudes toward intermarriage have undergone a profound change. For the most part the stigma is gone. Committed Jews know that despite their strong convictions, it can happen to their children too. In the United States, the attitudes toward intermarriage have become increasingly liberal. Canada remains far more traditional. "If told that their child was considering marrying a non-Jew, almost 60 pr cent of Montreal Jews would oppose the marriage, and only nine percent would openly support it. If the non-Jewish spouse converted to Judaism, the proportion that would actively oppose the marriage declines dramatically to 16 per cent. But this initial opposition to intermarriage is not unique to Montreal. A Toronto survey found similarly that fully two-thirds of third-generation Canadian Jews were strongly opposed to intermarriage, far more than other groups."

Jews are far more likely, at 67 per cent, to belong to religious congregations than are Christians, but they are less likely to attend weekly services (about 10 to 15 per cent to 23 percent, respectively). So are Jews hypocrites? Not really. Being an official member of a congregation clearly has more symbolic and communal meaning for Jews. "Judaism, unlike Christianity, is expressed religiously in many ways other than weekly attendance at services, mainly through major annual holidays and life-cycle rituals."

The author reminds us that Canada, with over 350,000 Jews, has the sixth-largest Jewish population in the world after the United States at 5.6 million, Israel at 4.3 million, France at 700,000, Russia at 550,000 and Ukraine at 400,000, and that Canada ranks ahead of the United Kingdom at 300,000 and Argentina at 220,000.

Do Jewish students today perform as well as those of a former generation? The answer seems to be no. Affluence and conformity have dulled the Jewish academic edge, as Asians, foreign or Canadian-born, take their place.

The happy conclusion of this many-layered study is that, despite numerous pressures, the fate of Canadian Jewry is secure. Unusual in a serious study of this kind is the author's willingness to express his personal opinion and feelings on the subjects discussed, as are his use of anecdotes and humour and his lucid writing, uncluttered by jargon or argot.

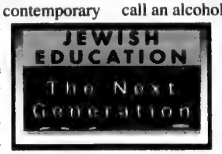
This is a splendid book, an enduring contribution on how to understand and view ourselves. It tells us where we are as Canadian Jews and what makes us

Jewish Life

Relativism, Torah and truth

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

Have we betrayed a generation of students into thinking that Judaism is merely a set of "life prescriptions" and historical narratives, and that its goal is meaning as opposed to truth? Is there not a price to pay for the contemporary attempt to convert the Torah into a "personal growth" system or a means of conveying identity?



There are many Jewish educators and administrators who, ironically, seem to feel an odd chagrin at the notion of turning kids onto religion, much preferring to let their charges develop a sense of "Jewish pride." Henry James once referred to the novels of George Eliot as loose "baggy monsters" and the amorphous term "Jewish pride" is just such a beast. (Identity is hip, but let's not overdo it and actually make kids passionate about seriously practicing religion).

Education is not a neutral term. It derives from the Latin "educare," literally "to lead them out." To educate is one of the most active verbs we have in life's arsenal. The implication of the word is clear: ignorance is darkness, and knowledge can be light. But it is illuminating only when it leads to life change, not when it remains as static information. Or as Rabbi Abraham Twerski once asked in another context: What do you call an alcoholic in therapy who has no impetus to change? A self-aware drunk.

What has occurred in the wake of Sept. 11 is that all claims to truth are now tidily ensconced within the term fundamentalism. Although such critics are careful to delineate between fundamentalist violence and those who simply cling to what they see as absolutely true, the distinction quickly collapses and the real agenda emerges. All those who feel they possess a truth are suspect and, indeed, just a little dangerous, as though under the ideological rock of every right-wing minister or rabbi, Bin Laden waits to emerge.

Allan Bloom has sarcastically rehearsed this relativist dogma that permeates every corner of our culture, including Jewish education: "The true believer is the real danger... men always thought they were right, and that led to wars, persecutions, slavery, xenophobia, racism, and chauvinism. The point is not to correct the mistakes and really be right; rather it is not to think you are right at all."

For thousands of years, the Torah did not think of itself as "meaningful" or "relevant." It saw itself as God's word, as the truth of reality encoded in language. For Jews, the Torah was as axiomatic as 2+2=4. But in modernity, where the Torah is not a document of truth but of history and self-help, the math has changed.

So, a cautionary tale: Last year a mother told me of her teenage son who had been raised in their warm and "educated" Jewish family. They were not very ritually observant, nor did the notion of Torah as truth really play any part in the household ethos. But he had gone to day school and the family had kept a form of the High Holy Days, Chanukah, Seder and kashrut at home.

One summer, he went out of town and met Kristin, and the equations of his Jewish background – that in 21st-century Judaism, 2+2 can now equal six – failed to be a match for the love of a gentile woman. Because "six" just didn't add up when Kristin held his hand. Now, he's "going to the chapel, gonna get intermarried. Going to the chapel of love."

Summer camp nostalgia

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

"Hello Muddah, hello Fadduh,/ Here I am at Camp Granada./ Camp is very entertaining,/ And they say we'll have some fun if it stops raining." **[http://terris funnypages.com/terra/camp.html]**

Whether you went to Camp Massad, Camp Ramah, Camp Moshava... or Allan Sherman's fabled "Camp Granada," nothing can compare to those long summer days and bug-filled nights at summer camp. Next week, we'll look at choices for modern-day campers. But first, a nostalgic look at summer camp on the World Wide Web.

Dina Fuchs owes a lot to her summer camp. Her existence. Dina's parents met at a Jewish camp. And Dina continued her family's connection to the camp when she packed up at the tender age of seven. But or Dina, things didn't start off too well. "To me, camp was like a Jewish juvenile detention center." Eventually, things changed and now she looks back fondly at those years. "My camp memories still sneak up on me once in awhile. One day, I was walking to my car after a rain storm and I caught a whiff of that sweet grass-soaked fragrance that lingers after a summer downpour. And in that instant, I was carried back to those sleepy mornings where I stood shivering in the dewy field at Camp Judaea – standing with my hands folded behind me, singing *Hatikvah*.'" **[http://www.jewishsf.com/bk000512/supcampbug.shtml]**

"Now I don't want this should scare ya,/ But my bunk mate has malaria./ You remember Jeffrey Hardy./ They're about to organize a searching party."

If you ever spent a summer at camp and want to relive those joys (and traumas), don't miss *The Girls of Summer* by Geraldine Sherman. She was a camper at Camp Kawagama in northern Ontario in the 1950s. Her story begins as she and her childhood friends attend the funeral of their beloved camp director. With the help of the girls of cabin 22, she looks at how a camp almost half a century ago moulded who they are today.

"If Margaret Mead had landed on Kawagama Island in 1955 instead of Samoa in 1925, what conclusions would she have drawn about North American adolescents? Would she have determined that camping was a rigorous and painful preparation for adulthood? A benign rite of passage? A privilege for society's future leaders? She would likely have decided, correctly, that camp was the place where our outrageous individualism was tempered in the fires of peer pressure, where the people we were to become first emerged." Even the picture of Sherman and the girls in plaid shirts and broad grins will bring smiles and a touch of melancholy to anyone who's been there and done that **[http://www.geraldinesherman.com/Cabin22.html]**.

"Take me home, oh Muddah, Fadduh,/ Take me home, I hate Granada,/ Don't leave me out here in the forest, where/ I might get eaten by a bear."

No look back at summer camp would be complete without mentioning the food and drink. In fact, what defines Phyllis Wilson's Jewish summer camp years was the juice – bug juice. In reconstituting those memories, Wilson presents her recipe for Summer Camp Bug Juice. It calls for flavoured drink mix, sugar and "red food coloring if you feel a little sadistic," but no bugs. "Serve over ice if you want it cold. Serve with fleishig sandwiches, either on a picnic table under a shelter (day camp) or at long wooden tables with benches in a room with a screen door leading to a flag circle (overnight camp.)" **[http://www.jewishfood-list.com/recipes/beverages/bugjuice01.html]**

For Rebecca Ets-Hokin, memories of summer camp include not-so-delicious camp meals. **[http://www.jewishsf.com/bk990423/cook.shtml]**. "My dining hall memories include rubbery scrambled eggs, warm Kool-Aid and unappetizing stews." But all that changed when she revisited her childhood camp to find that it has a new motto: Camp Tawonga, where food is king! "The powdered government-surplus eggs and milk, and the canned fruits and vegetables of the 1970s have been replaced with farm-fresh produce and California Culinary Academy graduates in the kitchen, with one cook devoted solely to vegetarian cuisine." Ets-Hokin collected recipes of some of the campers' favourites and has adapted the recipes to feed eight.

"Wait a minute, it stopped hailing./ Guys are swimming, guys are sailing./ Playing baseball, gee that's better./ Muddah, Fadduh, kindly disregard this letter!"

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Tory leadership hopefuls clash

Continued from page 3

credit with virtually no strings attached, except for some minor restrictions, such as criminal background checks for teachers and staff and a minimum number of instruction hours. He also said schools must offer at least 75 percent of their services in Ontario and must provide information to parents on academic programs and teachers' credentials.

He did not mention curriculum standards or qualification requirements for teachers. Over the past few weeks, Flaherty has said that existing anti-hate laws already restrict schools from teaching certain points of view.

"I think parents, when fully informed, are better at choosing a school for their child than the government," he said.

Eves, on the other hand, said that public financing of private education without controls over curriculum is "ludicrous" and may wind up supporting extremist schools that preach hate.

"I'm not against choice in the education system, but I am in favour of some very basic standards," said Eves, a former provincial finance minister. "Are you in favour of a school that doesn't teach any basic curriculum and teaches hatred?"

That remark landed Eves in hot water with the Catholic Civil Rights League, which accused him of being "anti-religious."

Eves also called for "basic standards" for schools and said that if he became premier, he'd require private schools to teach "core subjects the public has a right to expect," including reading, writing and arithmetic.

Flaherty, speaking to the OAJDS, said, "I trust parents. Our government trusts parents. It is a shame that others don't trust parents more. Parents choose the school, not the government."

He quoted from the brief the Jewish Parents for Equality in Education Funding (JPEEF) presented last summer to the legislative committee that studied the tax credit: "It's all about freedom; freedom for parents to direct the education of their children in their faith, culture and tradition; freedom from the threat of extinction in the face of an overwhelmingly secular society. It's about opening the tent of public funding to accommodate real diversity, the kind of diversity that exists in Ontario today."

Flaherty said he completely agrees with those sentiments, adding, "I pledge my continuing support for the Equity in Education Tax Credit and for the regulations."

He said there is "substantial support" for the measure in the public school sector and within the Catholic separate system.

Flaherty told *The CJN* he's surprised this has become an issue in the race to replace Harris.

"This is government policy. The regulations have been passed and it's now law," he said.

The tax credit has provided the first sparks in the Tory leadership race. Last month, another candidate, Environment Minister Elizabeth Witmer, sided with Eves, saying schools should meet Ontario curriculum standards before parents can qualify for the credit.

Witmer and Attorney General David Young, who said Eves' ideas "merit further consideration," rejected suggestions they were publicly disagreeing with cabinet.

But some Jewish officials say it's too early to worry about Eves' stand.

Asked what Canadian Jewish Congress's interpretation of Eves' statements are, Simon Rosenblum, CJC's point man on the file, said "We don't know yet. It's unclear if he's saying he wants control over curriculum or if he wants more guarantees that basic subjects will be taught."

Either way, most Jewish day schools and all the high schools already conform to, and probably exceed, provincial standards on curriculum and core subjects, Rosenblum said.

Yisroel Janowski, who announced at the Dec. 19 meeting that he is stepping down as the first president of the OAJDS, with a successor to be named soon, played down any potential split between Orthodox and non-Orthodox schools if it comes to relinquishing more control to the government. "We have not confronted that issue," he said. "It has not come up.

"The reason the OAJDS is successful is because we're united," Janowski said, referring to the fact that the organization brings together all schools from across the religious spectrum.

Rosenblum said he would be "very surprised" if the OAJDS did not meet with Eves prior to the leadership vote in March.

Info on tax credit released

TORONTO — Included in the 2001 Ontario Budget is an Equity in Education Tax Credit which will be phased in over a period of five years.

The Ministry of Finance has released a bulletin with a general outline explaining how the credit will work.

Beginning in 2002, the credit will reimburse 10 percent of tuition costs paid by parents or legal guardians up to a maximum of $700 for a child older than six years at the end of the taxation year and $350 for a child less than six but older than four.

The credit will increase by 10 percent each year until the maximum of 50 percent of the tuition, or $3,500, is reached by 2006.

Parents who send their children to an eligible independent school located in Ontario qualify for the credit. Eligible schools are those that are not public or separate schools currently administered under the Education Act.

Some of the highlights of the tax credit are:

- if you owe tax when you file your return, the tax credit will reduce the amount you have to pay;
- if you do not owe any tax when you file your return, the tax credit will be added to the refund you receive;
- the school must have at least five eligible pupils enrolled throughout the school year;
- the school is required to have carried out criminal reference checks by Jan. 1, 2003 on all current staff and other individuals associated with the school who are in regular contact with pupils;
- the school will be required to disclose a statement of information by the end of February of each year;
- there is no family limit on the amount of credit available, only an annual limit on the eligible amount for each child;
- the tax credit is based on the amount determined to be "net tuition fees";
- scholarships, bursaries or other subsidies must be deducted from the cost of tuition when calculating net tuition;
- where a charitable donations tax receipt relating to religious instruction is given by the school, the net tuition fee must be reduced to take into account the portion of the tuition fees available for the charitable dontation;
- the tax credit is based on tuition fees for a taxation year, which is generally the calendar year, not the usual September to June school year.

At the time of this writing, the detailed regulations were not yet published. For further information, visit www.gov.on.ca/fin/english/taxbeng.htm.

The staff of
The Canadian Jewish News
extend sincerest condolences
to our friend and former colleague
Ruth Goldsmith
and her family
on the loss of their
beloved husband, father,
father-in-law and grandfather
Ernest Goldsmith ז"ל
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים

ש'שאר מ'נינ

גידי קורן וחברים

מיין קאמפף

קהל ריסמן, בעלת רשת החנויות "אינדיגו" ו"צ'פטרס" נדהמה למצוא את ספרו של היטלר "מיין קאמפף" על המדפים של חנויותיה. היא עשתה מה שכל איש תרבות צריך לעשות- היא חזרתה לסלק את הספרים ולהחזירם למוציא לאור. ספר זה מוגדר כספרות שטנה שנמצאת מחוץ לחוק בקנדה. אנשים שמאמינים בדעותיו של היטלר לא נעלמו, הם רק שינו צורה. חלקם לובש טוראבן ומרשק את מגדלי התאומים, חלקם מתכנן איך לפוצץ את תרובע היהודי של מונטריאול, וחלקם רוצח ילדים ישראלים במדרחוב של ירושלים או בחיפה.

התגובה לצעד שנקטה ריסמן היתה אופיינית: יפי נפש צווחו שאין לה זכות לעשות צנזורה ושיש לקיים חשיבות היסטורית כדי להבין את התופעה הנאצית. תודה רבה, אין צורך להסביר, כולנו חביבנו את הנאצים, והאידיוט שעוד לא הבין אחרי ששים שנה כבר לא יבין. אין לי כל אשליות, הספר חוזר, כמו חרבה קפרית שטנה אנטישמית, ימכר וימצא בעשרות חנויות אחרות. אבל מהצה חן בעיני שאשה יהודיה נאה לאמר "עד כאן, זה לא יקרה בחנויות שלי". יתכן שכמה יפי נפש ואיזם חקוילה האנטישמית לא תיכנס לחנויות של ריסמן. אבל בזה אנחנו יכולים דווקא לעזור ולהיכנס לשם יותר. אבל שישאר בינינו.

דברים בשם אומרם

חפלסטינים ותומכיהם ממשיכים לטעון שהם חושלכו מארצם על ידי יהודים כובשים. תודה מיוחדת לקורא החיפאי חיים רוזנברג שחזיכיר לקוראי "ידיעות אחרונות" את חפרטים חבאים:

1. אבו מאזן, מנהו של ערפאת, כתב ב 76' את חדברים חבאים בבטאון אש"ף "צבאות ערב, שפלשו לארץ ב 48', אילצו את חפלסטינים לחגר ולעזוב את מולדתם וכפו עליהם מצור פוליטי ואידיאולוגי".

2. חאלד עואס, ראש ממשלת סוריה ב 48'-49' כתב ביומרנותו שפורסמו ב 73': " מאז 48' אנו דורשים את חחזרת חפלסטינים לבתיהם, אבל אנו עצמנו חיינו אלה שעודדו אותם לעזוב".

3. טוביו גרייס, חוקר פלסטיני במרכז למחקרים פלסטינים בבירות כתב ב 75': "עניין הפליטים ייחודים מארצות ערב, שחשאירו שם את רכושם, מאזן למעשה את בעיית הפליטים חערבים".

ג'ורג' האריסון

אני יושב ומקשיב לג'ורג' שר בשנת 70' מלים נפלאות על חמוות:

"עם שמוא וכלום מיוחם עניש לחכת פלי לחמוא.
עם פאומת אך לא תוכל לחמוא.
שום דבר פועיל: הכל הפוכו פאלמות.
פלש אפתועם פאלמות פל פועת צוק לאמת".

חייה שלום, חיפושית,
תבאת לנו הרבה שמחה ושלווה נפשית,
פתחת את ליבנו ואת עינינו,
אבל שישאר בינינו.

Jews need to emphasize accomplishments: Wisse

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The worst way to tell the story of the Jews is through the Holocaust, says Harvard University Prof. Ruth Wisse.

Rather than getting the world to pay attention to the triumph of anti-Semitism, we should get them to pay attention to what we have accomplished despite the Holocaust, she said.

Ruth Wisse

Wisse, from Montreal, is an author and the Martin Peretz Professor of Yiddish and Comparative Literature at Harvard. She was here recently to speak at the third and concluding lecture of the Gerald Schwartz/Heather Reisman lecture series at Holy Blossom Temple.

In an interview before the lecture, she said it is extremely important that people know our history, "but the Holocaust is not the high point of Jewish history.

"If we are asking, for example, Canadian students to know about the Jews, then we should insist upon them knowing about the establishment of the state of Israel," she said.

The Holocaust was the greatest trauma of the Jewish people, "and it is crucial that we know it and mourn it and face it, but that is not the way one should tell the Jewish story. The Jewish story should be about how we have overcome our destruction."

In the story of Exodus, Jews include an account of their slavery, she said, but they tell of that slavery in order to tell of their freedom.

What we have done, she said, is highlight victimhood instead of victory. "We have tried to turn ourselves into an oppressed people in the hope of teaching others lessons in goodness."

Our first task, she said, is to stop representing Jews as a sacrifice and begin telling the story of Jewish dedication to rebuilding and to freedom.

"Every Holocaust program should be revised to become an education of what Jews have accomplished. We want the respect of our children, not the hand-wringing.

"We want the respect of the world, not its morbid fascination," she said.

To be part of a people, she said, means to learn your political history, but in schools today, "there is very little account taken of the fact that we are now a politically constituted people with a country of own own.

"One of the things that every Jewish person should be in possession of is the political history of the Jewish people. We have to know, not just the Bible, but we have to understand the course of Jewish history and we have to understand ourselves as a political people."

Clearly, she said, in such a political history, what has happened in the last 100 years would be of primary importance.

"The greatest importance is the decision of the Jews to claim their sovereignty in the land of Israel.

"If one emphasized that, one would see what a remarkable achievement it was to be able to reconstitute Jewish sovereignty in Israel."

We have to take responsibility for our homeland, she said. "We have to use all our creativity, energy and imagination, and all the power we can muster to ensure that the Arab world accepts what it should have accepted in 1948.

"[The Arab world] has to realize that we are not the defendant in the court of public opinion, we are the plaintiff. We have to demand what is our due. The unequivocal recognition of Israel and the respect of Israel and the Jewish people is our due," Wisse said before her speech.

History will ask only one question of the Jews of our generation, Wisse told the capacity crowd, and that is whether or not they secured the state of Israel.

Twice before, the Jewish people have lost their political sovereignty – to the Babylonians and to the Romans – "and as we say in America, three strikes and you're out," she told the audience.

"No one is given an infinite number of chances to get things right, and thanks to the early Zionists, Jews now have their third chance to hold on to their ancestral land. History expects us to learn from our mistakes."

Securing Israel, she said, is inseparable from securing democracy as a whole. "Whether we like it or not, what happens to the Jews is an indicator of what is going to happen to the rest of the democratic world."

If we want to change the attitude of our enemies, she said, it is not enough to raise our fists and say never again. "We have to maintain our moral self-confidence... and we have to recognize first and foremost that the creation of the State of Israel is the greatest national achievement of the 20th century."

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Greater Toronto Area

Longtime volunteer goes professional at Bar-IlanUniversity

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Dov Altman, new executive director of Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University, freely admits that until recently he had had no clue what went on at the Ramat Gan-based campus.

A longtime, high-level volunteer in the Jewish community, Altman, 42, figured if he didn't know about Bar-Ilan, chances were good a lot of other people were equally uninformed.

In addition to focusing on fund-raising, he wants to raise awareness and build the profile of Bar-Ilan in Canada. The organization has offices in Toronto and Montreal, but its mandate is national, said Altman.

The university, which has 30,000 students and a wide range of programs including law and business, is the only one in Israel where all students are required to take Jewish studies.

Although it is commonly perceived as an "Orthodox" institution, Altman said 50 percent of the students are secular. In fact, he noted, there is a higher percentage of Arab women at the institution than at any other Israeli university.

The university "encourages dialogue and learning together between secular and Orthodox."

The largely modern Orthodox base of Bar-Ilan supporters here is not as diverse as the university's student body, however, admits Altman, who took on his new role Nov. 19. "That's one of the tasks at hand right now – to broaden that base."

Although his professional experience is in commercial leasing – he spent the past four years as leasing director at O & Y Enterprise Commercial Management – Altman's background as a volunteer is focused mainly on fund-raising.

He became involved in that field – indirectly – through the involvement of his wife, lawyer Elana Fleischmann, on a federation subcommittee a number of years ago.

Most recently, he was chair of canvasser training and motivation for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's 2002 campaign. He has also trained more than 500 canvassers for solicitation of major gifts.

Dov Altman

Altman used to look forward to his evening volunteer work when he was working at his day job, he recalls. Many people have been rethinking their lives since the terror attacks of Sept. 11, he noted, and those events may have been a catalyst for his decision to change course.

During the High Holy Day period he made up his mind to look for work in the Jewish community where he could "feel fulfilled, and [feel] that I was making a difference to the community and the lives of Jews. No one was really surprised. People were surprised I didn't do it before."

His work for UJA Federation and Bar-Ilan stems from his strong Jewish identity and love for Israel, which he first visited in 1978. "I really believe that strong institutions in Israel will make the country strong."

He became involved in community leadership as a member of B'nai Brith Youth Organization, when he was a student at William Lyon Mackenzie Collegiate Institute. Within a year of joining at age 15, the Toronto native became chapter president. He then served as president of his region, and of his district.

More recently, he has served on the boards of Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation and Mount Sinai Hospital Foundation.

"I don't enjoy being an observer or a participant. I like to be part of the team that's leading," said Altman. "I grew up in a family of organizers."

His mother, Jean, was a chapter president of B'nai Brith Women (now Jewish Women International) and their home was often the hub of events for extended family.

Altman's late father, Joseph (a co-owner of Sunnybrook Foods, where Dov worked in the kosher meat department while in school), taught him "a deep respect for other people...He didn't like to see anyone go without."

Altman would like to impart to his own children, a 9-year-old son and 5-year-old daughter, the importance of his work in the Jewish community and makes a point of bringing them along when appropriate. "They're very at home in the Lipa Green building," he said.

The adjacent Leah Posluns Theatre will be the location for the next major Canadian Friends event, a Sunday evening BESA (Begin-Sadat) Centre conference featuring MP Irwin Cotler and Bar-Ilan professors from the university's Begin-Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies, to be held Jan. 27.

"I think the community's going to be hearing a lot more about Bar-Ilan," said Altman.

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NOT HORSING AROUND: Rachel Wallach, 17, president of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto's Animal Rights Club, is seen here at an event to raise awareness for abused and homeless animals. Rachel is wearing a bear costume which she uses for bear hug-o-grams. For a nominal fee, which goes to the organization, Rachel will deliver a card, a poem and a bear hug.

Coast to Coast

Finestone to retire from the Senate in January

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Sheila Finestone's 18-year political career will end Jan. 28 when she reaches the Senate's mandatory retirement age of 75.

In her farewell address to her colleagues, Finestone was her usual outspoken self, summing up her years in the House of Commons and the upper chamber thus:

"I fought my own battles based on my convictions and never exempted myself from the spirit of hope, liberty and justice." She quoted a friend as saying she has "an uncanny knack of always calling a spade a spade."

Finestone, who described herself as "a mother, a politician, a Canadian, a Québécoise and a Jewish woman," spoke first of her "ancestral land," Israel and her hope that the current conflict can be resolved through dialogue.

In an interview, Finestone said she has regarded bringing the concerns of the Jewish community, including ensuring fair representation of Israel's cause, as fundamental to her role as a parliamentarian – in caucus, in government, and internationally.

"I have a strong sense of Jewish responsibility and the need to ensure respect and fair play for Israel. I believe I have been effective," said Finestone, one of six Jewish senators.

One of her last speeches in the Senate outlined her vision for the resolution of the Middle East conflict.

In her farewell, she paid tribute to her parents, the late Minnie and Monroe Abbey, community leaders who taught her the values tolerance and compassion. Before entering politics in 1984, as the Liberal MP for Mount Royal, Finestone had distinguished herself as a volunteer and social activist both within the Jewish community and beyond.

Finestone said in an interview that back in 1984 she never would have believed she would stay in Ottawa for 18 years. Although Mount Royal is one of the safest Liberal seats in the country, getting the party's nomination was a tough battle. Her main opponent, William Dery, a Sephardi leader, put up a good fight and the riding's nomination convention was the largest in the party's history, she said.

The 1984 election was also no cakewalk against Conservative Sharon Wolfe. Yet, in 1988 and '93, Finestone had the highest popular vote in Canada.

Finestone, appointed to the Senate in August,1999 during her fourth term as MP, said she entered federal politics because of the reforms made by her predecessor, Pierre Trudeau, who had represented the largely Jewish Mount Royal for 19 years.

"Mr. Trudeau, looking at me through those sharp blue piercing eyes, asked why I agreed to run for office; did I know what a terrible life it could be?

"I told him it was all his doing, his fault, because he had brought in multicultural rights and women's rights, under the umbrella of human rights, though the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

"It struck a profound chord with me. I sincerely believed that with this exciting new charter, a charter for democracy, real democracy, that Canada would be strengthened and thus become a better, more equitable and fairer country."

After sitting in opposition until Jean Chrétien's first election in 1993, Finestone was secretary of state for multiculturalism and the status of women until January, 1996.

More recently, Finestone has taken a keen interest in the campaign to eliminate land mines, serving as special adviser to Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley. In Cambodia and Mozambique, she even joined in land mine clearing operations.

Finestone cited two especially meaningful personal legislative projects. The first was an amendment to the Broadcasting Act that would allow individuals to have an equitable say in decisions regarding television and radio. The bill, passed by the Senate, was given third reading in the Commons in June.

But Finestone's pet project is her privacy rights charter, now awaiting third reading in the Commons. It would provide legal protection to individuals from such invasions of privacy as surveillance, interception of private communications and the disclosure of personal information.

"I believe privacy is a fundamental human right and, once lost, is unlikely to be regained," she said. "Without adequate protection of privacy, many other rights integral to a democratic society are also lost."

Finestone has been an active member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) which brings together elected officials of 144 countries – including many that are not true democracies. (The group has not granted Israel full membership.) She serves as Canadian chair and is on its 12-member executive committee.

"That election was remarkable because I have taken my share of taunts for making representations for Israel. I've been called an Israeli agent and Mrs. Israel, but I'm proud to be acknowledged as a concerned member of the Jewish people."

During this parliamentary session, she was vice-chair of the new Senate human rights committee. She also participated in the the Senate's pre-study committee on terrorism, which recommended the inclusion of a sunset clause and parliamentary oversight in the anti-terrorism bill, recently passed into law.

Finestone said she hasn't "even thought about what I will do in retirement, but I have a number of offers." She says she is in good health and has a lot of energy, and won't be idle. One immediate project is to encourage another Jewish woman from Quebec to take her seat.

Before leaving at the end of January, she will be traveling to Oslo and Geneva for IPU meetings and to Israel for a Jewish parliamentarians' mission.

She will live in Ottawa because two of her four sons and four of her seven grandchildren live there. Two other sons are in Toronto and Chicago.

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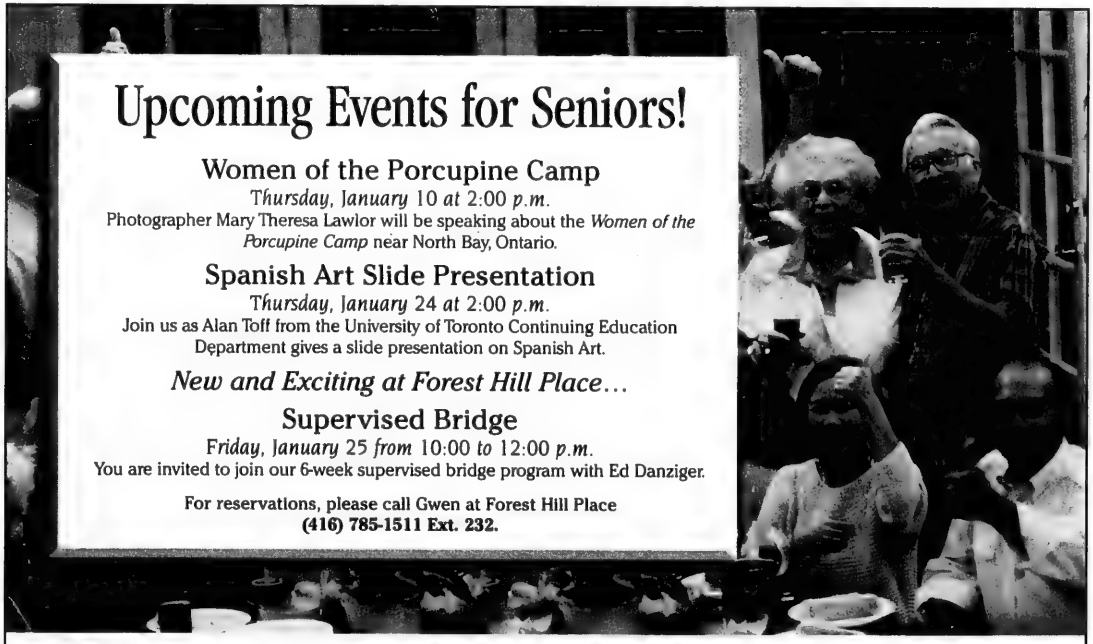
Upcoming Events for Seniors!
Women of the Porcupine Camp
Thursday, January 10 at 2:00 p.m.
Photographer Mary Theresa Lawlor will be speaking about the *Women of the Porcupine Camp* near North Bay, Ontario.
Spanish Art Slide Presentation
Thursday, January 24 at 2:00 p.m.
Join us as Alan Toff from the University of Toronto Continuing Education Department gives a slide presentation on Spanish Art.
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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Jan. 7, is deadline for Jan. 17 issue, and Monday, Jan. 14, is deadline for Jan. 24. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, Jan. 6

JUDAISM 101

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda series, An Introduction to Judaism, based on the book *Embracing Judaism* by **Simcha Kling**, continues with How Do Jews Worship? 8:30-10:45 a.m. Instructors: **Rabbi Howard Morrison** and **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer.** 416-633-3838

HABONIM BREAKFAST

Congregation Habonim invites you to hear **Rabbi Benjamin Hecht** from Nishma talk about Defining the Term "Being Jewish," learn all about Jewish identity. 10 a.m. at Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. (Bathurst and Glencairn).

BOOK DISCUSSION

Excellent Women by **Barbara Pym** is discussed by the Feminine Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, 1:45 p.m. at the Barbara Frum Library. **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

A HEALING SERVICE

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl of Beth Tzedec Congregation and music therapist **Mary Rykov** lead a healing service 3-4 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th floor. You will experience hope, comfort, faith and support in the face of whatever difficulties you are experiencing. Wheelchair access. **Etta** 416-944-3359.

Monday, Jan. 7

ABOUT DIABETES

Jewish Diabetes Chapter meeting features optometrist **Paula Garshowitz** speaking on Seeing Eye to Eye, 8 p.m. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Esther Scwartz** 416-782-2176 or **Shirley Glatt** 416-225-1989.

Tuesday, Jan. 8

CHUG HATANACH

Chug Hatanach meets 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am for introduction and study of Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 1. Directed by **Seymour Epstein**, director, Board of Jewish Education.

HYPNOTHERAPY

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood presents **Dr. C.P. Marks** speaking on Hypnotherapy: The Real Hype of Hypnosis, 8 p.m. 416-633-5500.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

GET READY FOR PURIM

At the Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles of Toronto meeting, three distinct demonstrations of elegant hand puppets, embroidered and embellished purim shakers and fast and easy capes for Purim costumes. 8 p.m. Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. For further program information, 416-402-7189.

And What Else Is New

SERIES ON BIRTH

Are you expecting? Would you like to know more about what to expect? **Elise Gasner** and **Zale Newman** are joining up to offer a unique series on birth, Wednesdays, Jan. 9, 16, 23 at 8 p.m. at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. Call **Elise** 416-785-6638.

YIDDISH THEATRE

A lecture on Yiddish Theatre with **Prof. Nahma Sandrow**, Sunday, Jan. 13, at 10 a.m. at Temple Har Zion. Breakfast is followed by lecture and discussion. Cosponsored by Friends of Yiddish. RSVP 905-889-2252 by Jan. 8.

Continued on page 19

Popes championed anti-Semitism, author says

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Forcing Jews to wear yellow badges and locking them in ghettoes were not cruelties the Nazis invented in the 20th century, but rather practices popes "had championed for hundreds of years," says the author of a new book condemning the Vatican for its role in promulgating the hatred that led to the Holocaust.

According to David Kertzer – author of *The Popes Against the Jews: The Vatican's Role in the Rise of Modern Anti-Semitism* (Knopf) – the supreme leaders of the Roman Catholic Church "were significant players in developing modern notions of anti-semitism in the late 19th century," attitudes that led directly to the Nazi's Final Solution.

Visiting Toronto as part of a promotional tour which included a lecture at Beth Tzedec Congregation, Kertzer spoke with *The CJN* and expanded on his findings after being allowed extended access to the Vatican's so-called Inquisition archives in 1998 and 1999.

Rather than focus exclusively on the deeds of Pius XII, who was pope during the Holocaust, Kertzer said he was more interested in papal history stretching back to 1814, shortly after Napoleon liberated Europe's Jews from their enclosed and restrictive domains.

"In 1814, with the restoration of the Old Regimes, including the Papal States, there was a major question that the rulers faced: Do we send the Jews back into the ghettoes, or do we leave them free to enjoy equal rights with other citizens?" Kertzer said.

"I discovered confidential correspondence of the Vatican's secretary of state from 1814-15, when he was arguing with the pope not to send the Jews back into the ghettoes of the papal states. The pope overruled him and sent them back with all the old restrictions, such as wearing the yellow Jewish badges and being locked in at night."

"I think that was a fateful transition," he said. "The whole history of the Jews and the Catholic church could have taken a much more positive direction if a different policy had been taken back in 1814."

We Remember, an important Vatican document released in 1998, pointed out that Jews were increasingly given civil rights throughout the 19th century, but failed to note that the Vatican itself repeatedly denounced the governments of Europe for emancipating the Jews, Kertzer said. In short, the document apparently whitewashes Vatican history, he said.

"Throughout the 19th century and into the 20th, the Vatican called for re-introducing the old restrictions on the rights of the Jews as the only way to protect European society."

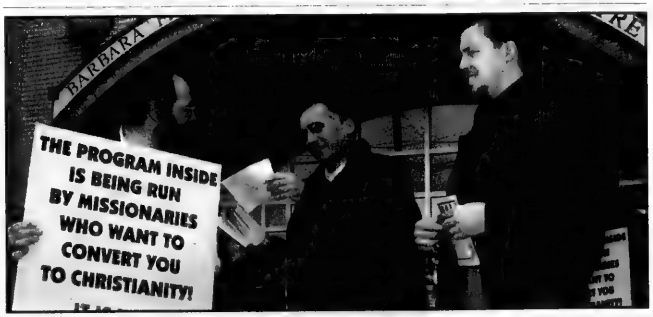
Kertzer, a professor at Brown University in Providence, R.I., gained much knowledge of the Church's anti-semitism in the 19th century while researching his first book, *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara*, a riveting true story of a Jewish boy who was kidnapped from his family and raised as a Catholic with the pope's blessing.

In the Vatican archives Kertzer found a shocking indictment of Pius XI, who seemed to endorse the racial laws enacted in Italy about 1938. "The church hierarchy in Italy called on Italians to observe the anti-Semitic laws, saying they were fully in harmony with age-old church teachings on how to deal with the Jews," he said.

"Pope Pius XI was irate about one aspect of the racial laws, so irate that he complained to the king – in other words, he went over the head of Mussolini. But what he complained about was not any of the anti-Semitic laws, but the fact that according to the racial laws, a baptized Jew should still be considered a Jew and could not marry a Catholic. This angered the Pope because from the Vatican perspective, a baptized Jew should be regarded as Catholic."

Kertzer praised the current Pope, John Paul II, for working to improve Catholic-Jewish relations through visits to Auschwitz, Israel and the synagogue in Rome.

Kertzer said he is encouraged that, even though the Vatican has closed certain archives to Holocaust researchers, it had opened its "very sensitive" historical archives to other researchers with a broader perspective.



CONFRONTING MISSIONARIES: Jews for Judaism volunteer Daniel Ventresca (left) encounters two members of Chosen People Ministries at a recent CPM program held at the Barbara Frum Library. Jews for Judaism charged that the program targeted Jews for conversion to Christianity. Everyone entering the library was handed an invitation to a simultaneous program held by Jews for Judaism in the room next door to the missionary event. [Stephen Epstein photo]

What's New

Continued from page 18

TAO OF JUDAISM

Winter course: The Tao (Way) of Judaism with **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** Wednesdays Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30 at 7:30-9:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. For those who want to combine head and heart in their study. No previous knowledge necessary. All texts studied in English as well as in the original Hebrew/Aramaic. Register with **Marlene** 416-781-3514, ext. 34.

HOSPICE TRAINING

An in-depth Jewish Hospice Training course for volunteers who wish to assist individuals coping with a life-threatening illness begins Sunday, Jan. 20. For information, call Circle of Care, **Gayle Zack** 416-635-2860, ext. 413.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. For information/registration, **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Teen Anger Management: A group for teens (age 13 +) who need help learning to deal with their anger in appropriate and acceptable ways. Thursday, Jan. 10, 7-8:30 p.m. at Lipa Green Building, 6th floor for 6 sessions.

Divorce: Will This Feeling Ever End. A group for individuals having trouble moving on after several years of separation or divorce. Tuesday, Jan. 15, 7:30-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313. 8 sessions.

MONTREAL REUNION

Northmount High School reunion in Montreal, August 2002. All grads and teachers of years 1970-74 are invited to attend. **Susan** 416-738-6621.

YOUNG DANCERS

Jacque Foesler, director of the Koffler Centre School of Dance at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, welcomes junior dancers, ages 4-5 years, to his new program, Sundays, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., beginning Feb. 3. All participating dancers will perform in the end-of-season showcase. For information and registration, contact the Koffler Centre School of Dance between Sunday, Jan. 6 and Sunday, Jan. 28 at 416-636-1880, ext. 273 or 359.

FREE HELP FOR SENIORS

If you are a senior 55+, looking after a loved one at home, help is available at no cost. Attentive volunteers will visit 1-3 hours per week to give you a break from your caregiving responsibilities (No physical care provided). For information about the Bernard Betel Centre's free respite program, call **Paula Mintzberg**, 416-225-2112, ext. 118.

A TASTE OF KABBALAH

Mystical Moments at Minchah of Shabbat. Join **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** for a Taste of Kabbalah, 1 hour before afternoon services in the chapel Jan. 12 and 19. Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Congregation Senior Haverim meeting Monday, Jan. 7 at 1:30 p.m., features speaker **Corey Keeble**, curator of antiquities at the Royal Ontario Museum. Topic is Russia by River: Moscow, St. Petersburg and Cities on the Volga. Illustrated with slides. 416-781-3511.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Niagara Jan. 10, Feb.14; Casino Rama Jan. 16, 30; Bingo every Tuesday, 1-3 p.m. Membership open for 2002. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Senior's Club has only a few rooms left for the Miami trip. Limited number of rooms available for 4 and 6 weeks. For information, **Libby** 416-782-2059 or **Stanley** 905-669-1347. The Borochov Cultural Centre is open for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call the office 416-630-9444.

Young at Heart Seniors winter vacation at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel, 2 weeks and up. Double occupancy, meals or efficiency, shuttle to and from airport in Florida and many more surprises. **Lil** or **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

The Monarchy: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow with **Hugh Innis** of Ryerson University, Jan. 15 and 22, 10-11:30 a.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Jan. 8, bingo; Jan. 15, lecture; Jan. 22, concert; Jan. 29, Tu b'Shvat Party. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *The Hurricane*, Sunday, Jan. 6, 2:30 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Jan. 16, 8 p.m., cello and guitar concert with **Daniel** and **Carey Domb,** ext. 228.

Jan. 17 at the Koffler Gallery, art shows by **Catherine Widgery**, Playthings, and **Kelly Mark**, Sound Bites. Artists talk 6 p.m., opening reception 7-8 p.m. Both shows run to March 3. Ext. 380.

Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Museum, Tu b'Shvat event, Celebrate the New Year of the Trees. Plant herbs that will grow for Passover, learn more about different kinds of trees, play tree games, and sing songs about trees. Ext. 456.

Sunday, Feb. 10 and Sunday, Feb. 17, noon to 2 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Museum: A 2-part mask-making Purim Workshop. Children will create masks of their favourite Purim characters or other masks of their choice. For 7-10 year-olds. Pre-register ext. 284.

Feb. 24. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Purim event at the Jewish Discovery Museum, which joins the Bathurst JCC in celebrating the holiday. Play games, taste Purim treats, dress up in costumes and have a lot of fun. Ext. 456.

Registration for September 2002 is now open for full day child-care – 18 months to 5 years old. Also Tic Tac Twos, nursery, junior kindergarten and senior kindergarten – mornings. Ext. 248.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Registration is underway for winter classes. Programs for children and adults. Classes start the week of Monday, Jan. 6. Call for information or to register.

Toronto Jewish Film Society 2002 season starts on Jan. 13. Memberships are now on sale at the Miles Nadal JCC.

KOLLEL ESH DAT DINNER: Seen at the recent Kollel Esh Dat dinner at the Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto honouring seven women are (from left) Cynthia Gasner, master of ceremonies; Anne Weinbaum, Rebbitzen Toby Burak, Rebbitzen Bashe Kerzner, Freda Berenholtz, Blanche Schwartz, Ruth Ross and Lilyann Goldstein-Wiener.

HUC-JIR AWARD: Karen Lipschutz Goodis, religious school principal of Toronto's Shaar Shalom Synagogue, was awarded a doctor of Jewish religious education, honoris causa, for 25 years of service by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion at the commencement exercises of the 126th academic year of the institution. Pictured (from left) are Rabbi Lewis Barth, dean, HUC-JIR, Los Angeles; Karen Lipshutz Goodis; her sponsor Prof. Sara Lee, director, Rhea Hirsch School of Education, HUC-JIR, Los Angeles; and Rabbi Norman Cohen, provost, HUC-JIR.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 20

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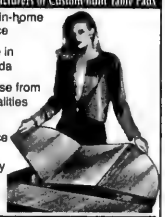
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Coast to Coast

Glace Bay community leader remembered

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Obituary

TORONTO — Until he moved to Toronto 12 years ago, Philip Simon was the de facto spiritual leader of the small Jewish community in Glace Bay, N.S. He died of heart failure at York Central Hospital Dec. 16, at age 79.

A dentist by profession, Simon was born in Birch Grove, N.S., but his family moved to nearby Glace Bay when he was a young boy. The fourth of five children of immigrant parents, Israel and Dora, who owned a small grocery store, Simon was the first in his family to attend university.

He returned to Glace Bay after completing dental school at Dalhousie University, and married Ruth Tanner, a native of Ottawa, in 1953.

Simon's personal story is "reflective of the transition of life in a small Jewish community in Canada," said Victor Goldberg in a eulogy.

Goldberg, immediate past president of the Atlantic Jewish Council and Simon's nephew by marriage, spoke of the small but vibrant Jewish community in which Simon grew up and of Simon's efforts to maintain Jewish life there.

Well into middle age, Simon taught himself to read Torah when the community could no longer sustain a rabbi, said Goldberg. He served as president of Congregation Sons of Israel for 17 years. "I could never get over how Philip combined rabbinical services with dentistry," said Goldberg.

Outside the Jewish community, Simon was active in the local Rotary Club and the Police Boys' Club (an organization focused on helping youngsters follow a wholesome path). He also lobbied successfully for fluoridation of water in Glace Bay.

"He was well known and well liked," said Glace Bay native Ben Prossin, executive director, Ontario region of the Jewish National Fund of Canada (JNF), who also gave a eulogy. "He was always there as an inspiration. He was a nice guy with a wonderful sense of humour and a very high level of tolerance. He tried to understand people and their problems."

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Simon chaired the board of education of the local Talmud Torah, which then had between 60 and 75 students, recalled Prossin. Simon also worked directly with the youngsters, organizing at least one play in which Prossin was involved, in 1956.

Simon was also active in the Atlantic Jewish Council, serving as a Glace Bay representative, and led State of Israel Bond and JNF drives, Prossin added.

More recently, in Toronto, Simon led weekly Friday afternoon services at the Baycrest Centre on a volunteer basis, read Torah at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, and was the driving force behind the creation of the Toronto-based Cape Breton Jewish Club.

In August he attended Glace Bay's "Kum-A-Haym," the 100th anniversary of Sons of Israel, where he received "a hero's welcome," said Goldberg. "One had to take turns to have a visit with him."

Community involvement notwithstanding, Simon was "there for the children always. He was truly a family person," his son Mark told *The CJN*.

Simon is survived by his wife Ruth, sons Gary of London, Ont., and Bruce and Mark, both of Toronto, and 12 grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son Allan and by his siblings Annie Bercy, Bess Medjuck, Nathan Simon and Ruth Hirsch.

Poll cites Arafat for violence

Continued from page 1

results because of smaller sample sizes).

More than 45 per cent of Canadians who follow the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians say they do not support either side, the poll found.

Among those who are inclined to favour one side, the Israelis had almost twice as many supporters as the Palestinians – 21 percent vs. 11 percent.

Israel had the least support in the current conflict in Quebec, where only 14 percent backed the Jewish state.

However, Quebecers did not have much more sympathy for the Palestinians – 15 per cent said they support them, the highest in the country. Yet Quebecers also showed the greatest neutrality on the issue, with 55 percent saying they supported neither side.

Israel enjoys its strongest support in Manitoba/Saskatchewan where 29 percent said they sided with the Jewish state, compared to only 8 per cent with the Palestinians.

In English Canada, support for Israel was weakest in Ontario (20 percent), although still well ahead of the Palestinians who found only 11 percent support in the province.

The largest disparity in views shows up when respondents are categorized by mother tongue. Those whose first language is neither English nor French showed the greatest sympathy for the Palestinians at 20 percent, compared to 13 percent among francophones and 9 percent among anglophones.

Supporters of Israel included 24 percent of anglophones, 21 percent of allophones and 13 percent of francophones.

Léger found that close to eight out of 10 Canadians follow news of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with 35 percent saying they do so regularly and 42 percent saying occasionally. One in five were not interested at all in the issue.

Interest is highest among those over 45, with an annual income greater than $60,000, or working in the professions.

A majority (52 percent) wish to see the United Nations intervene militarily to resolve the conflict. Support for such action was highest among those aged 18-24. Regionally, UN intervention had the least support in Quebec and most on the Prairies.

A larger majority (64 percent) of Canadians do not think Palestinians and Israelis will be living in peace within the next five years. The most pessimistic on the chances of resolving the conflict soon are those in higher-income brackets (75 percent) and those with university educations (71 percent).

On Campus

Amid despair, history gives hope: Troy

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Gil Troy, a Harvard-trained McGill University professor, is an expert in U.S. history, particularly the American presidency.

He has published three books on the subject since 1991, his latest being *Mr. and Mrs. President: From the Trumans to the Clintons* (University Press of Kansas, 2000).

But now, in a major departure from his usual academic pursuits, Troy has written a speculative rather than a scholarly work.

He regards *Why I Am a Zionist: Israel, Jewish Identity and the Challenges of Today*, which was published in Montreal last month by the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre, as an "act of activism" rather than a feat of scholarship.

"I view it as the start of a conversation that needs to be occurring among North American Jews about Israel and Zionism," he explained.

Troy, a staunch Zionist, plans to donate his royalties to the families of Israeli soldiers missing in action.

"Regardless of the current status of the hostages, the families need our support, financial, political, emotional."

The publisher's profits, he added, will be funnelled to the Birthright Israel program, which has sent thousands of young Jews to Israel on educational trips.

"These two causes represent the two sides of the Zionist coin these days – the demand to react to crisis, and the continuing need to be proactive and embrace positive associations and experiences, so we don't just bog down in fights."

Judging from the blurbs on its cover, *Why I Am a Zionist* has struck a chord.

"Not in decades has there been a more persuasive presentation of the case," Martin Peretz, editor-in-chief of *The New Republic*, observed. Rabbi Irving Greenberg, president of the Jewish Life Network, called it "an inspiring Zionist manifesto for our time."

No one who knows Troy will be surprised by his commitment to Zionism.

Gil Troy

Born in Queens, N.Y., in 1961, he and his two brothers grew up in a traditional Conservative Jewish home. (Dan, his older brother, is chief counsel for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, while Tevi, his younger brother, is deputy assistant secretary for the U.S. Department of Labour).

Troy's mother, Elaine, a guidance counsellor and therapist, participated in the very first Habonim-year-in-Israel trip.

His father, Bernard Dov, a social science teacher and Jewish educator, administered a Hebrew high school and was executive director of the Jewish Educators Assembly in New York. As well, he served as national president of Betar.

So Troy, a graduate of the Solomon Schechter School, also gravitated to Zionism.

"I was very involved in high school, college and graduate school with Young Judea, the largest Zionist youth movement. It had a huge impact on my Jewish – and human – identity."

He likens his 10 years at Harvard, where he earned his degrees in American history, to a dream.

"It was intellectually stimulating, emotionally enriching and absolutely life-transforming," he said. "Great professors, great people, great libraries and a great place to live and learn."

In part, his interest in the field was a function of old-fashioned patriotism.

"I'm an ardent American patriot who believes in the mission of the United States. Despite all too human imperfections, the United States is a nation dedicated to democracy and liberty, an extraordinary continent-wide experiment in mass democratic republican government, and an overwhelming success."

Yet Troy, a landed immigrant who has lived in Montreal for almost 12 years, brings a balanced approach to his discipline.

"I don't believe in studying the United States with rose-coloured glasses, but I also think one should be wary of being excessively critical."

Troy turned a PhD thesis into his first book, *See How They Ran: The Changing Role of the Presidential Candidate* (Harvard University Press).

Troy's second book, *Affairs of State: The Rise and Rejection of the Presidential Couple* (The Free Press) was inspired by two unrelated events in 1992: Bill and Hillary Clinton's joint campaign for a co-presidency, and his own engagement and marriage.

Troy's wife, Linda Adams, a former lawyer, is trying to establish a children's museum in Montreal. The Troys have three children.

Apart from his scholarly writings, Troy contributes a regular column on the U.S. domestic scene, called The Ivory Tower, to *The Forward*, and freelances for *The Canadian Jewish News* and the *National Post*, among other newspapers.

"I believe that scholars in general and historians in particular should be engaged in public debates," he said.

Troy, who headed the Birthright launch in Montreal, was originally skeptical of the program, and said so in a *Moment* magazine article. Now he is a true believer.

"It is an exciting and bold initiative that has been extraordinarily successful thus far, but cannot rest on its laurels. The secret is in systematic, creative follow-up."

He says his world was "shattered" by the eruption of the Palestinian intifadah in September 2000. "I really believed we had turned a corner, that we had a shot at peace and prosperity in Israel. I now fear that [the uprising] is not about settlements, but about the existence of Israel itself."

Troy, however, remains sanguine.

"Amid my despair, history gives me hope," he said, citing the example of two former enemies, Japan and Germany, that transformed themselves after World War II.

Neither is he worried that Israel will be victimized by the United States as it battles Al Qaeda in Afghanistan.

"I'm dismayed that the United States – and Canada – have put undue pressure on Israel to reward Palestinian violence with more concessions. But at the end of the day, I believe that U.S.-Israel relations are fundamentally sound, and that in five years from now, if all goes well, Israel will be stronger because the terrorist network will be weakened, even if it is not destroyed."

See page 4 for more on Gil Troy.

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Israel's Magen David Adom facing tough times

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — These are tough times for Magen David Adom (MDA), the Israeli counterpart to the Red Cross.

In the last 16 months, 57 of its ambulances have been torched by Palestinian rioters, cutting into its ability to provide emergency first response services, just as incidents of suicide bombings have increased while day-to-day public health demands remain unabated.

On the international front, MDA continues its 52-year long effort to push for inclusion into the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, a move that would give the organization enhanced international legitimacy while facilitating the sharing of expertise and resources.

Political pressure from Arab and Muslim states along with the reluctance of the Federation's constituent organizations to include the red Shield of David as a recognized emblem have stymied MDA's efforts.

At a meeting last month of the Federation's General Assembly, delegates passed a resolution calling on the signatories to the Geneva Convention to amend the document's protocols to open the door to MDA's inclusion – though not necessarily by recognizing the red Shield of David.

Under the rules that govern the Federation, which provides disaster relief, and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), which provides battlefield emergency services, signatory nations must first amend the convention before new symbols can be added.

Currently, the convention states specifically that the only emblems that can be used to protect the medical services of armed forces are the red cross and red crescent.

A solution has been proposed that would allow MDA to join the international bodies, but it is far from Israel's first choice. Proposals being seriously considered would provide for the addition of a third, neutral symbol, like a diamond or a pair of chevrons, in which the Magen David and other national symbols could be embedded.

MDA has stated repeatedly its preference would be for the red Shield of David to join the other symbols on an equal basis.

"Although Israel has reservations about this proposal, since it would inevitably single out Israel as one of the only countries not entitled to use the same symbol for both protective and indicative purposes, there is no doubt that it represents an improvement over the status quo," MDA's Web site states.

An international convocation of countries was scheduled to look into the matter in the fall of 2000, but that meeting was called off after the intifadah erupted.

Red Shield of David not a recognized emblem

Speaking to the General Assembly in November, Dr. Moshe Melloul, president of MDA, said "we were disappointed it was postponed for political reasons, in contradiction with the aim of achieving true universality."

Alan Spector, past president of the Toronto chapter of Canadian MDA, said MDA "has had problems with the ICRC since 1949" when the international body first blocked Israel's attempts to join. MDA meets all Federation and ICRC standards but controversy over the MDA emblem is the last outstanding issue, he said.

"Significant prejudice within that organization," is responsible, Spector suggested, adding "in the past six years, Arabs have pressured the ICRC to keep Israel out."

For its part, the American Red Cross has proven to be a persistent advocate for MDA, fighting for its inclusion for the last 20 years. It has withheld its dues to the Federation in the past two.

David McLaughlin, chair of the American Red Cross, told the General Assembly that "our board of governors has reaffirmed the American Red Cross policy to continue withholding [dues] payment until the MDA and Kazakh societies are accorded admission to the Federation."

The Canadian Red Cross supports MDA's inclusion in the Federation and ICRC, as long as it is done in conformity with international law and procedures, said Paul Wharram, deputy secretary general of the Canadian Red Cross.

"The Canadian Red Cross wants to see the full admission of the MDA into the Federation at the earliest possible moment through whatever legal means are acceptable to all," he said, adding the Red Cross supports creation of a third neutral emblem into which the Shield of David could be incorporated.

"We prefer this solution because in our view it is a universal solution that would help us deal with future issues of the same nature," he said.

In opposing the addition of the red Shield of David to the two currently in use, the ICRC and the Federation argue such a move would open the floodgates, leading other national organizations to demand the inclusion of their national symbols as well and undermine their protective effects.

"The danger of proliferation therefore cannot be ignored," said Francois Bugnion, the ICRC's director of international law and communication.

"In the ICRC's opinion, the adoption of a third protective emblem devoid of any political or religious significance and its recognition alongside the red cross and red crescent is the most realistic way of settling the matter of the emblem and of satisfying the aspirations of countries and national societies that can accept neither the red cross nor the red crescent."

While the political maneuvering continues, MDA has upped its level of participation in various Federation activities. MDA was given a seat in one of four commissions created at the General Assembly, and it is enjoying "expanded participation within the Federation and the General Assembly," Wharram said.

Meanwhile, on the domestic scene, Canadian Magen David Adom is fighting a decision by Canada Customs and Revenue Agency (CCRA) to remove its charitable status. CCRA contends that MDA operates outside the Green Line, Israel's 1967 border, and so, cannot receive a charitable number. Spector believes it will be two or three years before tax courts render a final decision in the case.

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New Labor head Ben-Eliezer faces tough odds

By PETER HIRSCHBERG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer took over last Thursday as leader of the Labor Party with a formidable constellation of political forces ranged against him – including some senior members of his own party – but with history on his side.

Ben-Eliezer adopts the leadership mantle bruised by an ugly, protracted battle with Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg over the results of a party primary held on Sept. 4. After months of wrangling over charges of voter fraud, the final primary result was determined when elections for party leader were held again in about 50 Arab polling stations. The final margin of Ben-Eliezer's victory: about 2,500 votes.

With the official results hardly out, Labor's leading dove, former justice minister Yossi Beilin, was already attacking Ben-Eliezer, calling him a clone of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and saying that while he was the "legal" leader of the party, he was not its "legitimate" head. Beilin, who backed Burg, added he hoped Ben-Eliezer would be a "temporary" leader.

But most senior Laborites issued dutiful, if lukewarm, praise for their new leader. Industry and Trade Minister Dalia Itzik said Ben-Eliezer, who trailed Burg by seemingly insurmountable double-digit margins until days before the September primary, should be commended for passing the test of "political bravery."

Haim Ramon defended Ben-Eliezer, saying it was "unwise" for Beilin to have "questioned the legitimacy of the party leader on the very day he was elected."

But Ben-Eliezer can take little solace in Ramon's remarks. He knows he faces another primary in a year to choose Labor's candidate for prime minister — it was Ben-Eliezer who suggested this two-stage format – and Ramon may be one of his rivals.

"Senior party members – none of whom backed him openly – will now wait vulture-like for Ben-Eliezer's defeat," writes *Ha'aretz* diplomatic correspondent Yossi Verter. "He'll try to embrace them and find that outwardly they'll stand behind him, while behind closed doors, they'll do their best to erode his authority."

Ben-Eliezer has history on his side: there has never been a Labor leader who has not served as prime minister.

But the Iraqi-born ex-general's biggest obstacle to becoming prime minister may be the state of his own party, which has been adrift since former prime minister Ehud Barak was soundly defeated by Sharon in elections last year. The intifadah and the public's subsequent sharp swing to the right have eroded the party's support, wich recent polls translate into a mere 18 seats for Labor, versus 32 for Likud.

Almost as formidable will be Ben-Eliezer's need to cement his leadership without alienating Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. Labor's elder statesman has been the party's senior member in the unity coalition until now, and has generally seen the party as his personal domain ever since David Ben-Gurion left the scene more than 30 years ago.

"Peres is not someone who lives in peace with the party chairman, as long as it's not himself," writes Verter.

Most Laborites were cautious when asked how Ben-Eliezer might treat Peres. "I cannot tell you what the formal arrangement will be, but I hope that Fuad [Ben-Eliezer] understands that he needs Peres next to him," Itzik said.

Beyond resuscitating Labor, if Ben-Eliezer wants to be prime minister, he will have to offer an alternative to Likud. To do that, he will have to lead Labor out of the unity government, and he will have to choose the right time and the right issue over which to "divorce" Sharon. Although Ben-Eliezer clearly derives great satisfaction from serving as defence minister, he said last week he would extract Labor from the government "quicker" than most think.

But not all the odds are stacked against Ben-Eliezer. He could be Labor's candidate for prime minister, regardless of whether he revives the party. Ben-Eliezer may find his rivals are happy to wait and let him be pounded at the polls.

Russian Jewish teens flock to Israel

By DANIEL NEHMAD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MOSCOW — More Jewish youth than ever from the former Soviet Union are visiting Israel on the Birthright Israel program during the next six weeks.

In the 18 months of the program's existence, a total of 1,547 people from the former Soviet Union visited Israel on four Birthright trips, said the CEO of Birthright Israel International, Shimshon Shoshani. But this winter alone, he said, "we are bringing almost 1,600."

The unprecedented number is largely due to an increase in funding for the Birthright program in the former Soviet Union.

But widespread interest in the program suggests that, unlike their western counterparts, Jews here have largely discounted the personal threat from Israeli-Palestinian violence.

"We also live in a country that isn't very stable," said Kirill Fishkin, 20, a student at the Kazan Aviation Institute in the central Russian city of Kazan. "So it makes no difference whether we're here or there. 'Which place is more dangerous?' That's not a question."

Fishkin hopes to participate in a second round of trips from the former Soviet Union planned for June.

Birthright Israel expects to send 6,135 young Jews to Israel this winter. Participants of the free 10-day trips include 3,149 North Americans, 1,596 Jews from the former Soviet Union and 670 from Latin America.

Program organizers initially had hoped to send more than 10,000 Jews this winter.

The indifference about travelling to a region known for explosive violence is affirmed by people who work closely with Jewish youth in Russia.

Natasha Bobkova, secretary of the Jewish Agency for Israel's youth department in Moscow, said that since October, only five people out of 42 have cancelled reservations made through the Jewish Agency, and those were due to university exams.

Meyer Newman, director of Arevim, the youth movement of the Federation of Jewish Communities of the Commonwealth of Independent States, reported that only about 40 out of 500 people who had made reservations through the federation have cancelled since October. The vacant spots filled immediately, he said.

Participants from the former Soviet Union face formidable local obstacles. Birthright requires each participant to pay a $150 deposit, which is later refunded, to ensure participation in the program once reservations have been made. This is quite a lot in Russia, where the average monthly wage is $113.

Nonetheless, participation has increased each year. Birthright reports that 90 citizens of FSU countries made the trip in the winter of 2000 and 714 in the winter of 2001. This winter, 1,050 will go from Russia, Belarus and the Baltic states, 450 from Ukraine and 42 from Uzbekistan.

Most of the new funding for this year's trips came as a private donation from businessman Lev Levayev, president of the federation. This is the first year the federation has sponsored Birthright.

A native of Uzbekistan who moved to Israel in 1971, Levayev feels obligated to build Jewish life in the former Soviet Union.

"Jewish youth today are eager to build their lives as Jews in the FSU," Levayev said. "Unfortunately their parents cannot provide the material support or spiritual help to build their lives as Jews. I see the Birthright trip as a means to fill this gap and guarantee a future of Jewish life there."

The federation's executive director, Avraham Berkowitz, said Levayev's donation will be responsible for sending 1,000 citizens from the former Soviet Union to Israel this winter and an additional 1,000 next summer.

But Birthright's fate in the region will not depend only on its ability to attract more participants.

"We are always working on evaluation," Shoshani said, emphasizing the need to examine whether and how participants are changed by the trips.

With this in mind, professors at Moscow State University, in co-operation with professors at Brandeis University in Boston, are planning to research how effective Birthright is in making participants more active in their Jewish communities in the former Soviet Union.

Canada-Israel Committee
Assistant Director (Government Relations)

The Canada-Israel Committee is undertaking a search for an Assistant Director (Government Relations).

The Position: Located in Ottawa and reporting to the National Executive Director, the Assistant Director will be responsible for developing and implementing the CIC's program within the political sector. The position will also entail some responsibilities for the overall operation of the CIC and service to the Board of Directors.

The Candidate: The successful candidate will have a strong academic background with a graduate degree in political science, government relations, law or a related field. S/he will have experience working with or in the political sector and possess knowledge of the Canadian political system. It is expected that the successful candidate will be familiar with the history of Israel and committed to helping the pro-Israel community promote and enhance a strong Canada-Israel bilateral relationship. Fluency in both official languages is a pre-requisite and knowledge of Hebrew will be regarded as an important asset.

Candidates are invited to forward their resumes in strict confidence to the Search Committee c/o Shimon Fogel in any one of the following ways:

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Argentine Jews arrive in Israel

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Hugs and tears awaited the first group of Argentine immigrants to arrive in Israel since riots erupted in Buenos Aires over the country's economic collapse.

The 63 new arrivals, young families as well as seniors, were welcomed last week at Ben-Gurion Airport by officials of the Jewish Agency for Israel and the Ministry of Absorption.

They were escorted to the Ministry of Absorption hall for orientation and initial immigration processing before heading to absorption centers in Beersheba, Ra'anana and Haifa.

For some of the new immigrants, there also were emotional reunions with relatives and family members.

"I'm happy to finally be home," Claudia, a Hebrew teacher, told reporters as she embraced her mother and sister.

Many new arrivals pointed out that their decisions to immigrate to Israel were not spontaneous decisions spurred by last month's rioting, but had been in the works for several months. At the same time, the ongoing economic difficulties in Argentina were a factor in their decision to emigrate.

"The vast majority who came did not decide on aliyah from one day to the next," said Yehuda Weinraub, a Jewish Agency spokesperson. "They had been preparing for some time. Many with whom I spoke made the decision last September or so. The economic situation was a main factor in that."

Many Argentine Jews have been falling into poverty since the mid-1990s, and as much as a quarter of the country's 200,000 Jews are believed to live below the poverty line.

"It's possible that now, after the difficult events in Buenos Aires, more Jews will want to emigrate to Israel," said Ruthie Romero, a computer instructor and graphic artist who arrived with her two children.

Jewish Agency officials in Buenos Aires said that, in recent weeks, they have received 300 percent more telephone inquiries and personal interviews for aliyah and 30 percent more inquiries from parents wondering about sending their children to university in Israel.

Kito Hasson, the Latin American representative of the Jewish Agency said the organization's Argentine office has extended interviewing hours until 10 p.m., and have opened on Sundays as well. The office has added five more employees to its staff of 21.

Given the magnitude of the current crisis – which eased somewhat with the resignation of President Fernando de la Rua on Dec. 20 and the subsequent ascension of Adolfo Rodriguez Saa, as caretaker president – the Jewish Agency canceled staff holidays in expectation of a flood of applicants.

"While worldwide aliyah to Israel decreased between 30 and 80 percent in 2001 because of the situation in Israel, in Argentina it has grown 30 percent," Hasson said.

In 2001, 1,400 Argentine Jews made aliyah. That's up from 1,033 in 2000, and is twice the 1998 figure.

"After this new unease, the Jewish Agency expects to have 3,000 Argentine Jews emigrating to Israel in 2002," said Hasson.

Jewish Agency officials in Argentina are currently processing some 7,000 applications – and are still receiving new inquiries.

Jorge Rusler, a car mechanic from Buenos Aires who arrived in Israel with six children, said he hoped to be able to work in his profession.

Another new arrival, Mariella, 14, described her mixed feelings.

"I'm here with my mother and father. It was hard for me to leave Argentina because of the many friends who stayed there," she told the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*. "But it was important to leave because of the economic situation there."

Some 40 Argentines were due in Israel last week as part of the Jewish Agency's Na'aleh program, in which teenagers come to study in Israel and prepare the way for their families to make aliyah. Also expected was a group of 24 adults on a pilot trip to explore possible immigration.

The olim who arrived last week and those expected to follow will enjoy a special benefits package approved by the Israeli government earlier in the week, in consultation with the Jewish Agency and the Ministry of Absorption.

Valid for a year, the package includes $20,000 in government assistance to purchase housing – one-third of that a grant, two-thirds a low-interest loan – and a $2,500 Jewish Agency absorption grant, in addition to the existing benefits package all new immigrants receive.

The Jewish Agency Board of Governors decided last June to focus aliyah efforts on Argentina, France and South Africa.

In a meeting with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon last October, agreement in principle was reached to provide special benefits for immigrants from those communities. But no concrete measures were taken until the current crisis erupted last month.

With files from Florencia Arbiser in Buenos Aires.

Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce
The Sixth Annual
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CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our seventh annual Purim Art Contest.

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning " drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 21. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However, they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colourful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News,1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2002. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of colour, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim.The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 8, 2002.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning " pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 21, 2002.

More French Jews emigrating

By ANDREW DIAMOND
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — With French Jews complaining about a rise in anti-Semitic violence, there is a sharp increase in the number of people inquiring about immigrating to Israel.

After several years of declining aliyah from France, the Jewish Agency for Israel has seen a 30 to 40 percent rise in inquiries this fall, according to the director of its French office, Dov Puder.

"It is too early to know how many immigrants we will have for the year 2001, but usually the fall is a down time for applications, and March and April are the busiest months," Puder explained. "This is why this year is remarkable."

According to the French publication *Aiyah Magazine*, the Jewish Agency's French desk could expect between 2,000 and 3,000 olim every year through the late 1990s. That number fell to 1,950 in 1998 and 1,515 the following year.

Figures for 2000 are unavailable, but Puder said there was an additional decline.

In 2001, 1,150 French Jews emigrated to Israel. The recent increase in inquiries will not make a statistical impact until next year.

Regardless of the numbers, the typical profile of the applicant has changed very little, Puder said. French aliyah candidates tend to be very religious, and predominantly families with children.

Yet Puder did note a change in the reasons people came to his office.

"They are motivated by the situation in France as much as the situation in Israel," he said, "but they are more concerned than in the past with the situation in France."

Puder was hesitant to call the new candidates "worried" by the recent anti-Semitism, suggesting instead that they are "bothered" by it.

Moreover, he said, many of those interviewed recently emphasized their children's education as a reason for moving to Israel.

The increase in potential emigrants coincides with a recent rise in anti-Semitic incidents in the Paris region and Marseilles.

As of Nov. 15, French police had recorded 26 violent acts and 115 incidents of intimidation against Jews in 2001, according to the Ministry of the Interior. CRIF, the umbrella organization of secular Jewish groups throughout France, says the number is even higher.

The issue of anti-Semitism recently has become headline news in the French media, but many Jewish leaders feel the Socialist-led government has yet to take meaningful action.

Speaking at the annual CRIF dinner at the beginning of December, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin assured Jewish notables of "the determination of the government to fight against all forms of anti-Semitism."

Yet many in the community have grown disheartened that Interior Minister Daniel Vaillant – the man most responsible for national law enforcement policy – has continuously disputed the seriousness of the threats French Jews face on a daily basis.

Vaillant has claimed that most anti-Semitic violence is carried out by Muslim youths from low-income neighborhoods, which few dispute. But Jewish leaders increasingly are concerned about the consequences of the aggression.

Enrolment in Jewish schools has climbed over the past few years, a phenomenon that speaks to growing tensions between Muslim and Jewish youths. However, many middle-class Jewish families who share their neighbourhoods with Maghrebins – Muslims of North African descent – are unable to afford the rising cost of private education.

Sabra and Shatila survivors seek 'historic justice'

By NITZAN HOROWITZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

BRUSSELS — Lawyers for the Palestinians seeking to convict Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for his role in the massacres at the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Lebanon in 1982 told the Belgian court hearing the case last week that the judges would "stand before history" when they decided on the case.

Saying they were seeking "historic justice," the lawyers defined the case as the most important one to take place in a Belgian court since the end of World War II.

Following the evidence presented last week, Israeli observers in the courtroom said they were impressed by the level of legal preparation that went into the plaintiffs' case and the way the complex issues had been presented.

A source close to the case said there was no doubt the plaintiffs had used many experts, including historians, jurists and specialists in international law. The vast amount of material presented, he said, included material from a variety of Israeli sources.

The plaintiffs analyzed the events that took place in the two refugee camps where nearly 1,000 Palestinians were killed by Phalangist troops during the Israeli occupation of Beirut in 1982. They reviewed relevant legislative and court deliberations from Israel and presented Sharon's own positions on the issue over the years.

Israeli sources said it appeared the plaintiffs had benefited from help from inside Israel.

Last week's hearing, like the previous one, was devoted to the presentation of the plaintiff's case. Their claims did not include any new elements aside from their counter-argument to Israel's statements regarding the Belgian legislation that have won a degree of support from the Belgian state prosecutor's office.

Sharon's defence team raised the argument that the 1998 Belgian law established a special procedure for prosecuting a Belgian serving as prime minister, minister or member of the Belgian parliament. According to Sharon's lawyers, the procedure discriminates against serving foreign leaders for whom no special procedure had been established.

Drawing on minutes from the original debates on the issue in the Belgian legislature, the plaintiff's lawyers noted the special procedures were designed to preserve the separation of powers in the Belgian government that did not apply to foreign leaders. Furthermore, argued the plaintiffs, in 1998, the Belgian parliamentarians had not intended for the special procedure to be applied in cases of genocide, because of the 1999 amendments to the original universal authority promulgated in 1993, under which Sharon is being sued.

Beyond these claims, the plaintiff's lawyers also argued against defence lawyers' charges about the retroactive nature of the suit, the prime minister's diplomatic immunity, the Kahan Commission's prior investigation of the affair in Israel and the lack of relevance to Belgium.

As for the Kahan Commission, a major argument for the defence, the plaintiffs noted that in September 1982, Sharon voted against establishing the commission, and hence he could not now argue its conclusions are his defence because it rendered a judicial decision that put an end to the affair.

The next hearing is scheduled for Jan. 23, when Sharon's attorneys will present their defence. The court is expected to announce a date for its decision on the case during the same hearing.

Israel's feats deserve recognition

While the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians dominates the headlines, other newsworthy items from Israel are often overshadowed.

Israel's astonishing achievements in science and high-tech are one of these subjects. Its accomplishments in these fields are a testament not only to the country's talent but more broadly to the historical attachment of the Jewish people to education, liberal thinking and debate. It is noteworthy that about 15 percent of Nobel prizes have been awarded to a people constituting a mere 0.2 percent of the world's population.

According to Reports

So strong has this attachment been that three major institutions of higher learning – the Technion, Weizmann Institute, and the Hebrew University – were all established well before the State itself was, with Albert Einstein, world renowned scientist and dedicated Zionist, delivering Hebrew University's inaugural address in 1923.

Three factors contribute to Israel's technological achievements: a national policy of supporting research and development programs; the army, which provides the training ground for young people involved in technologically-oriented projects; and the Israeli culture that encourages risk-taking and innovative thinking. Today, high-tech accounts for roughly 75 percent of Israel's industrial exports, especially in the areas of software and biotechnology:

- Israel has 135 engineers, scientists and physicians per capita per 10,000 population – more than any other country.
- Israel has a large knowledge base in math, physics, computing and electronics, aided by the influx of hundreds of thousands of highly educated immigrants from the former Soviet Union.
- Israel is one of only eight nations to have developed, produced and launched its own satellite, entering the space age in 1988 with the launch of the Ofek Satellite.
- Israel ranks second only to the United States on a per capita basis in generating new high-tech companies.
- Israel has the world's highest ratio of high-tech start-ups – nearly 5,000 in a country of six million people.
- Israel has more companies listed on the Nasdaq Stock Market than any country except Canada and the United States.

The Canadian media have reported on a surprising number of Israeli scientific advances and technological developments in the past few years.

To mention just three:

- In the summer of 2000, Associated Press carried a story that had the ring of science fiction – an Israeli company (Given Imaging Ltd.) had developed a "swallowable video pill," a tiny video camera plus transmitter that fits inside a swallowable capsule which takes pictures at the rate of two images a second of the intestines.
- In a front-page story in the *Globe and Mail* (June 15), Krista Foss wrote about Israeli doctors who injected immune-system cells into the severed spinal cord of a paraplegic American teenager, restoring movement to her toes and legs.
- Bob Macdonald, CBC's award-winning science correspondent and host of CBC Radio's "Quirk and Quarks" described the Israeli step towards development of a molecular computer built from DNA in an interview with Peter Mansbridge on "The National" (Nov. 22).

The growth of trade relations in high-tech with countries like China and India, and the concomitant development of collaborative enterprises with scientists around the world, also deserve coverage.

Prepared by Paul Michaels of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Business Profile

Israeli-born economist perfect fit for media age

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It used to be that economists were seen as rather socially withdrawn individuals, dressed in dark suits with button down collars, poring over reams of data to issue a report on an obscure subject whose nuances could only be understood by others steeped in the "dismal science."

Not any more. Today, you're just as likely to find a garrulous, media-savvy individual who breathes life into the subject and who makes it relevant to investors and spectators alike.

Take Benjamin (Benny) Tal for instance. Tal, senior economist with CIBC, is a frequent contributor to ROB-TV, the business television network, as well as radio shows and CP24, a Toronto TV news station. Speaking with his unmistakable Israeli accent, he is articulate and entertaining even when dissecting the esoteric world of bond yields and currency fluctuations.

As an outgoing individual it's a skill that comes to him naturally. His experience on TV has allowed him to hone his skills and taught him that when articulating an aspect of economics, never just state the obvious; avoid complex explanations for fear of boring the audience to death. "You must try to explain economic situation in terms that people can understand," he said.

"Economics is about story-telling. That's the way I approach it. I think the numbers are secondary. Telling where the economy is going is like telling a story, with a beginning, and end and the ramifications."

It's not clear whether that's a new trend among economists who are applying it to the wider world, or whether the needs of TV and appealing to a mass audience have prompted changes in the economists' world. But Tal acknowledges that even when preparing reports for in-house use (by other divisions of the bank) or for external clients, making his findings relevant has become job one.

Gone are the days when an economist could simply provide a forecast on GDP or on interest rates. "Economists need to be more relevant," he said. "What does it mean for your business that GDP is going up or down? You must tailor it for individual clients."

Tal's specialties are the bond and currency markets, but he has also developed a special expertise on youth unemployment. In 1998 he released a study on the subject that "generated a bit of noise."

It was the kind of issue that appealed to the non-business press as well as the business media, and it wasn't exactly a typical banking issue.

Applying his maxim of making it relevant to the client, Tal noted that youths could be an important future client base for the bank. He found that official estimates as to the number of unemployed youth (16-17 percent) are probably three to four percent less than the actual number.

Another study for CIBC on self-employment examined job stability, compensation and whether work was full time or part time. Tal found that in 1996-97, Canada experienced an increase in employment, but not an expected growth in income.

During the mid-1990s, self employment grew by 40-50 percent to reach 15-16 percent of the labour market, but those leaving larger corporations for the independence of working for themselves generally experienced a drop in standard of living, to as much as 70-75 percent of their previous wage.

Meanwhile, in the United States unemployment dropped to near 4.5 percent and personal income rose 20 percent during the decade. Tal found that it was in Canada that people took more "McJobs," while in the United States, the quality of work improved as people took better paying jobs with larger corporations. Since 1998, "Canada's employment quality improved, but it's now falling again."

When he's not preparing in depth studies, Tal watches the financial markets on a daily basis, focusing on the Canadian dollar and the Euro. Like other economists, he sees the dollar trending downward on a secular (long term) basis with little hope of a major turnaround.

Tal, a native of B'nai Brak, the largely Orthodox community in central Israel, has been interested in economics since high school.

A top student from an early age, at 12 he was enrolled in the Steinberg Boarding School in Kfar Saba, where the educational standards were beyond anything offered in B'nai Brak.

"I know it was very hard for my mother, but in retrospect, it was a good thing," he said.

Tal was always interested in maths and sociology and in his last year in high school, he was introduced to a course in economics.

"I knew, that was it," he said.

Maths and physics, he believes, "are too exact. Sociology is not exact [enough]." Economics, he said, combines the quantitative aspect of maths with the examination of social behaviour of sociology.

After serving four and a half years in the Israel Defense Force (IDF), rising to the rank of captain in an artillery unit, he entered Hebrew University.

The school's economics department is first rate, he said, featuring top professors and a very high standard.

With a BA in economics, Tal earned a scholarship at Toronto's York University and moved to Canada in 1989. In 1991, during the Gulf War and after completing his masters degree in one year, he took a job with CIBC. His job: international economist focusing on the Middle East and one of his first assignments was to meet with the energy committee of the Iranian parliament. His concern that his Israeli heritage would be a deal-breaker proved to be unfounded.

With his improving facility with the English language, Tal was asked to represent the bank at various public occasions, and his reputation as a lively spokesman for the bank grew. Last year, Foreign Affair's executive speakers program asked him to speak about Canada to groups around the world, and he travelled to Australia, Germany and Holland on the mission. In March, he'll take his show on the road to Italy and Spain.

Tal retains a keen interest in his place of his birth, pointing out that Israel's economy grew by an average of five percent during the 1990s, compared to Canada's three percent. With a per capita GDP of $17,000 U.S., Israel is rapidly closing in on Canada's $25,000 U.S. and might pass it in 10 to 15 years, he said.

When it does, no doubt, Tal will be the first one called upon to explain it.

Benjamin (Benny) Tal

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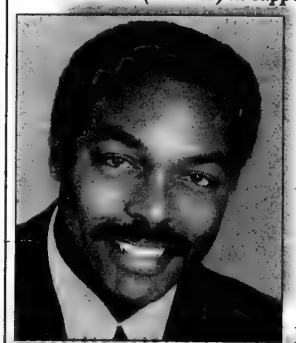

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Arts & Travel

JEWISH FILM SOCIETY OPENS ITS 16TH SEASON

The 16th full season of the Toronto Jewish Film Society begins Sunday, Jan. 13 with the premiere screening of *Left Luggage*, a recent feature from Belgium-Holland about the identity struggles of a child of Holocaust survivors in Antwerp. The stellar cast includes **Isabella Rossellini**, **Maximilian Schell**, **Topol** and **Jeroen Krabbe**, who also directed. Krabbe is best remembered as the "other" love interest in *Crossing Delancey*.

The society has also scheduled an evening of tribute to **Mordecai Richler** on Feb. 17, featuring three seldom-seen films: *The Street*, *Mortimer Griffin* and *Shalinsky, and Bambinger*, all based on short stories by Richler and produced by the National Film Board of Canada.

The season also includes *Sallah*, a 1964 film by Israeli director **Ephraim Kishon**, starring **Topol** and **Gila Almagor**; it was nominated for an Academy Award.

Scheduled for April is the recent Dutch documentary, *Maelstrom – A Family Chronicle*, that uses home movies and other found footage to tell the story of a Dutch Jewish family from 1933 to 1945.

In June, the society is showing *Tevye*, the classic 1939 Yiddish film by **Maurice Schwartz** in which he plays the famous dairyman. Three more films follow in the fall: *Caesar's Writers* (US, 1996), *Angry Harvest* (Germany, 1984) and *The Dunera Boys* (Australia, 1985).

The society's chair, **Barbara Coven**, says that its mandate is "to educate and entertain, by bringing film lovers different perceptions of how Jews conduct their lives in different cultures, in both the past and present."

She adds that the society also tries "to screen films that aren't usually accessible to mainstream audiences."

A season's pass costs $50 and includes all screenings. Films are shown at the Art Gallery of Ontario's Jackman Hall at either 5:15 or 7:45 p.m., with individual tickets available at the door, 15 minutes before show-time. For details, phone 416-924-6211.

* * *

Musical Evening: The BJCC Koffler School of Music presents an evening of cello and guitar with **Daniel and Carey Domb**, at the home of Freema and Joe Trager, 111 Forest Heights Blvd. $60. Light refreshments. Wednesday Jan. 16, 8 p.m. RSVP, 416-636-1880, ext. 228.

* * *

Yiddish Conference: Milwaukee will be the focus of the Yiddish-speaking world April 12 to 15, 2002, when the International Association of Yiddish Clubs gathers for its seventh world conference. The theme is Yiddish and the Holocaust. Canadian participants include **Eugene Orenstein**, dean of Yiddish studies at McGill University. Registration is $260 before Feb. 1. 414-223-3443.

* * *

Harduf's Tenth Volume: "Dictionaries are like watches," **Samuel Johnson**, the 18th-century lexicographer once observed. "The worst is better than none, and the best cannot be expected to go quite true."

To extend the timepiece metaphor, the massive English-Hebrew dictionary that Torontonian **David Mendel Harduf** has been labouring over for years may best be compared to a top-quality Rolex watch. Its 10th volume, covering the entries from "S" to "Serbia," was recently printed here.

Harduf's dictionary has been hailed in Israel as a competent supplement to **Eliezer Ben-Yehudah's** landmark dictionary that helped modernize the language early in the last century. For each word, it features many illustrative quotations from classical and modern Hebrew literature, including Midrashic and Talmudic sources as well as King James equivalents for Biblical references in Hebrew.

According to the *Jerusalem Post*, Harduf "is someone who is clearly in love with Hebrew and its classical Biblical roots." Those interested in buying the dictionary should phone 416-663-5467 or inquire at Jewish bookstores.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• Seneca College offers evening acting classes for adults, taught by highly skilled professional instructors. Orientation, Thursday Jan. 10, 7 p.m. 416-491-5050, ext. 412.

• *Walking to Russia*, a new play by Toronto playwright **Jonathan Garfinkel**, focuses on an elderly Jewish couple haunted by the spirit of their lost daughter. Previews from Jan. 10, runs Jan. 12 to 27. Theater Passe Muraille Backspace, 16 Ryerson Ave. 416-504-7529.

•More kudos for Toronto non-fiction author **Erna Paris**, whose last opus, *Long Shadows*, won three major prizes last year in Canada. Recently the work made the *Christian Science Monitor's* best books list for 2001 and British historian **Eric Hobsbawm** chose it as his personal favourite in *The New Statesman*.

Einstein play benefits Downtown Jewish Day School

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — "Einstein would love our little school," actor Alon Nashman said at a recent reception in support of the Downtown Jewish Day School.

Nashman, who played Albert Einstein in CanStage's fall production of *Picasso at the Lapin Agile* at the Bluma Appel Theatre, spoke after a closing night benefit performance for the school.

Nashman, whose daughter attends the school, said Einstein valued his intuitive faculties, which he called a gift from God, as much as his rational mind, which he called a faithful servant.

Nashman said he observed children at the school "expanding their capacity to imagine."

The integrated curriculum at the school "makes connections between subjects in the same way the mind intuitively cross-references learning," he said.

As an artist, it is important the way students grow to understand the world by creating, singing and doing, he said.

"Important to me as a Jew," he added, "is the way that our spiritual and moral heritage is being transmitted by a remarkable group of teachers to a wonderful and precious group of young souls who are renewing their heritage."

At the reception for the Downtown Jewish Day School at the closing performance of Picasso at the Lapin Agile, are [from left] Dr. Cynthia Lazar, president; Harold Nashman, Alon Nashman and vice-president Michaele-Sue Goldblatt.

The Downtown Jewish Day school was founded by Cynthia Lazar in 1998 with 10 students. It now has 61 students up to Grade 5 and the school plans to add one grade each year.

Nashman, who has appeared in theatre, films and television, and is preparing for a one-person show adapted from Franz Kafka's *Letters to His Father*, said that when Steve Martin, who wrote *Picasso*, came to the opening performance, he said he never has to see the play again because it was the best production he had seen.

The setting for *Picasso* is a bohemian bistro in 1904 Paris, where an imaginary young Einstein and a young Pablo Picasso meet.

Alon's father, Harold Nashman, who organized the fund-raiser, introduced his son "Einstein," jesting that "sometimes it is difficult to have such a brilliant son."

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

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Arts & Travel

TRAVEL TALK

BY BILL GLADSTONE

ANOTHER SIDE OF THE KINNERET

"We're just about to cross the River Jordan," says our guide, Mike Rogoff, as our van approaches a bridge crossing a gulley of greenery. "So don't blink and don't sneeze, or you'll miss it. This is not the St. Lawrence. The people who wrote those marvelous spirituals – *The River Jordan is deep and wide* and so on –well, they had obviously never been here."

The day is predominantly warm and sunny. We are driving along the north shore of Lake Kinneret, the fabled Sea of Galilee, driving eastward along the top of the harp-shaped lake. Earlier, we had spent the morning viewing the remains of the Byzantine-era synagogue at Capernaum and some biblical-era sites on the northwestern shores. Now we are crossing Israel's famous river, whose legend apparently much exceeds the reality: today, by Canadian standards, it is a mere stream, even at the spot to the south where Joshua and the ancient Israelites entered the Promised Land.

The eastern side of Lake Kinneret is the more picturesque, yet fewer visitors see it, Rogoff says. As we drive along the lake, the cliffs of the Golan Heights soar above us to our left, while some mud flats and green patches stretch to the right, on territory surrendered by the Kinneret. As a result of extensive droughts and water usage, the lake has receded to record low levels in recent years. As the country prays for peace, so, too, it prays for rain.

Our guide points out a few moshavim and kibbutzim, including Kibbutz Ein Gev, which was founded in 1937 (the kibbutz was once home to former Jerusalem mayor Teddy Kollek). Before Israel captured the Golan, they were "within spitting distance" of Syrian military outposts and "the Syrian soldiers would take potshots from the ridge about 1,500 feet about the kibbutz," Rogoff says.

"The people who can be quite liberal with the Palestinian issue can be quite hard-line with regard to giving back the Golan Heights to Syria," he says.

We pass some kibbutz hotels and an ostrich farm. Soon we reach the bottom of the lake and the spot where the river waters re-emerge from the lake to flow southward to the Dead Sea. As we cross the Jordan again, Rogoff points out a modern baptismal facility, used extensively by Christian pilgrims: it is modern enough to be wheelchair-accessible. The area is also dotted with historic kibbutzim such as Degania (established in 1911, it's the second oldest in the country) and the neighbouring Kinneret Kibbutz. Rogoff is an excellent guide, full of knowledge and surprises; here, he pulls to the side of the road, announcing that he's going to show us something that probably none in our party of four has seen before.

"Please follow me," he says, and we pass through the gates of Kinneret Cemetery. "This is a very beautiful cemetery," he says, pointing out the graves of several historic Zionists as well as young soldiers from the local kibbutzim who died in the War of Independence. In the earth in front of one headstone lies a soldier's helmet that "has been sitting there for 50 years, and no one's tried to walk off with it," Rogoff says.

We walk further into the well-treed grounds, which once abutted the lake and are now separated from it by a weedy expanse. The view, however, is still gorgeous, and the wind sweeps gently over the wild wheat as if it were the strings of a harp. He stops at a tombstone identified by the single Hebrew name Rachel, and we gather around.

"This is the most famous grave," he says. "You see how it is covered with stones?

"Rachel was buried here – Rachel the Poetess. Blaustein was her last name, but no one remembers her by that name. She's simply known as Rachel the Poetess."

Then Rogoff tells the story of Rachel, who was born in Russia in 1890. Imbued with Zionist ideals, she came to Palestine, settled on Kibbutz Degania and began writing Hebrew poetry that "even today, has a freshness and a flavour that speaks to the younger generation." Unmarried, she died here of tuberculosis in 1931.

"She had a great love affair with the area, and it all came out in her poetry. She spoke with great passion of her Kinneret and her Golan. She talked about 'Grandfather Herman' with his thatch of white hair. She also wrote about how she wanted children, but she never had any. Her poetry became more bitter and more personal, but no less beautiful."

He opens a small metal compartment beside the grave and removes a book of Rachel's poetry, chained there for visitors. He translates a short poem, evoking images that are poignant and pure, and without saying another word replaces the book and bids us follow him from the cemetery.

A highly memorable moment from a highly memorable trip.

Back in Canada, I found this poem by Rachel, translated by A.M. Klein:

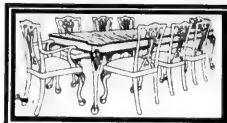
The Childless One

Would that I had a little boy,
A wise lad, and with raven locks,
To take him by the hand, and walk
Slowly upon the garden-walks.
And "Uri" would I call my son,
A delicate name, and full of joy,
A name that is a sunbeam – such
The name of my small winsome boy.
Yet shall I grow bitter, like Mother Rachel...
Yet shall I pray, like Hannah in Shiloh...
Yet shall I wait
For him.

Israeli tour guide Mike Rogoff holds a book of poetry beside the tomb of Rachel the Poetess in the Kinneret Cemetery. [Bill Gladstone photo]

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 35.

1 A	2 B	3 U	4 M	■	5 A	6 J	7 A	8 R	■	■	9 M	10 E	11 M	12 O
13 L	A	T	E	■	14 H	U	M	E	■	15 B	Y	C	A	R
16 U	R	A	L	■	17 I	D	E	A	■	18 L	O	R	N	E
19 M	R	H	O	20 L	L	A	N	D	21 S	O	P	U	S	■
■	■	■	22 D	E	L	I	■	■	23 A	N	I	■	■	■
24 R	25 E	26 G	I	S	■	27 C	28 A	29 M	P	D	A	30 V	31 I	32 D
33 O	G	L	E	■	■	34 R	O	S	E	■	35 I	R	A	■
36 I	R	I	S	37 H	■	38 O	L	E	■	39 S	40 U	S	A	N
41 L	E	D	■	42 A	43 O	N	E	■	■	44 N	A	T	E	■
45 S	T	E	46 R	N	G	A	N	47 G	■	48 W	I	S	E	S
■	■	■	49 E	U	R	■	■	50 R	51 E	E	F	■	■	■
■	52 Z	53 U	C	K	E	54 R	55 M	A	N	B	O	56 U	57 N	58 D
59 D	E	R	E	K	■	60 A	I	D	E	■	61 R	H	E	A
62 I	R	I	N	A	■	63 C	L	E	M	■	64 M	O	R	T
65 P	O	S	T	■	■	66 E	A	S	Y	■	67 S	H	O	E



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Arts & Travel

A remarkable year for Jewish video

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

The year 2001 has been a remarkable year for videos with Jewish themes. Here is a summary:

Divided We Fall is a dark comedy about a childless couple living in a small town during the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia. The couple hides a young Jewish man who was their neighbour before the war, only to discover that he is the only one who can keep the Nazis at bay. The film was nominated for an Academy Award last year for best foreign film.

Left Luggage tells the story of a Chassidic family in Antwerp, Belgium, who hire a non-religious college student as a nanny. The young woman quickly connects with the four-year-old son, who until then had refused to talk, and the two establish a special relationship. Produced in English, the film stars Isabella Rossellini, Maximilian Schell, Chaim Topol, Marianne Sagebrecht and Jeroen Krabbe. Krabbe, whose mother in real life is a Holocaust survivor, directed the film.

The Life and Times of Hank Greenberg is a superb documentary that brings the 1930s and 1940s to life, describing how the American Jewish community basked in the accomplishments of one of their own in the all-American sport of baseball.

Into the Arms of Strangers is one of the best documentaries of the year. Producer Deborah Oppenheimer tells the story of the 10,000 children who were transported out of German-controlled Europe just before the beginning of World War II, and were brought to England for safety.

Anne Frank is the video version of the television miniseries. A more complete and more Jewish telling of Anne Frank's story, it gives much more background information about Anne and tells us what happened after the people in the attic were arrested and taken away.

Varian's War tells the compelling story of Varian Fry, a wealthy American who travelled to Vichy, France, during World War II and saved the lives of hundreds of Jewish scientists, artists and intellectuals.

Sunshine follows the rise and fall of a Jewish Hungarian family from the beginning of the 20th century to the fall of communism. It is a fascinating story and an acting tour de force by Ralph Fiennes, who plays three leading characters: the grandfather, the father and the son.

Yana's Friends, an Israeli film set during the Iraqi Scud missile attacks of the 1991 Gulf War, is a hilarious comedy about Russian immigrants to Israel and their integration into a new society.

Just Looking is a coming-of-age comedy directed by Jason Alexander of *Seinfeld* fame. The film follows a young Jewish teenager from the Bronx who is sent to spend the summer of 1955 with his aunt in the countryside in Queens.

Point Men tells the story of a Mossad cell whose members are systematically assassinated. The leader, played by Christopher Lambert, is determined to track down those responsible and eliminate them.

Minotaur is an Israeli film produced in English about a secret agent (Dan Turgeman) who becomes infatuated with a younger woman (Mili Avital). His fear that his work could prove dangerous to her well-being keeps them apart, but he sends her anonymous letters and gifts.

Brooklyn Babylon describes the tensions between the neighbouring Jewish and black communities in Brooklyn, tensions that are further heightened when a Jewish girl begins a torrid affair with a black rap artist.

Requiem for a Dream focuses on drugs and despair, the only refuge for a Jewish widow and her son in the working class area of Coney Island.

Playing Mona Lisa is a comedy about a young Jewish piano student searching for love.

Voyages follows three women in Paris, Israel and Poland whose lives and memories of the Holocaust intertwine.

Solomon and Gaenor is a Romeo and Juliet story set in early 20th-century Wales. A boy from an Orthodox Jewish family falls in love with a Welsh girl and the two have an illicit affair with tragic consequences.

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From Romania: Jewish intellectual lady, 40, economist, divorced, blue eyes, redhead, shapely (5'5", 130 lbs, 36/25/35). Warm, loving personality, sporty, outdoor & multiple cultural interests, fluent English/French, impeccable manners/upbringing. Seeks marriage with serious Canadian gentleman up to 55, similar interests, of independent financial means. Promise lasting happiness and many satisfying moments. kim_ro88@yahoo.com

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Widower, 58. Well established pleasant to look at and be with. Enjoys sports, movies, dining out & romantic evenings seeks SJF, 40-53 with similar interests for long term relationship. Call 647-271-5040.

Early 50s, sweet 16. Attractive Jewish widow, warm, friendly manner, easy going with a positive attitude & a ready smile. Enjoys fine dining & dancing. Seeks SJM 48-65 financially stable, good sense of humour & intelligent for long term relationship. Reply CJN Box #7400.

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GOLD, Liav (Brenda) - On Saturday, Dec. 8th, 2001, peacefully at hospice in Victoria, B.C. after courageous struggle with breast cancer. Was the cherished daughter of Roz Gold, loving sister to Jake & Howie. Liav was pre-deceased by her sister Rhea. Please make memorial donations to the Breast Cancer Society.

BAYER, Alexander – on Dec. 12, 2001, late of 95 Burncrest Dr.
SZABO, Irene – on Dec. 14, 2001, late of 100 Antibes Dr.
VOIHANSKY, Alexander – on Dec. 13, 2001, late of 5 Fisherville Rd.
COOPER, Bessie – on Dec. 14, 2001, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SZENES, Andrew – on Dec. 14, 2001, late of 6 Mullet Rd.
JAKOBOVICH, Sheva Yenta – on Dec. 14, 2001.
ROBINSON, Joan – on Dec. 14, 2001.
LAUFER, Sally – on Dec. 16, 2001, late of 4383 Bathurst St.
STRAUCHLER, Helen Kathleen – on Dec. 16.
BENHAIM, Rachel – on Dec. 19, 2001.
SPIGIEL, Miriam – on Dec. 20, 2001.
WEISS, Bernard – on Dec. 20, 2001, late of 36 Sultana Ave.
GORDON, Martin Leonard – on Dec. 18, 2001.
PETROFF, Pola – on Dec. 20, 2001, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
KRAVCHIK, Sara – on Dec. 17, 2001, late of 15 Brill Cres.
ANGEL, Liebe – on Dec. 21, 2001.
GLADSTONE, Harry – on Dec. 21, 2001, late of 56 Maxwell Ave.
GOLDSMITH, Ernest – on Dec. 21, 2001, late of 3636 Bathurst St.
SOTTO, Alice – on Dec. 22, 2001.
POTAPOVSKAIA, Ida – on Dec. 20, 2001, late of 735 New Westminister Dr.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

KWINTER, David – on Dec. 7, 2001, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SCHIFF, Arthur – on Dec. 7, 2001, late of 5 Kenneth Ave., #507.
PETROFF, Aron – on Dec. 9, 2001, late of 715 Finch Ave. W., #903.
NELSON, Eva – on Dec. 9, 2001, late of 1 Canyon Ave., #1003.
WHITE, Bernard – on Dec. 8, 2001, late of 34 Walker St.
LOEB, Louis – on Dec. 8, 2001, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
NUSBAUM, Barbara – on Dec. 8, 2001, late of 4001 Bayview Ave. Patio, #4.
LEINWOL, Hennie – on Dec. 10, 2001, late of 3636 Bathurst St., #1002.
GELBER, Michael – on Dec. 8, 2001, late of 29 Bergen Lane.
WILLIAMS, Michael – on Dec. 7, 2001, late of 521 Crawford St.
BAKER, Stanley – on Dec. 10, 2001, late of 582 Marlee Ave., #2B.
FLACKS, Gertrude – on Dec. 12, 2001, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
GOODMAN, Henry – on Dec. 12, 2001, late of 3800 Yonge St., #612.
PERLMUTAR, Marshall – on Dec. 14, 2001, late of 6 Rockland Dr.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Arts & Travel

If Not Now, When? poses some food for seniors thoughts

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

TORONTO — Seniors should volunteer, take up some physical activity, stop complaining that their children don't call them enough anymore and live their own lives.

That was the message of the play *If Not Now, When?* presented by the actors of the Act II Studio and the Seniors Education Program of the continuing education department at Ryerson University.

The play, written and directed by Verenia Ivonoffski, the artistic director of the Act II Studio, was performed at Holy Blossom Synagogue as part of a joint meeting of Haverim, Beth Tzedec Congregation and Lunch 'n Learn of Holy Blossom.

The cast included well-known actors Irving Hoffman and Eileen Garber, as well as actors Elaine Vayda, Linda May, Agnes Fisher, Patricia Bower and Claudette Gareau.

In the play, one woman plays hockey to keep active, another finds an opportunity to work as a volunteer, another says children have their own lives to live and seniors should not get upset if they do not hear from them, and another couple worries about the rent going up and how they will handle their budget. Seniors are advised to visit more and to get involved.

"The cast did fine work and memorized their lines well," said Pearl Caplan, head of Beth Tzedec's Haverim, which she founded six years ago.

"We found it very interesting and were pleased with the turnout of 180 people, including 20 from Forest Hill Place Retirement Home, and 50 from Haverim. It's the biggest turnout we have ever had for these joint meetings," Caplan said.

"We like to get together twice a year. They're just up the street from us," Caplan said of Holy Blossom.

Haverim's co-chair is Pearl Seetner. Evelyn Shulman is head of the seniors learning group at Holy Blossom.

The next meeting of the two groups will be in May when Lunch 'n Learn will be the guests of Haverim.

The next speaker at the January meeting of Haverim will be Prof. Corey Keeble, a curator with the western art and culture department at the ROM.

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Coast to Coast

Alleged Nazi accuses Caplan of 'Jewish animosity'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Victoria lawyer Doug Christie launched his defence of convicted Nazi war criminal Michael Seifert by claiming "Jewish animosity" motivated Citizenship and Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan to initiate citizenship proceedings against his client.

Christie, whose client list includes Nazi apologist Ernst Zundel, Holocaust denier Jim Keegstra and the late John Ross Taylor, an early Nazi supporter, charged Caplan with a host of misdeeds.

"The actions of the minister against an ethnic German are an indication of reasonable apprehension of bias, are scandalous and vexatious, arising out of a conflict of interest originating in the Jewish animosity by [Caplan] to the defendant's ethnic background," the statement of defence alleges.

Seifert, a resident of Vancouver who worked in a sawmill before retiring, was convicted in absentia by an Italian military court for the murder and torture of prisoners in the Bolzano concentration camp.

Prosecutors' documents submitted in the Federal Court of Canada claim Seifert, an SS guard, was vicious and cruel in the treatment of prisoners at the Bolzano (Bozen) camp.

"Michael Seifert was personally involved in the beatings, the torture and the killing of prisoners in the camp and in the [camp's] isolation cells," the government's statement of claim alleges.

The documents allege that Seifert joined other guards in beating, whipping and killing prisoners. On one occasion, he allegedly poured cold water over a woman who was being held in the isolation cell block. She died shortly afterward.

Federal lawyers allege Seifert covered up his role in the camp when he immigrated to Canada and that he obtained his citizenship by fraud.

In the statement of defence, Christie claims Seifert was a prisoner during the time he was alleged to have served at the camp. He also argued that if Seifert withheld his background when he immigrated to Canada, it was because former German soldiers were being deported to the Soviet Union where they were killed.

Christie has filed a counter-claim against Caplan alleging malfeasance in her public duty.

Jamie Springer, a spokesman for the minister, declined to comment specifically on the Seifert case. "As a minister of the government, she is committed to doing her job in ensuring that Canada is not a safe haven for [alleged war criminals]," he said.

Len Rudner, a spokesman for Canadian Jewish Congress, said "Christie's statement is completely misplaced, given his client has already been found guilty of war crimes by an Italian court. It seems Caplan is acting justifiably in seeking to have Seifert removed from this country."

CLUB HONOURS LATE ORATOR: The Hungarian Social Club at Baycrest's Wagman Centre made a generous donation to the Association for the Soldiers of Israel in memory of the late George Feuer. Violet Pollack (far right), the club's volunteer co-ordinator, presents Feuer's wife, Judy (centre), with a certificate at a special remembrance tea. At left is Judy's sister-in-law Catherine Feuer and George's brother, Steven Feuer. George was an orator for the club, which meets at the Terrace-Wagman Centre every Thursday from 3 - 4:30 p.m.

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Women seeking Men

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WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life **AD#1041**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5'7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family. **AD#1067**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs. Please call, will meet for coffee. **AD#1433**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5' 3", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun tobe with, trustworthy, considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities. Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games. **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated Looking for love in all the wrong places. Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or menach, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years. Would like a photo **AD#1577**

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile. Together we will make for an award winning performance. **AD#1446**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes. Loves music, dancing, movies. Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1814**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim, blonde, blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive and emotionally available, seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times. She likes quiet times, playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories. **AD#1045**

REACH FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big" Single Jewish female, 36 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important. Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, caring and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoys walks, travel, dancing, dining, conversation. Seeks male, 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship. **AD#1432**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive female, seeks friendship first with a wonderful man, preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and secure. If you are tall and dark it's a bonus, you'll be happy you made the connection **AD#1073**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 40 yrs, enjoys a glass of wine, dinner, movies, travel, theatre, and skiing, seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring. Share laughter, fun and friendship. **AD#1021**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis, skiing, movies, restaurants, going for walks. Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere **AD#1134**

WARM & AFFECTIONATE
Jewish, South African widow, 60 yrs, attractive, slim, 5' 5", warm, affectionate, seeks down to earth Jewish male, and friends who are compassionate and caring. **AD#1110**

DINING AND SPORTS
Attractive, professional Jewish female, enjoys sports, dining and movies, seeks a cute man, who is handsome, honest and trustworthy. **AD#1333**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Attractive, professional female, sexy with class, enjoys hiking, biking, tennis, water skiing, long walks, with dog, seeks male, with similar interests **AD#1425**

LOOKING LONG TERM
Single, 47 yr old female, who positive, giving, outgoing, very attractive, and has a good sense of humour, seeks life partner for long term relationship. She likes music, dining and dancing. **AD#1229**

SINGLE FEMALE
43 yrs, 5' 9", brown eyes, attractive, honest, sincere, likes sports, dancing, dining, movies, seeks active, romantic, honest, established male, 40-50 yrs of age. **AD#1082**

55, DIVORCED
Many interests, dining, sports, dancing, 5' 1", easy to be with seeks interesting male, to celebrate, birthday in December. **AD#1430**

DANCE WITH ME
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 4", a non smoker, thoughtful, caring, enjoys theatre, walks, dancing, seeks male, 48-63 yrs, who enjoys life to the fullest, and is financially stable for a long term relationship. Must be loving, a kind hearted, warm and honest. **AD#1107**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Very attractive, intelligent, 51 year old modern orthodox lady, who likes cooking, nature, travel, and the theatre, seeks possible long term relationship with a warm caring, healthy, sincere, 60 plus man. **AD#1040**

ARTY LOVER
Attractive female, single, early 60's, enjoys sports, arts, good music, travel, and dining. Seeks independent, caring, and affectionate male, who is single. **AD#1120**

LOTS TO SEES AND DO
Very attractive, Jewish female, 5' 7", almond hair, blue-green eyes, medium build seeks a tall male, above average looks, tall or over, a full head of dark hair, a good personality, upbeat and fun to be with. Someone who can make me laugh and be a mensch overall. If this sounds like you, and you wish to meet me, call. We can do a wide variety of things. **AD#1148**

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS
Female, mid 40's, 5' 7", brown hair and eyes, enjoys candle lit dinners, a good glass of wine, is playful and quiet. Seeks male, non smoker, 40-58 yrs old, who wants what the good life has to offer. **AD#1273**

CALL ME
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs young Loves theatre, dining, travel, and music. Seeks male, 66-73 yrs, with similar interests. **AD#1282**

KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR
Divorced mom, 35 yrs of age, attractive, honest, sincere, good sense of humour, seeks modern, orthodox man, who is romantic and positive and someone who will slay dragons for me. If interested call me **AD#1331**

BE MINE
Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, and good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 55 yrs young, who is 6 feet tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, a non smoker, and one who loves life. **AD#1052**

A JEWEL
Single female, attractive, slim, classy, seeks Jewish man, 50-58 yrs, non smoker, healthy, positive outlook on life. **AD#1536**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single attractive, Jewish mom, 5' 5", intelligent, single, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks single Jewish male, over 45 yrs, family oriented, and loves responsibility, must be over 6 feet tall. **AD#1264**

CALL ME
30, single female, Jewish, born in Russia, lived in Israel, seeks man, 35-38 yrs old, weight factor not a problem. She is a plus size woman, looking for a tall man. **AD#1543**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Single female, with kids, Russian/Israeli descent, looking for someone who likes to dance and go to the movies, loves outings and has similar qualities. **AD#1556**

SHARE LIFE'S ADVENTURES
Single mom, mid 40's, brown hair, and brown eyes, seeks male, 40-45 yrs, to share life's adventures, let's have coffee, dinner and wine. **AD#1581**

LIFE IS TO BE SHARED
Single mom, 43 yrs old, 2 teens, believes in sharing life to the fullest, outgoing, compassionate, family oriented, great new opportunities for a joyful life exists. **AD#1330**

SHARE HER WORLD
Single, pleasant, romantic, 60 years old, who likes music, dancing and travel, seeks someone to share her world with. **AD#1218**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Smiling redhead, hazel eyes, senior, loves holding hands, enjoys music, sunshine, theatre, the arts and companionship, please give me a call. **AD#1315**

LIKES NATURE
Single female, 45 yrs, 5' 4", slim, non smoker, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, country drives, nature, travel, seeks male, kind, honest, great sense of humour, confident. **AD#1005**

SPECIAL LADY
Intelligent, funny, active, romantic, 5' 4", lady with brown hair, green eyes, seeks an established, confident and generous man. She is self-employed, loving and loveable, and likes travel, antiques, wine tasting, dining, theatre and music. **AD#1039**

CALL ME
Jamaican female, 55 yrs, flexible, down to earth, enjoys dining, dancing, music, reading, seeks male, nice, kind, likes sports, reading, walking, dining, long drives, if you think I am the person, you are looking give me a call. **AD#1560**

FEELING LUCKY
Female, single, Jewish, 43 yrs, works in special education, loves arts, antiques, flea markets, auctions, gardening, cooking, films, time with family/friends, enjoys life, seeks male, with health and happiness, and your soul and mind in the right spot. **AD#1389**

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 42 yrs, no children, brown hair, brown eyes, 5' 2", medium build, enjoys movies, music, sports, long walks, travel, cooking seeks male, kind, hearted, trustworthy, respectful, for long term relationship. **AD#1527**

FUN LOVING
Female, looking for male who is fun loving, enjoys movies, dancing and travelling **AD#1257**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Myra, divorced female, 48 yrs, mother of two, teenagers, intelligent, professional, seeks a good man, interested in developing a long term relationship **AD#1420**

LIFETIME PARTNERSHIP
Attractive, single Jewish female, 5' 5", brown hair/hazel, brown eyes, non smoker, kind, sincere, creative, good natured, emotionally stable, fit, seeks single, Jewish traditional gentleman, 5' 0", 45-55 yrs, established, handsome, exciting, kind, funny, honest, sensitive, caring, non smoker, loves life, children welcome. **AD#1603**

WORTH A CALL
Jewish female, loving, attractive, very affectionate, desires Jewish male, 38-52 yrs, light minded, very outgoing, to share life's adventures, the rest we can talk about when we meet. **AD#1381**

BIG BROWN EYES
Single female, 34 yrs, beautiful, educated, petite, fit, long brown hair, soft brown eyes, enjoys cycling, swimming, working out, seeks Jewish male, 33-46 yrs, athletic, professional for long relationship. **AD#1423**

GIVE ME A CALL
Very attractive female, 35 yrs, 5' 7", auburn hair, blue-green eyes, medium build, great shape, seeks Jewish male, above average looks, 5' 11" or taller, dark hair, fun to be with, outgoing, confident, great sense of humour, enjoys a wide variety of things. **AD#1085**

Men seeking Women

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EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention. **AD#1427**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday. **AD#1369**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc... seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1329**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5' 6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me. **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking. **AD#1257**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1208**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour. **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5' 9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys reading, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer things in life, emotionally and financially stable, seeks female, with similar qualities. **AD#1818**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children. **AD#1502**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs, 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see. **AD#1566**

CALL ME
Male, 48 yrs, humourous, good natured, friendly, enjoys stock markets, dancing, many other things, if interested, please leave me a message. **AD#1004**

PRICELESS
"Attention bargain shoppers!" Male, reduced for quick sale. Values an extraordinary gift! Item shelf for 44 yrs. Contents include: Kindness, passion, sincerity, romance, adventure, sense of humour, communication. Product use: Weekend getaways, dancing cheek to cheek, long walks, dinner and movies. Any buyers? **AD#1083**

SHY ONE
Shy male, 6' 3", 220 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeks 30-40 yrs, who enjoys dancing, playing sports, surfing, the internet, and spending, time with family if this interest you, get back to me. **AD#1108**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1242**

DOWN TO EARTH
Single male, 53 yrs, enjoys sports, dining and dancing, long walks, flea markets, antique shows, rides in the country, loves animals, seeks female, 43-45 yrs, weight not important, must enjoy the above interests. **AD#1421**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Grouchy male, 75 yrs, enjoys Florida sunsets, movies, fine food, classical music, social activities, seeks female, attractive, loves to hold hands for companionship. **AD#1359**

EASY TO LOOK AT
31 yrs, 5' 5", associate producer, lives in central Toronto, brown hair and eyes, down to earth, affectionate, handsome, enjoys dining, movies, outdoors, long drives in the country, flying, gliders, seeks female, 25-33 yrs, down to earth, affectionate, not too hard to look at. **AD#1012**

QUALITY TIME
Single male, 59 yrs, romantic, warm,caring, self employed, enjoys movies, music, travel, romantic, evenings, seeks female, easy to talk to, good sense of humour, with similar interests. **AD#1354**

CHARMING AND FUN
Single Jewish male, 39 yrs, 5' 11", grey green eyes, brownish hair, enjoys travel, music, movies, coffee houses, sports, seeks female, 25-40 yrs, warm compassionate, caring, good sense of humour, non materialistic. **AD#1245**

GIVE ME A CALL
Male, early 40's, professional, tall, fit, athletic, divorced Dad, likes to work and play hard, seeks female, over 30 yrs, 5' 4" to 5' 9", great shape, athletic, fun loving, responsible, playful, self sufficient, looks good in towel or dress, single mom's welcome, enjoys wine, beer or martini's. **AD#1250**

HONEST & TRUE
Single male, handsome, fit, 5' 10", independent thinker, compassionate, warm, creative, good sense of humour, eclectic tastes, seeks female, honest, ethical mentally and physically, and spiritually evolved. **AD#1362**

COMPASSIONATE AND SINCERE
Divorced, Jewish male, 5' 9", blue eyes, semi-retired, sincere, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys theatre, concerts, quiet time at home, visits to the synagogue, seeks female with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1255**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single male, 59 yrs, white, warm, caring, romantic, self employed, businessman, enjoys travel, movies, good conversation, quiet evenings, seeks female with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1339**

LIFE IS TO HAVE FUN
Male, 41 yrs, professional, athletic, passionate, loves to have fun, likes to hike, run, cycle, tennis, ski, water ski, travel, movies, long walks, seeks stable, centered, grounded, Jewish female, in early 30's, with similar interests, give me a call. **AD#1244**

LIFE IS BETTER SHARED
Single Dad of 2 girls, handsome, orthodox, 34 yrs, 5' 5", down to earth, emotionally stable, spontaneous, loves life, seeks female, honest, compassionate, secure, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1616**

WAITING FOR YOU
Single Jewish male, 41 yrs, outgoing, professional, successful, high standards, positive outlook, charming, confident, lives in the Barrie area, seeks female, similar qualities, for very long term relationship. **AD#1410**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, brown hair, blue green eyes, loves movies, dining out, travelling, cultural events, concerts, museums, photography, plays, baseball, work in transportation industry, seeks Jewish or part Jewish female, 32-36 yrs, 5' 5", or taller, with similar interests, and a good conversationalist. **AD#1473**

LONG TERM RELATIONSHIP
Single male, professional, youthful, compassionate, thoughtful, tolerant, Israeli background, enjoys nature, classical music, reading, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1489**

LOVES PETS
Single Jewish male, 36 yrs, light, brown hair, curly hair, blue eyes, fit, down to earth, easy going, non smoker, good sense of humour, enjoys sports, movies, long drives, loves dogs & birds, seeks female, 29-36, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1190**

FUN LOVING
A single male, 22 yrs, university student, slim, dark hair, dark eyes, from North York, outgoing, reliable, enjoys dining and dancing, seeks female, nice reliable, fun to be with similar qualities. **AD#1328**

HUGS & CUDDLES
Single Jewish male, late 40's, grey blue, eyes, warm, sincere, gentle, compassionate, enjoys the theatre, long walks, bowling, tennis, cooking, a good communicator, seeks female, orthodox or conservative preferred, 35-45 yrs, single or widowed, for loving relationship. **AD#1581**

LOVE THE OUTDOORS
Single male, 38 yrs, 6' 1", light brown hair, curly hair, blue eyes, physically fit, self employed, enjoys, dining out, sports, the outdoors, loves dogs, down to earth, hoping to meet the same, seeks 28-36 yrs, female, easy going, physically fit, non smoker, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1018**

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Bucks' owner has personal ties to Toronto

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — U.S. senator and Milwaukee Bucks owner Herb Kohl thinks the people of Toronto are fortunate to have Beth Tzedec Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl in their community.

The rabbi, for his part, believes the Wisconsin Democrat is a moral and modest political leader.

All well and good, but there is more going on here than the kind of respectful words that might be expected from two astute public figures.

It's this: Kohl and Rabbi Frydman-Kohl are cousins who grew up together. Their fathers survived their early years in Europe and went on to emigrate to North America.

During WWI, their fathers, residents of Galicia, Poland, were taken as prioners by the Russians. As the family history tells its, the brothers saved each other's lives on more than one occasion.

Frydman-Kohl's father Jack saved Kohl's father Max's life by keeping guard over him during their imprisonment under the Russians. Later in life, Max immigrated to the United States and subsequently helped bring his brother to America.

Rabbi Frydman-Kohl and Kohl both grew up in Milwaukee as sports fans, with a particular love for basketball.

However, one of Kohl's best friends has been baseball commissioner Bud Selig, who grew up on the same street. They played sports together as kids and were roommates at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

Kohl was one of the 10 original investors in the Milwaukee Brewers and says his interest in sports goes back a long time.

"I've always cared most about basketball," said Kohl, during a recent Bucks game against the Raptors at Air Canada Centre. "When the team was about to leave Milwaukee in 1985, I stepped up and bought it because I was interested and I wanted to help the community keep the team."

At the time, the $18 million price tag was the most anyone had ever paid for an NBA team. Kohl thought back then that it was a stupid investment – way too much money for a small-market basketball team.

A businessman by default, Kohl grew up re-stocking shelves on afternoons and weekends at the family's grocery and department store businesses. Later, he helped expand the business to 100 stores before serving as company president from 1970 through the sale of the corporation in 1979.

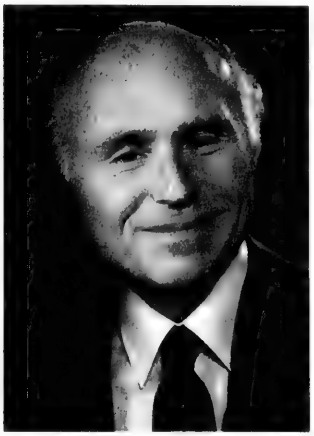
"I enjoy the opportunity to continue to be involved in business," he said. "I like the fact that I still keep my hand in business, which is something I enjoy a great deal."

The Bucks, meanwhile, are reportedly worth $125 million and coming off a season in which they fell one game shy of advancing to the NBA finals.

First elected to the Senate in 1988, the lifelong bachelor was re-elected to a third six-year term last year.

"He's both a modest and a moral political leader," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl, who was in Washington on two different occasions when Kohl was sworn in.

"He doesn't care a lot about public honour and he treats all people, even individuals considered to be not as important in society, with a great deal of respect."



U.S. Senator Herb Kohl

The 66-year-old philanthropist, who campaigns with his own money, donated $25 million in 1998 towards building the Kohl Centre, a $76.4 million state-of-the-art sports and entertainment facility that now serves as the home of the University of Wisconsin Badgers basketball teams.

Kohl's gift is the single largest private donation in the school's history.

However, he is most fortunate to have a cousin to count on in times of need. Rabbi Frydman-Kohl was by his side last year as he grieved his mother's death, officiating at the funeral and saying Kaddish for her during the year.

"There's not a finer person than Rabbi Frydman-Kohl as those of you who live here in Toronto know," said Kohl. "He's a great spiritual leader, a great person."

Hardwood hard times: No Jewish players in NBA

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — When the Minnesota Timberwolves released Danny Schayes early in the 1999-2000 season, it marked the first time in decades that the NBA had been without Jewish representation on its hardwood floors. None have made it to the world's top professional hoops league since.

But that's not to say the NBA lacks a Jewish presence. In fact, among its top brass are commissioner David Stern, eight team owners, three general managers, and one head coach.

"Jewish people, as we know, are very talented in many different ways, as are non-Jewish people," said Milwaukee Bucks owner and U.S. Senator Herb Kohl, whose nephew Dan is the team's director of player personnel.

"Jewish people spread across society do many different things – athletically, intellectually, and professionally.

"It's been a magnificent opportunity for Jewish people over the last several generations to distinguish themselves in their communities and I think that's something we should be very grateful about."

Schayes, a first-round draft pick of the Utah Jazz in 1981, had a seven-stop 18-year career and was the only Jewish player in the league after the 1984-85 season, when current Bucks GM Ernie Grunfeld ended his playing career with the New York Knicks.

Dolph Schayes, Danny's father, was a 12-time league all-star and was inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1972, making him arguably the greatest Jewish basketball player ever.

Twenty-nine Jews currently play Division I NCAA college basketball in the United States, so the possibility exists that another Jewish NBAer is on the horizon.

Among that group are small forward David Bluthenthal, touted as a potential All-American at the University of Southern California. Towson University sophomore point guard Tamir Goodman, an orthodox Jew who has received heavy media coverage, recently left the team after the head coach allegedly kicked a chair at him.

Dan Grunfeld, son of the Bucks GM, a Wisconsin high school senior shooting guard, recently signed a letter of intent to play next year at Stanford.

The last Israeli with a legitimate shot to play in the league was University of Connecticut star Doron Sheffer, a second-round selection of the Los Angeles Clippers in the 1996 NBA Draft. Sheffer returned home that summer after not being offered a guaranteed contract.

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Leaving behind the mistrust

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

It might be time for Jews to consider an alternative to a belief that has retarded us from achieving a healthier life – the inherency of anti-Semitism in our world.

Most of us were educated as children about the anti-Semitism displayed by the Poles, Ukrainians, Germans, French, Africans, Arabs, Christians, Japanese, Communists, Canadians and even South Americans.

At an early age, we learned to distrust entire nations and continents. This devastating imperative, while protecting us, also helped to craft a Jewish state of mind that is limited in its ability to express trust for non-Jews, even when warranted. This approach might have made sense in an earlier time, but does it make sense for our future?

There are those in our community who will find this question to be apologetic in nature and anathema to their sense of Jewish pride. I have often heard Jewish community members say that "Anti-Semitism is inborn." Torah scholars might even encourage this conviction by quoting the famous biblical commentator, Rashi who states (Bereishit 33:4), "Esav soneh l'Ya'akov." Isaac's son Esau hated his brother Jacob, meaning, according to some, that non-Jews harbour an innate drive to hate Jews.

But the truth is that we are not hated by all non-Jews. The majority of the world's people have never met a Jew or even heard of us.

Not so long ago, a Jewish activist who had traveled the dusty roads of Africa and South America assisting the indigenous populations told me that "some of the locals struggled to find our horns [in reference to a popular biblical mis-translation] and expressed astonishment at their absence on our noggin". He added that "if anti-Semitism has existed among the villagers, it quickly dissipated into endearing nosiness and wonderment."

A colleague of mine arrived home from Eastern Canada telling of the extra fine care she had received after being recognized as a Jew by someone who had spotted the Magen David hanging around her neck. "Most people didn't know what a Jew was," she said, "But those who did were very loving."

For every story of hate against Jews, dozens of others exist of absolute indifference, unawareness or great endearment. We need to uncover the reality that not all non-Jews hate Jews, because we are deceiving ourselves by thinking otherwise.

Recently, I heard a story about a little Muslim boy in Regent Park who told a Jewish volunteer he was supposed to kill Jews when he met them. His Islamic teacher rebuked him harshly and later patiently explained the importance of tolerance and love of all people.

The time may have arrived for the newest generation of Jews to begin pounding the world's pavement and changing the feelings of people who have never really met us. They should influence those who are about as aware of Jews as we are about the Shona of Zimbabwe. And, yes, they should stand up against the hate-filled anti-Semites who remind us there is true ugliness in our world.

Anti-Semitism does exist and likely always will in some form. But we also study another passage in Rashi that quotes a Mishnah (Sanhedrin 37a, 38a) stating that God fashioned only two people from the dust (as opposed to a group) so one would not be able to say "My father was greater than yours" and so all creation would be born of the same roots and, therefore, from peace.

Perhaps we Jews should slowly ease out of our protective garb of mistrust, and instead try on attire made from the purple threads of hope, courage and communication. If we do not, we will voluntarily retain the title of the "world's persecuted people" – one that might no longer be true.

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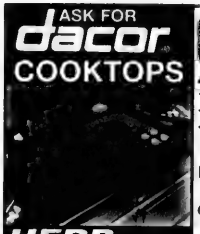

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1/4 med. onion, diced	2 tbsp. walnuts
1 c. Marsala wine	2 oz. feta cheese

In a large pan, sauté the Portobello caps in olive oil. Remove from the pan and set aside.

Add onions; sauté until softened, about 10 min. Add 3/4 cup Marsala; simmer until 1/3 cup remains.

Add carrots and cook 3-5 min. Add spinach and stir until wilted. Remove from pan, add nuts and cheese.

Place mushrooms back in pan. Top mushrooms with veggie mixture. Add remaining 1/4 c. Marsala to pan. Cover and steam 4 min. until mushrooms are cooked through.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

I recently noticed in the obituary section of the paper that an old friend of mine lost her mother.

This friend and I were very close for a long time and I knew her mother quite well. We had a falling out over something that now seems very trivial. I don't even remember what the whole thing was all about.

It has been at least a couple of years since I've seen or spoken to her but I think about her often. I really feel like I should go to the shiva but I don't know if I have the guts to walk in there after all this time. What if she is still angry with me and I make this already difficult time in her life even worse? I'm not sure I would even know what to say.

Do you think I should go?

Shiva Shy

Dear Shiva Shy,

You only have one chance to do the right thing and that is to show your friend that you still care. The two of you obviously have a special bond. It's unfortunate that it is at such a sad occasion that your reunion will take place, but it sounds like this was a silly feud anyway

I will admit that it will take a bit of courage for you to walk in the door, but I'm sure as soon as you lay eyes on each other, the past two years that you haven't spoken will be instantly forgotten.

Losing a loved one has a way of putting things into perspective. Suddenly all the small petty things that you were concerned about find their proper place at the bottom of the priority list. I'm sure emotions will run close to the surface for both of you, but don't let your fear stop you from showing your true feelings. Reach out physically with a hug and emotionally by saying something like "I'm so sorry." Everything will fall into place naturally; you don't have to plan out your visit.

Listen to your friend, she will need you now. I know you will feel very good that you made the effort to show you still care.

I always say, you'll never be sorry that you did – only that you didn't.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 28.)

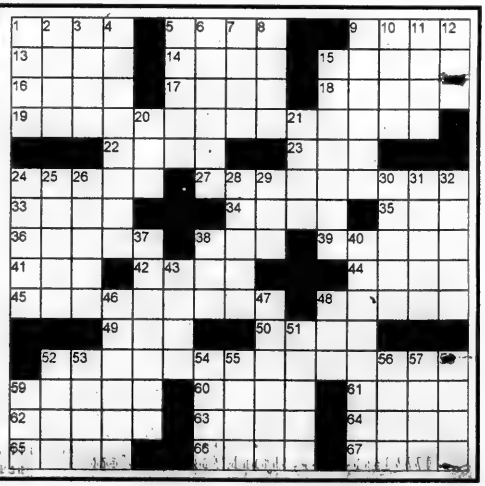
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Get ___ rap
5 Close to closed
9 Office note
13 Like 37-down, some years
14 "Cocoon" actor Cronyn
15 Using wheels
16 Eurasian river
17 Brainstorm result
18 Michaels of "Saturday Night Live"
19 Richard Dreyfuss movie of 1995
22 New York restaurant, often
23 ___ *Ma'amin*
24 Kathie Lee's pal
27 Accords site
33 More than look
34 Stein's flower
35 Alleged "Unicorn Killer" ___ Einhorn
36 Adjective for 53-down's *Trinity*
38 "Bravo!"
39 Big thinker Sontag
41 Emulated Moses
42 Top of the heap
44 Reform principals' org.
45 Other name for *Lehi*
48 Rabbis Stephen and Isaac Mayer
49 Holocaust loc.
50 Surfing danger
52 Philip Roth novel of 1985
59 Beautiful Bo
60 Assistant for Barak
61 Danny's wife
62 Tennis star Spirlea
63 Basketball coach Haskins
64 Comic Sahl
65 Woodward and Bernstein's paper
66 A cinch
67 Old woman's home, in one case

Down

1 Brandeis grad
2 Epstein-___ Virus
3 Moab's state
4 Sondheim output
5 Not amount to ___ of beans
6 Of the Hebrews
7 Prayer-ender
8 Enjoy some Malamud
9 Lack of foresight
10 Light tan color
11 Frankl's ___ *Search for Meaning*
12 Shaft stuff
15 Goldie Hawn and Hillary Clinton
20 *WKRP* character ___ Nessman
21 Schlumps
24 Agitates
25 Big bird
26 Move effortlessly
28 First name in the Senate
29 Colleague of Larry
30 What *refuseniks* wanted
31 Not just mad
32 Many righteous gentiles
37 One of many holiday spellings
38 ___ roll
40 Some army equipment
43 Beast
46 In the news
47 Yeshiva marks
48 Part of www
51 Israel to Egypt, once
52 Zip
53 Redemption author
54 Eric Heiden event
55 Title word for 53-down
56 "Whoops!"
57 Famous fiddler
58 "Seinfeld" plot line, often
59 Party bowl contents



Birthright Israel

The first wave of Birthright Israel participants arrived last week at Ben-Gurion Airport to launch the winter program that will host some 6,000 students from all over the world. Inset we see some of the young visitors dancing in celebration.

[Israel Sun photos]

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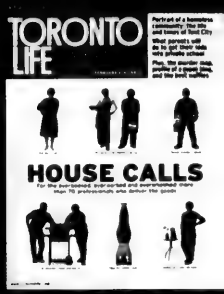

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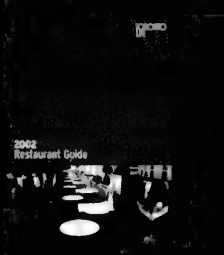

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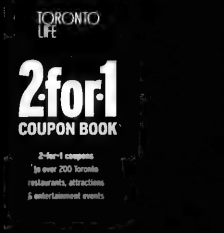

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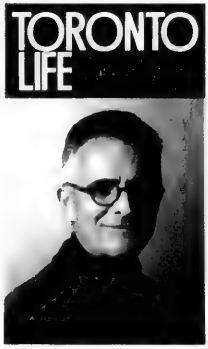

Dear Neighbour,

I SOMETIMES ASK READERS whether there's anything in *TORONTO LIFE* they regard as untouchable. An astonishing number respond with the same two words: **restaurant reviews.**

The fact that we write about other things is all very well, but many of our readers – perhaps most – depend on us for restaurant reviews. And that's why we take them so seriously. Our experts review about **400 restaurants** in and around Toronto. We spend about $250,000 a year to ensure that our readers are **honestly informed.** It's fair to say that no one does it better.

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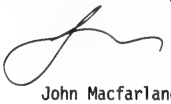

John Macfarlane

JM:pm

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Unreal Estate. For those who thought the days of making obscene profits on real estate were over, think again.
Loft living. The city's love affair with lofts.

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Reluctant heir. How will David Thomson succeed his father, media mogul Ken Thomson?
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Big Ben. Mulroney's son hosts *The Chatroom.*
John Raulston Saul. What makes him so fascinating?
Launch a new book with Indigo girl Heather Reisman.
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Rub shoulders with your favourite authors at Harbourfront.
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Game boys. The Olympic bid. How much did it cost us?
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Frank magazine. Why hasn't it been sued into oblivion? Meet its libel lawyer!
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Hold no punches. How *Globe* columnist Margaret Wente is shaking the status quo.

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Termites in Toronto. Will your house be their next meal?

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Summer Fiction. Stories by Zsuzsi Gartner, Nancy Lee, Annabel Lyon and Kevin Patterson.

When I was twenty-six, it was a very good year

Ah, 1981: it was a very good year in Toronto for banquet burgers at the J & C Chat-Pit, pizza slices at Mikelino's and—I learned much later—a revolution in restaurant dining. *By James Chatto*

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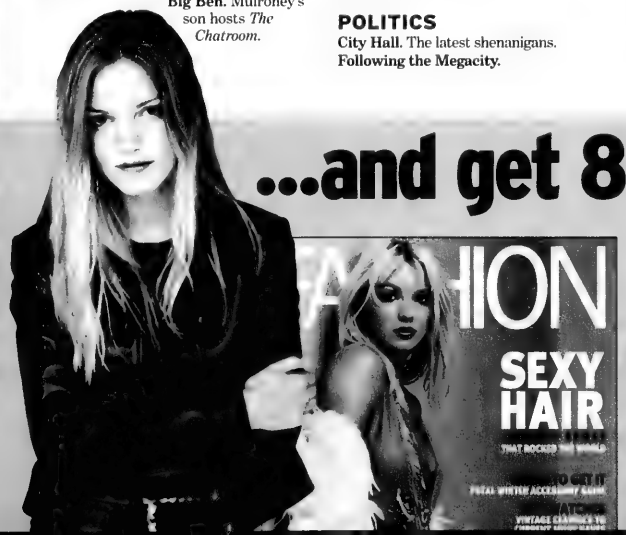

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More than 80 ways to escape from it all — spa retreats, outdoor adventures, gourmet excursions, kid-friendly destinations, romantic refuges and inns on a budget. Ideas to plan your exodus from the city.

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Star-rated reviews of more than 100 golf courses in the GTA and cottage country, with helpful reference maps, plus a list of the city's driving ranges.

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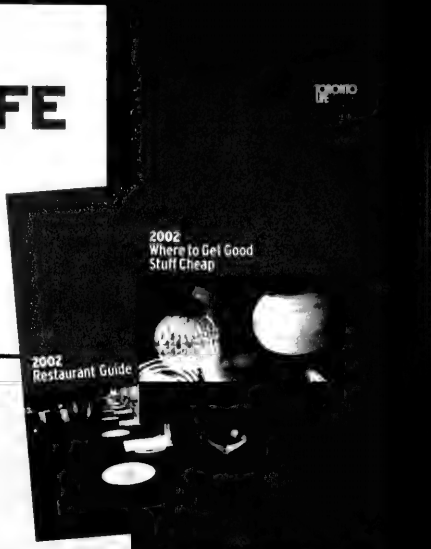

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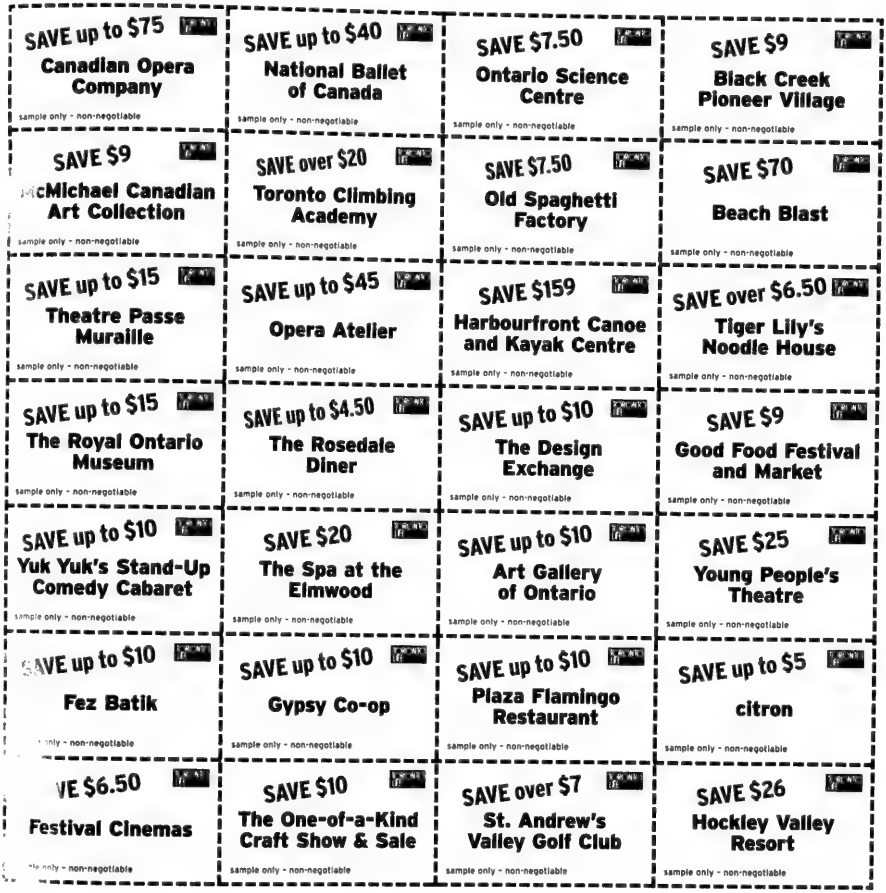

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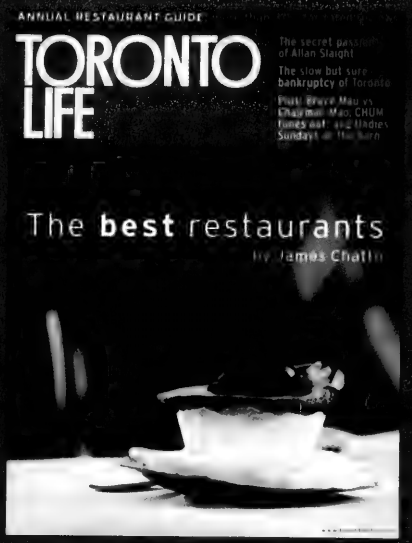
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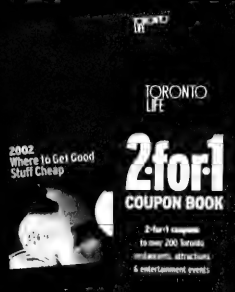

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This Week

National

Israel wins Universities Debating Championship. *Page 6*

Kosher Food Fest raises funds for Montreal's hungry. *Page 15*

CJ Food

Any kitchen can be kosher, rabbi says. *Page 20*

Arts & Travel

Human spirit explored in art exhibition at old Toronto train station. *Page 30*

Book says United States and Sweden let Wallenberg rot in Russian gulag. *Page 32*

Rio: Famous city celebrates its 500th anniversary. *Page 33*

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PA centre of terror network: Sharon

By ZE'EV SCHIFF and REVITAL LEVY-STEIN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

EILAT — Speaking at a press conference Sunday at a naval port in Eilat, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that "the Palestinian Authority is a central part in the international terror network, with Iran at its centre."

Sharon made the comments from a dais set up outdoors alongside where the more than 50-ton weapons cargo from the ship Karine-A was on display. The IDF captured the ship destined for the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the Red Sea early last Thursday morning.

The prime minister also said PA Chairman Yasser Arafat "has made a strategic decision to thrust the region into war," adding that "with his behaviour, [Arafat] has made himself irrelevant and a bitter enemy of Israel.

"The ship and the weapons behind us are part of the Palestinian Authority's war of terror against us," he said.

Sharon repeated that Israel holds Arafat personally responsible for the weapons-smuggling attempt. "We must not be mistaken. This is the choice of the person heading the Palestinian Authority."

The prime minister also said that the weapons would have threatened every Israeli had they reached their intended destination. "The ship was on its way to Gaza's beaches and carried what was intended to threaten each and every one of us – in Tel Aviv as in Immannuel, in Haifa as in Ariel, in Herzliyah and Ashkelon as in Elei Sinai and Netzarim.

Continued on page 24

CANADIANS EXPERIENCE BIRTHRIGHT ISRAEL: In the top photo, a group of Toronto area youth came together in Jerusalem for an evening honouring former *Machalniks*, volunteers from overseas who fought in Israel's War of Independence. In the bottom photo, a group of Montrealers react with emotion as they listen to their guide at Yad Vashem. *[Isranet photos]*

Greater Toronto Area

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Havdallah: 5:48

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Saudis help Hamas develop rocket — please see page 24

The News in Brief

CANADA

B'nai Brith Rapped

TORONTO — *Now* Magazine, Toronto's alternative weekly newspaper, has criticized B'nai Brith Canada. In a year-end list of "folks who need to be more prophetic than pathetic," *NOW* rapped B'nai Brith for "pumping up the anti-terrorist rhetoric here in Canada to create sympathy for Israel, [which] is divisive and irresponsible." The paper also lashed out at B'nai Brith's new press releases, which feature the headline "Jewish Canada Responds." *Now* comments: "And those 'Jewish Canada Responds' press releases? Who says they speak for Jewish Canada? Less venom, more understanding, please."

ISRAEL

Team to Peru

JERUSALEM — Israel is sending a special burn unit to Peru. The delegation of burn experts and plastic surgeons will treat victims of the recent massive blaze in Lima. At least 264 people were killed and hundreds injured when fireworks set off a blaze in a crowded shopping district.

Shabbat Bill

JERUSALEM — Israeli legislators are sparring over a bill that would change which establishments are allowed to open on the Sabbath. The bill would allow places of entertainment, such as theatres and cafes, to open on the Sabbath, while stores would shut. Lawmakers from Likud, Labor and religious parties back the bill. Meretz Party leader Yossi Sarid said he could not support a bill that would infringe on the standard of living of the secular public by shutting down large shopping centers that currently open on the Sabbath. But Israel's Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, Yisrael Meir Lau, said both current religious and state laws are being flouted.

Growth Down

JERUSALEM — Annual economic growth in Israel in 2001 fell to its lowest level since 1953. The Gross Domestic Product fell 0.5 percent in 2001, after having grown by 6.4 percent in 2000. The global economic slowdown and the Palestinian intifadah were seen as the main reasons cited for the slowdown.

Population Rate

JERUSALEM — Israel's population rose in 2001 by its slowest rate since the 1980s. The slowdown to a 2.1 percent growth rate is attributed to a drop in new immigrants coming to the country. There are 6.5 million people living in Israel, according to the Central Bureau of Statistics. Of these, 5.3 million are Jews and 1.2 million Arabs.

Bible Burning

JERUSALEM — The Israeli principal and sixth-grade teacher responsible for burning a Christian Bible at their religious school have been suspended. The education ministry said the two will remain suspended until a disciplinary committee makes a final decision on the matter. Israel's deputy foreign minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior, called the act a desecration of God's name.

WORLD

Squadron Dies

NEW YORK — Howard Squadron, an influential lawyer, Jewish leader and civic giant, has died at age 75. A former president of the American Jewish Congress and chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Squadron died of cancer Dec. 26 at his home here.

Guilty Plea

LOS ANGELES — A U.S. man has pleaded guilty to exporting potential nuclear triggers to Israel. Richard Kelly Smyth, 72, who skipped bail in 1985, was discovered living in Spain and extradited to the United States in November. Last month, he pleaded guilty to illegally shipping some 800 krytrons – two-inch bulbs used to trigger nuclear bombs – to Israel in the early 1980s. Israel returned most of the devices after Smyth's 1985 indictment and has maintained they were never intended for nuclear weapons.

Jewish Conspiracy

RIYADH — A Saudi government newspaper has accused Jews of a conspiracy to rule the world. One article last month in the state-run *Al-Watan* ran under the headline, "The Jewish organizations are implementing their strategic hellish plan to take over the world."

Monument Unveiled

MOSCOW — A monument to Yiddish writer Shalom Aleichem was unveiled recently here. It stands near the site of the former Moscow Jewish Theater, which staged plays written by Shalom Aleichem, and was torn down on orders from Joseph Stalin.

Anti-Semitic Attacks

MOSCOW — Speakers at a recent event commemorating the 122nd birthday of Joseph Stalin distributed anti-Semitic literature and blasted Zionists. And in Krasnoyarsk, police are investigating after vandals spray-painted a local shul with swastikas and the acronym of Russia's largest neo-Nazi group.

Leader Quits

BERLIN — The head of an agency for German refugees quit recently after expressing doubts about the number of people killed at Auschwitz. The resignation of Paul Latussek, head of the Organization for Refugees, which represents Germans expelled from Nazi-occupied lands after the war was called the "the best way to secure the group's future," a spokesperson said.

RABBI MARVIN PRITZKER ל"ז

Passed away suddenly on December 7, 2001. Dearly beloved husband of Rose (Kanovsky), devoted father of Helene (Murray) Berkowitz, Alan (Brenda) Pritzker, Nachman (Henny) Pritzker, precious brother of Rose, grandfather of many.

Rabbi Pritzker was born in Cleveland, Ohio, son of the late Harry and Jenny (Grossman) Pritzker. He received his bachelor of arts degree from Yeshiva College, his rabbinical ordination from the Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary of Yeshiva University, his master's degree in education from the University of Pittsburgh and his master's degree in Jewish history from Yeshiva University.

Rabbi Pritzker had pulpits in Aliquippa and Homestead, PA (Pittsburgh area), was teacher and principal of the Ottawa Talmud Torah and served as rabbi of the Young Israel of Ottawa before moving to Halifax, Nova Scotia where, for the next 17 years, he served as rabbi of the Beth Israel Synagogue of the Baron de Hirsch Congregation. Rabbi Pritzker was president of the Mizrachi Organization, both in Pittsburgh and Ottawa, and a long standing member of the Rabbinical Council of America.

Funeral services and internment were held at Congregation Bnai Torah in Toronto. Shiva was observed in Toronto.

Donations may be made in his memory at Mizrachi Organization of Canada (Toronto), Congregation Bnai Torah (Toronto), and Yeshiva Bais Moshe (Scranton, PA), or the charity of choice.

South African Politician Causes Ruckus

CAPE TOWN — A South African Jewish politician has caused controversy by calling for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip – and disparaging Jews who disagree.

At a public meeting Dec. 7, cabinet minister Ronnie Kasrils launched a petition calling for people "of Jewish descent" to support "justice for Palestine." He addressed a small group under the banner "Not In My Name."

Kasrils lashed out at those in the Jewish community who had been critical of his stance, labeling them "conservative" and "reactionary."

Kasrills said the declaration "is hardly a radical position, it's a universally adopted one. Our argument is not dealt with by our detractors in South Africa, not even by the learned rabbis. Instead they denounce us in terms of personal vilification."

Kasrils' call, which attempts to link the suffering of the Palestinians to the treatment of black South Africans under apartheid, is creating public rifts in what normally is a united Jewish community.

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Argentine Jews need 'urgent' aid, Jewish groups told

CJN News Services

Argentina's economic situation has become a full-blown crisis that requires urgent action by global Jewish agencies, states a briefing by United Jewish Communities (UJC).

The economic crisis in Argentina has led to violent demonstrations, looting and the resignation of several short-lived governments.

While there have been no reports of anti-Semitic activities linked to the crisis, and Jewish communal institutions, synagogues and organizations have not been affected by the rioting, new Jewish poor are being found each hour, UJC says.

"The situation is very difficult but fluid," said Jack Silverstone, executive vice-president of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) after a telephone briefing last week for Jewish agencies in North America and Israel by Sallai Meridor, head of the Jewish Agency for Israel (JAFI). Meridor was in Buenos Aires overseeing JAFI's response to the crisis.

Silverstone said "so far" Argentina's Jews are "not at any specific risk – in fact, they've been assured by the authorities of their security." He said CJC is monitoring the crisis "very, very closely" and is in close contact with international Jewish aid agencies, as well as the Argentinian Jewish community.

JAFI reports the crisis has caused a dramatic rise in aliyah applications. It expects that in 2002, as many as 3,000 Jews from Argentina will immigrate to Israel. That's more than double the 1,400 who arrived in 2001, and up from the 1,033 who came in 2000.

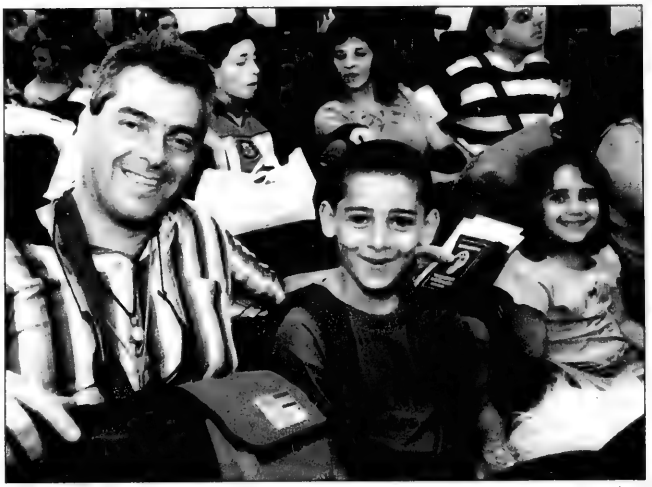
JAFI officials say that whereas worldwide aliyah decreased by between 30 and 80 percent in 2001, it will grow by 30 percent in Argentina this year.

What happens next for Argentina, and its 200,000 Jews, is uncertain, says the UJC briefing. What is clear, however, is that a coordinated and "focused response" is "urgently needed" from United Jewish Communities/the Federations of North America, and their overseas arms, the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee (JDC) and JAFI.

The federation system has been active in Argentina for years. In fact, a UJC mission to Argentina returned Dec. 9. And JAFI and JDC – both of which substantially intensified their efforts during the past four years of deepening recession – have taken quick actions in response to the current state of emergency. But the agencies say the situation is deteriorating so rapidly that an appropriate response is needed.

The Argentinian Jewish community, along with the rest of Argentina's society, is experiencing deep and widespread financial and psychological trauma. The country's unemployment rate is 20 percent.

The group said to be suffering the most is the middle class – the class to which most Argentinian Jews belong. These latest developments come after a series of serious blows to the Jewish community over the past 10 years.



The first group of immigrants from Argentina since the riots erupted in Buenos Aires recently arrived in Israel. The group was welcomed at Ben-Gurion Airport by Jewish Agency officials. [Israel Sun photo]

In Toronto, UJA Federation executive vice-president Allan Reitzes, who went on a fact-finding tour of Argentina several months ago, cites a loss of personal security among the country's Jews since the 1994 bombing of the central Jewish community building as a strong factor in the aliyah increase.

In order to handle the stream of aliyah applicants, vacations for JAFI employees in Argentina have been cancelled, and offices are staying open for extra hours.

At the same time, JDC reports that there is an immediate need to provide cash subsidies and food assistance to thousands of members of the Jewish community. JDC has arranged for temporary emergency funding, but more funds are needed.

While unemployment in Argentina stands at 20 percent, if the widely expected devaluation of the peso takes effect, that number could shoot up to 30 percent or more. Recent measures taken by the government have partially frozen bank accounts, resulting in a dramatic decrease in consumption in the three weeks leading up to Christmas.

Four years of recession has seen the emergence of the "new poor," those who were once middle class and wealthy – many even pillars of the community – who are now hungry.

However, Jews have not been singled out as a cause for this crisis, despite a history of Argentinian anti-Semitism. One reason may be that Jews are also visibly suffering and have been particularly vulnerable as retail and professional enterprises collapse.

Everyone has anecdotes of friends and acquaintances who have been suddenly struck by dire poverty. This anecdotal evidence is confirmed by the data: A community that traditionally had about 4,000 living below the poverty line has seen that number balloon to more than 25,000 in just the past two years. The crisis is expected to increase the number even more.

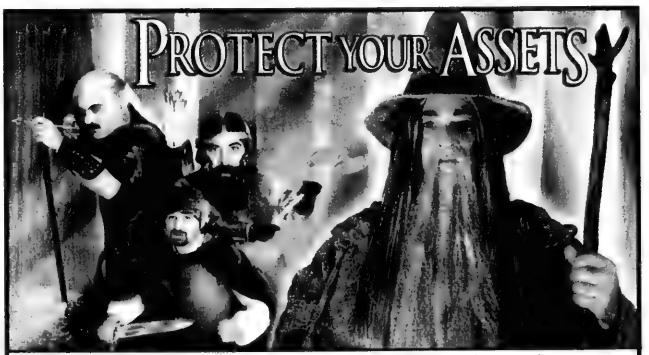
According to *Ha'aretz*, about 1,700 Jewish families in Buenos Aires alone are said to have lost their homes, and 300 of them are living in shantytowns, while others are crowded into rented apartments – often several families per flat.

The crisis has also led to a community organization crisis. Once home to over 60 Jewish day schools, Buenos Aires has seen the closure of more than 20 in the past several years as families have become unable to pay tuition. It's predicted a number of schools won't reopen when school reopens after the current summer vacation. Membership in JCCs, shuls and other Jewish organizations is similarly down, with an impact both on revenue and – more importantly – affiliation.

All this comes after a long series of demoralizing blows to the community. Perhaps the most serious was the 1994 bombing and subsequent cover-up by anti-Semitic members of the Buenos Aires police force. In addition, the community has been undermined by the collapse of several banks, resulting in over $20 million (US) in debt.

Despite the severity of the situation, the Argentinian Jewish community benefits from substantial assets, both internal and external. Internally, it boasts an extraordinary history of cohesion and excellence, including a first-rate corps of professionals and lay leaders. Externally, the co-ordinated efforts of JAFI and JDC, supported by the North American federation system, provide critical services.

Argentina has traditionally been a strongly Zionist community. Since 1948, JAFI has helped about 50,000 Argentinian Jews leave for Israel.



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Looking below the surface

Below the surface, where the waters are deeper and less light has penetrated, it is often much more difficult for those peering comfortably from the shore to see with true clarity.

Last month, lack of clarity was very much in evidence when most of the western world criticized Israel for refusing to allow Yasser Arafat to travel to Bethlehem to attend midnight Christmas mass.

On the surface, the situation seemed clearcut. It was Christmas, after all, one of Christianity's most important religious occasions, one that resonates with profound meaning throughout the western world. Arafat, as president of the Palestinian Authority (PA), wanted to be in Bethlehem, a city under PA control, to take part in midnight mass. What did it matter that it was not his religious rite? He should be accorded the respect, if not the freedom, to participate in any religious ceremony he chose. Moreover, he had done so for the past six years. Why could he not do so again this year?

In the eyes of most of the western world, Israel was acting as a bully. The Vatican condemned the ban as "arbitrarily imposed." But Israel stood firm: unless Arafat moved against the assassins of Rechavam Ze'evi, he would remain in Ramallah.

Arafat never made it to Bethlehem.

In the result, Israel suffered a public relations setback. Even some die-hard supporters shrugged in quiet puzzlement if not disapproval.

But below the surface the situation roiled. And the constant cold light shining from the media and other condemnatory circles illuminated nothing, diffusing even before it touched the surface.

Notwithstanding the high profile positions held by some Christian Palestinians in the PA executive, most notably, Hanan Ashrawi, there is a great deal of tension "on the ground" between Christian and Muslim Palestinians. Indeed, so great is that tension, that Christian Palestinians are emigrating in large numbers out of PA-controlled areas. *(Last year, Daniel Pipes wrote about that subject in* The CJN*; Carleton University Prof. Paul Merkley also touches upon the subject in this week's Perspectives essay.)*

For example, Christians were always the majority community in the West Bank triangle between Bethlehem, Beit Jalla and Beit Sahour. In fact, the area was known as the Christian triangle. Even as late as 1990, Christians comprised 60 percent of the Arab population there. Today they represent 20 percent of the Arab total.

There are a number of reasons for that tension:

• The rise of radical, militant Islam has made living conditions increasingly uncomfortable for Christian Arabs. An educated, prosperous middle class, Christians have been constantly harassed and intimidated by younger, more militant Muslims for maintaining business ties with Israelis and especially for having sold land to Jews, now an offence under PA law punishable by death.

• In some instances, harassment of Christians has become physically ominous. In a much publicized recent case, a member of Arafat's Tanzim militia, who had been convicted of raping a Christian girl several months ago, was released from prison as a result of discrete interventions by his Tanzim colleagues. According to one report, only after much angry protesting by Michel Sabbah, the Latin patriarch in the Holy Land and himself no friend of Israel, did Arafat instruct his security forces to curtail harassment of Christians. But the rapist remains at large.

• The shooting at Gilo by Arafat's militia was conducted from predominantly Christian Beit Jalla. The Tanzim snipers actually chose their firing positions as close as possible to Christian religious institutions, hoping to draw devastating retaliatory fire from the Israelis.

• In Nazareth, a mostly Christian city in the Galilee, the Islamic Movement is building a mosque on an empty lot next to the Church of the Annunciation, one of the holiest sites in Christendom. The entire Christian community in Israel is vocally opposed to the erection of the mosque. Israel is caught in the middle trying to mediate a solution. But the waqf in Nazareth, the religious Muslim authority, will hear no compromise. Indeed they continued with construction during Christmas Day against the terms of a court injunction.

Arafat fraudulently represents himself to the world as the protector of the Christian holy shrines. But the majority of Palestinian Christians live in fear and have decided to escape his rule.

"Off the record," *Ma'ariv* reported last week, "Christians talk of harassment and terror tactics mainly from the gangs of thugs who looted and plundered Christians and their property, under the protection of Palestinian security police."

In standing up to Arafat, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon adopted a principled, moral position, refusing to submit to yet another of the countless charades by the PA president.

He was also sending a signal to the Christian Palestinian community. He would not be cowed by the unceasing PA brutishness in the way that so many of the Christian religious leadership – Palestinian and non-Palestinian – have been.

Given the portrayal of the facts in the media, it was not surprising that Israel was criticized. But the constant light directed at Israel by its critics did not penetrate into the real story that lay to be discovered just below the surface of Arafat's staged media event.

—MBD

See]N

A GALILEE RUN: People from all "walks" and places gathered in the ancient Galilee city of Tiberias for the 25th annual marathon. Avraham Burg, wearing the hat, is at the front of the pack.

[Israel Sun photo]

Greater Toronto Area

Women urged to study Torah through their own unique perspective

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Women have the obligation to study and understand Torah through their unique perspective as women, says teacher, school administrator, scholar and writer Chana Weisberg.

"To have a relationship with God, we have to know what He expects of us," she said. "The Torah is a manifestation of His will."

These are not abstract philosophies for Weisberg. In 1996, together with Goldie Plotkin, rebbitzen of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham, she founded the Women's Institute of Torah Studies, a program that taught subjects like Jewish history, Chumash, halachah and Talmud on a scholarly level.

Chana Weisberg

Although the courses were intense, women of every level of knowledge and Jewish education took part.

Weisberg always stressed the significance of feminine spirituality, teaching courses on that subject, as well as others such as Women of Greatness. When the institute was revived this past fall, with the help of Rabbi Yosef Zaltzman of the Jewish Russian Community Centre, she built on this theme.

On Monday evenings, and then again on Tuesday mornings, Weisberg teaches a course called Feminine Voices, which explores the role of various women in the Torah. The first term dealt with Eve, and the second, which starts at the end of January, will study Sarah. A Mommy and Me program also runs Wednesday mornings in participants' houses.

The approximately 100 women enrolled this year, Weisberg said, use the class discussions as a springboard to talk about all aspects of women in Judaism in an "open, non-threatening way." A real bond formed between the women, she added.

Contrary to what many think, women are not second-class Jews, she said.

To understand the role of women in Judaism, "you have to look at the whole picture, not just a part of the puzzle."

Weisberg said chassidic philosophy holds that the role and mission of women is crucial. "They cause the purpose of creation to unfold. They may be behind the scenes, but they are pivotal."

What makes women second class, she said, is mimicking the male role. "We must find the feminine role – that is the way we will be empowered."

The key, she said, is learning, studying and knowledge. "If we understand on a deeper level, we can appreciate our importance."

These days, Weisberg said, "society is unfolding from the male role, which is characterized by violence. We are approaching the era of redemption, which will stress nurturing, rather than conquest."

Historically, she acknowledged, women may well have taken a lesser role. Now, however, with new communication technologies, emphasis is on working together and the importance of empathy – distinctly feminine qualities.

Education is essential, she insisted. "To educate our children and our families, we need to know what is expected of us, and what we can contribute."

Weisberg considers herself lucky – both to have had an education herself, and to have had been influenced by the thinking of the late Lubavitcher rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who "empowered women, especially by encouraging their education."

Besides running the Women's' Institute of Torah Study, Weisberg is dean of the Lubavitch seminary for women, Machon Bnos Menachem, and has written two books, *The Crown of Creation* (1996) and *The Feminine Soul* (2001).

She is also on the staff of the Web site www.AskMoses.com, not only answering questions, mainly on women and Judaism, but taking part in live chats. Recently, she has been a columnist for the New York weekly *The Jewish Press*. She lectures extensively throughout the United States and Canada. All this while running a household and caring for her five children, who range in age from three to 14.

"I try to do it in a way that would least affect them," she said. "If I ignored my kids to work on the computer, I would feel that I had failed."

She wrote her books "on pads of paper when I took the kids to the park, or between stirring a pot of soup," she explained with a laugh.

Weisberg plans to add programs that will be for both men and women, including lectures, mixed courses, and guest speakers.

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Israel finishes first in Universities Debating Championship

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel won top honours at the 22nd annual World Universities Debating Championship, held at the University of Toronto last week.

Hebrew University captured the English-as-a-second-language prize, defeating teams from Tel Aviv University, India and Singapore.

Roy Weisner, a 25-year-old Hebrew University law student, won the public speaking award, edging out competitors from Canada, Australia, Britain and the United States.

This was Israel's best ever showing at the tournament, said Joe Brown, a 27-year-old member of the Hebrew University squad and an MA degree candidate in English literature.

Last year, a Hebrew University team reached the English-as-a-second-language finals in Glasgow, Scotland.

In 1999, Weisner finished second at the competition in Sydney, Australia.

Israel was represented by four teams, with 30 debaters, at this year's championship: Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Haifa University and the Interdisciplinary Institute (IDC) in Herzliyah.

Hebrew University sent five teams, Tel Aviv University two teams, Haifa University three teams and IDC one team.

All team members were Jewish, said Brown, whose family made aliyah from the United States.

"We picked the best debaters, regardless of origin," he said.

The championship attracted 230 teams of two students each representing 108 universities from 30 countries.

Seventeen Canadian universities from almost every province took part.

Israelis debated Canadians from Queen's, the University of Alberta and the University of Ottawa, Brown said.

Teams participated in at least nine rounds, and were given 15 minutes to prepare for each round.

Topics, which ranged far and wide, also touched on the Arab-Israeli conflict: Should Israel negotiate with Yasser Arafat? Should political assassinations carried out by governments be considered legitimate?

Other topics included: Is the World Trade Organization a friend of the Third World? Should anorexics be force-fed?

Apart from Weisner and Brown, the Hebrew University team consisted of the following members: Noam Orbach, 28; Michal Amburg, 22; Shai Babed, 27; Joshua Gorteller, 22; Hanoch Wolpe, 25; Rivka (Rebecca) Zerkin, 21; Pazit Trebelsi, 24; Nurit Mor, 24; Eli Noverstern, 27; Amit Pundak, 24; Naomi Kriger, 24, and Keren Raz, 23.

Brown said he would not be surprised if some of the Israeli debaters eventually turn to politics and become Israel's future leaders.

MELTON HONOURED ON 90TH BIRTHDAY: Florence Zacks Melton, of Hebrew University's Florence Melton Adult Mini-School network for Jewish adult education (FMAMS), celebrated her 90th birthday last month at a gala evening organized by the American Friends of the Hebrew University (AFHU) in Boca Raton, Fla. In 1986, Hebrew University launched FMAMS, a two-year program of pluralist Jewish adult learning. Today, more than 5,500 students are studying in 63 mini-schools throughout the United States, Canada, England and Australia. Since FMAMS' inception, 17,000 individuals have participated. This is the third time that Melton has been honoured by Hebrew University. She received an honorary doctorate in 1991 and the AFHU's prestigious Scopus Award in 1997. From left: FMAMS Institute Board Chair Gordon Zacks, AFHU President Ira Sorkin, Florence Melton, Phyllis Katz, FMAMS Institute Vice-Chair Don Katz, Hebrew University Rector Prof. Haim Rabinowitch.

[Jerry Mink Photography]

Expert in Judaic studies to speak at BAYT

TORONTO — Lawrence Schiffman, an expert in Judaic studies, particularly on the Dead Sea Scrolls, will speak at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation in Thornhill on Jan. 27 at 8 pm.

His lecture and slide presentation on The Dead Sea Scrolls and the History of Judaism are part of the synagogue's adult education program.

Committee chair Melech Halberstadt said they asked Schiffman to speak "following his emergence into expertise on the Dead Sea Scrolls and how Judaism developed. He is the most knowledgeable scholar of the period from the Second Temple to the emergence of the early rabbis," Halberstadt said.

Schiffman is chair of New York University's Skirball department of Hebrew and Judaic studies, and is the Ethel and Irvin Edelman professor of Hebrew and Judaic studies. He is a member of the university's Center for Near Eastern Studies and the Center for Ancient Studies, and is president of the Association for Jewish Studies.

In addition to the Dead Sea Scrolls, Schiffman specializes in Judaism in late antiquity, the history of Jewish law and talmudic literature.

He is a newly appointed director of the Friedberg Genizah Project, which is designed to create a unified catalogue of all Cairo genizah fragments, as well as to publish a number of its unpublished texts. There is no charge to attend the lecture.

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The lie is caught out, but the liar persists

The leader of the Palestinian Authority (PA) behaved last week like a little boy caught in a lie who lies even more to try to extricate himself from the sinking sand of public obloquy quickening around his feet. But this leader is no little boy. And the obloquy is not merely the passing hurt of schoolyard ridicule.

Once again it was Yasser Arafat proving to anyone interested in knowing the truth and honest enough to acknowledge it, that he is utterly devoid of scruples and integrity.

Barely more than two weeks after he again solemnly, publicly pledged to renounce terrorism he is thwarted in his attempt to bring into his arsenal an ominously more dangerous, upgraded level of offensive weaponry.

Last week, the IDF captured a boat in the Red Sea that was carrying a 50-ton cache of arms and advanced weapons that included mortar shells, anti-tank missiles, anti-tank mines, sniper rifles, Kalashnikov rifles and Katyusha rockets. According to the IDF, the ship, the 4,000-ton *Karine A*, was purchased and owned by the PA. The commander of the boat, Omar Acawi, and several members of his crew belonged to the PA naval police. The weapons themselves and the waterproof containers in which they were packed to ensure undamaged arrival on shore somewhere in the Gaza, were supplied by Iran.

As Ze'ev Schiff, the renowned military analyst pointed out in *Ha'aretz*, the attempted smuggling by the PA of this amount and this type of weaponry has "far-reaching strategic meaning" for Israel.

- Iran's involvement in the export of arms to the PA has now been fully exposed. It is an active participant in the campaign being waged against the Jewish state.
- The Katyusha rockets and mortars were obviously intended to escalate the conflict against Israel and broaden the attacks into the country's very heartland. From Gaza, the rockets could have penetrated into Ashkelon; from the West Bank, the rockets could reach Ben-Gurion airport and the heavily populated coastal plain.
- A demand of the PA for a total ceasefire will not be enough to advance the peace process. Israel must now demand that the PA confiscate illegal firearms as well.

Arafat denied any connection to the arms shipment. But the evidence is beyond dispute. It is both inconceivable and improbable that so large and so costly an effort would have been approved and planned without his knowledge, let alone involvement.

Israel of course will not ignore the implications from the capture of this enormous boatload of weapons. Nor should western governments. For it is from the West, including from Canada, that Yasser Arafat obtains a large portion of the funds with which he chooses to buy the materiel and weaponry for the escalated war he clearly intends to wage against the Jewish state.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Netmati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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An ark on the sea

Sheldon Kirshner's story about the *Struma's* sole survivor (*CJN*, Nov. 8), brought back memories of my own survival experience which I would like to share with your readers.

My family and I were also listed to leave Romania on the *Struma*. However, at the last minute my maternal grandmother decided against it. Together with approximately 120 passengers, we departed in October 1942 from the port of Constanza (or Braila) on a very small, intolerable cargo boat named *Vitorul*; it had a cranky engine and was unfit for humans.

The boat limped in the Black Sea until the engine died. A crack opened at the bottom of the vessel and water started seeping in. People shouted; children screamed; chaos ensued. The waves pushed the vessel towards the Turkish shores and we all ended up in the cold waters.

The Turks, contrary to their behaviour towards the *Struma* victims, helped all of us to shore. They allowed us to stay in tents on the beach for the night but without water or food. The following day, we were transported to a village where we were housed in community halls and offered meagre food by the villagers. Most of us were sick with dysentery, typhoid and influenza.

Meanwhile, our plight was the subject of diplomatic discussions between Turkey and Britain. Eventually, all the *Vitorul* passengers were transferred to Istanbul where we boarded another ship that was escorted by a British patrol boat directly to Cyprus. We spent the rest of the war in Cyprus in quite comfortable conditions, as the first British-interned illegal immigrants to Palestine. Ultimately all of us, including my grandmother, reached Palestine in 1944-45.

Shine Eisenfeld immortalizes the details of this story in the Hebrew-language book *Ark on the Sea* published in 1947 by Sifriat Poalim.

Claudia Grauer-Bloch
Toronto

* * *

Justice was not mocked

The editor may be correct in stating in "A week when justice was mocked" (*CJN*, Jan. 3) that Eli Hobeika should be charged for the murders of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in 1982, but certainly justice was not mocked when Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was accused.

The military commander in charge at the time, Sharon knew or should have known that allowing the Christian militia into the camps would end in disaster. He was and is responsible for his actions. He could have avoided the massacre, as he was the supreme commander, and ordered Hobeika not to enter.

The entire chain of command in the Sabra and Shatila camp slaughter should be held accountable, from Sharon and Hobeika downward.

Larry Gaum
Mississauga, Ont.

* * *

Riegner's telegram was delayed

The story "Holocaust hero dies at 90" (*CJN*, Dec. 13), about the death of Gerhart Riegner, who was the representative of the World Jewish Congress in Switzerland and sent the telegram on Aug. 8, 1942, telling the world of the Nazi plan to murder Europe's Jews, was incomplete.

Riegner did indeed send the telegram to Rabbi Stephen Wise in the United States, but it was held up by the U.S. State Department. Riegner however, also sent the same telegram to Sidney Silverman, a member of the British Parliament. It was Silverman who sent the Riegner message to Rabbi Wise, and it finally reached him on Aug. 28. Rabbi Wise then went to see the U.S. vice-president on Sept. 10.

It was the British who exposed the planned genocide by the Nazis when foreign secretary Anthony Eden read a statement to the House of Commons on Dec. 17.

It took four months for the Riegner news to reach the world. German industrialist Dr. Eduard Schulte had risked his life to reveal the Nazi plan to Riegner. After months of delay, the news evoked only a warning to the Nazis but no attacks on the death camps, which was what Schulte had contemplated.

Stanley Raphael
Windsor, Ont.

* * *

Generalizations don't work

I agree with the sentiment conveyed by Darcie Richler in "Solidarity with Israel – more is better" (*CJN*, Dec. 13), that the situation in the Middle East tends to be over-simplified here by those sympathetic to Palestinian refugees or statehood. However, the answer is not to ignore and disregard these people. If their arguments contain "obvious falsehoods," as she says, we should be able to refute them.

I cringe when I hear someone complaining about "the Arabs" or "the Palestinians," as if these were completely cohesive groups who all think and act alike, just as I cringe when I hear people talking about "the Jews."

The labels "pro-Palestinian" and "pro-Israeli" are also unnecessary generalizations. They cast people into pre-determined moulds and imply that you must take either one side or the other. Unilaterally declaring oneself or someone else as being on one side or the other does nothing to promote tolerance.

Ben Sichel
Halifax

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The World Council of Churches – and Israel

As a Christian, I would prefer not to have to quarrel publicly with bodies of the church who are entrusted with studying the problems and issues of our time and achieving statements of position. Still, it seems that the World Council of Churches (WCC) cannot handle issues in international relations, among other lesser issues, without getting them dangerously wrong.

This fatal failing is illustrated again by the WCC's leading role this past September in achieving the denunciation of Israel for "systematic perpetration of racist crimes including war crimes, acts of genocide and ethnic cleansing," at the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) sideshow of the United Nations Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophopia and Related Intolerance held at Durban, South Africa. Since its triumph at that conference, the WCC has advanced further than ever before in its contempt for the suffering of Israel and in the vehemence of its denunciations of any and all Israeli actions of self-defence. (A roster of recent WCC statements on "Israel/Palestine," together with history of the role that the WCC has played in NGO actions and statements, can be found at www.wcc-coe.org). Closer to home, many readers of this paper will know of the conference that the Anglican Church in Canada, always in the vanguard in WCC deliberations, held in our capital city in late October for the purpose of immersing its clergy in the Palestinian rhetoric of abuse of Israel (See "Palestinian Anglican Priest Under Fire," *Ottawa Citizen*, Nov. 4).

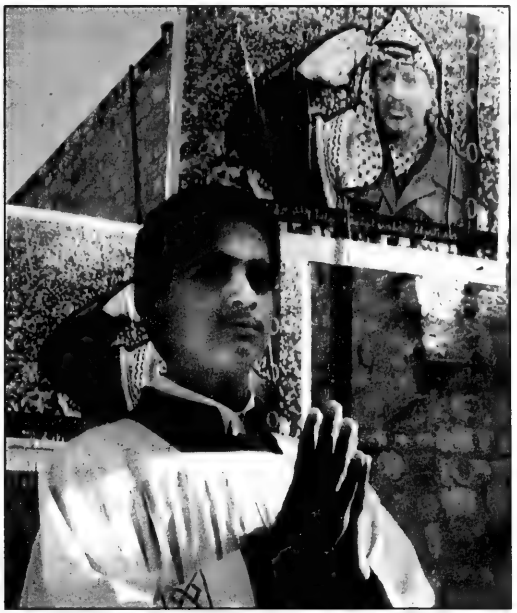
There is a real danger that Jews, like other outsiders to the church, might exaggerate the force of these churchly statements in the misguided belief that they represent the views of Christians generally and that they must have a theological root. However, Canadian Jews who are baffled by this record should keep several things in mind:

First: Few Christian laymen pay any attention to WCC statements. This is a mixed blessing, at best, since it is this inattention on the part of the laity that makes it possible for the elites to run up the banners that capture the shocked attention of passerby. Any outsider who approaches Christian laity in the sincere spirit of the researcher will soon discover that among persons who tell the pollsters that they attend church regularly, support for Israel is a few degrees higher than it is in the population as a whole, where it nowadays runs very high indeed. This is just one instance of a general truth about the widening gap between elite opinions and public attitudes that pops up wherever you look – in the media, in the schools, in government.

Second: We should note that the WCC buys its anti-Israeli rhetoric wholesale from the Middle East Council of Churches, headquartered in Cyprus, which represents the historic churches of the Middle East, those who make up the majority of local Christians in Israel as well as those under the Palestinian Authority (PA). Most of these churches still maintain and celebrate the doctrine of Supersessionism (or Replacement theology), to the effect that all the promises which God made to Abraham and to Israel now belong to the church – a doctrine which has been explicitly repudiated by all western churches, including the Roman Catholic Church. These are preponderantly Arab congregations, conditioned by some 14 centuries of subservience within the world of Islam.

The notion that we find in WCC documents, that the creation of the State of Israel was a mistake and the cause of all the unhappiness of the "indigenous" peoples of the Middle East, comes from this source. And from this same source, the WCC gets the shell-and-pea arithmetic that it uses to document the alleged flight of Christians from Israel since its creation. The truth is that Israel is the only polity in the entire Middle East of which it can be said that its Christian population has grown (modestly) over the past half-century in absolute terms, while remaining constant as a percentage of the whole population. Elsewhere in the Middle East, it is rapidly approaching extinction. While the exodus of Christians from PA-controlled areas has multiplied since the PA became the local authority, the number of Christians in Israel continues to grow – in part because so many have fled from the PA to the Israeli side of the Green Line.

Third: Leaders of the WCC have actually little interest in persuading the members of their own churches, whose minds are on other things, but rather their ambition is to be acknowledged by the UN as the conscience of the world. When the WCC was born at Amsterdam, in August 1948 (three months after the State of Israel came into existence), it adopted the motto: "Man's Disorder, God's Design." The thought was that the WCC would speak for the Christian conscience which, they imagined, still informed the thinking of the statesmen of the West. Since then, the process of secularization of public institutions in the West, coupled with the shift of the political arithmetic in the UN, has brought the result that to be the conscience of the world is to be the leader of the Third World bandwagon. Sensing this, the WCC dropped its rhetoric about God's Design in the 1970s and became the champion of "liberation."



Yasser Arafat's photo adorns a "religious" march prior to Christmas. Below, a coalition of clerics protest recent violence in Bethlehem. [RNS/ Reuters photo]

In a perverse sort of way, I draw some comfort from the fact that positions on international political matters taken by inter-church bodies, by annual meetings of member denominations, and by interchurch journals of opinion have invariably been exposed as incorrect as history unfolds. Being proved wrong never leads these bodies to apologize, however, as they are much too busy getting to the head of the parade on the wrong side of the *next* historical issue.

Take, for example, the world issues of the 1930s. As a historian, I have, for my sins, spent long hours studying church journals, interchurch journals of opinion, and policy statements representing in the 1930s roughly the same constituency as the WCC claims to speak for in the year 2001 – namely, "Christian Opinion." I find that they habitually get it wrong. They were wrong about Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, "sober-minded statesmen" intent on bringing self-respect to their abused people. They were wrong about the prospects for peace, preferring to believe that an understanding attitude towards the perfectly reasonable agenda of Hitler made it reprehensible on our part to prepare for war. They lionized Neville Chamberlain, and loathed the "war-monger" Winston Churchill. They were silent on Hitler's persecution of the Jews, opposed to Zionism, and vocal in support of British restrictions on Jewish immigration to Palestine in 1939. They opposed relaxation of immigration restrictions which prevented the flight of Jews and others from the territories of Germany and its "allies" to North America. All of this is abundantly documented in many scholarly books. But who reads books? Not the statesmen of the church, who have to dedicate all their hours to policy statements. Not the chairperson of the many social justice committees of the many member-churches, who are even now clipping these WCC statements for display on church bulletin-boards.

Not to put too fine a point on it: the WCC is wrong. It is wrong about U.S. President George W. Bush and about U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and about Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; it is wrong about PA Chairman Yasser Arafat; it was (and continues to be) wrong about President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe and Cuban leader Fidel Castro; it is wrong about Sudan and it is wrong about Iraq. But here I must get a grip on myself.

Just a little attention to the actual wording of recent WCC statements on the "Palestinian struggle for liberation" and on the well-known congenital behaviour of Jews and of their political allies everywhere will bring to mind the anti-Semitic propaganda which Hitler sowed throughout the world in the 1930s – not excluding the English-speaking world. This is the language imposed by an imagined Christian duty not to be found in disagreement with the world-view of Islam. This language makes eminent moral sense to Reverend Jesse Jackson. Thank God it is seen for what it is by Bush and Powell – both of whom, incidentally, belong to churches whose members will now be asked to sign on to the WCC/NGO statements.

Paul Merkley is recently retired from the department of history of Carleton University in Ottawa. He is the author of The Politics of Christian Zionism, 1891-1948 *(London: Frank Cass, 1998) and* Christian Attitudes Towards the State of Israel *(Montreal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2001). He is an active member of All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ottawa.*

Remembering the Struma

Some weeks ago, it was my privilege to attend the premiere of another path-breaking film by Simcha Jacobovici. Entitled *The Struma*, it deals with the fate of a ship that in 1941 was launched from the Romanian City of Costanza on the Black Sea.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Nearly 800 Romanian Jews were crowded aboard, hoping to reach the Promised Land of Palestine.

The Nazis were at the height of their power and threatened to extend their influence to the rest of Europe.

Shortly after the voyage began, the Struma's engines failed and forced the vessel to stop at Istanbul harbour. Turkey, so the historians assert, was prepared to give the refugees sanctuary, but changed its mind under British pressure, while the refugees languished, packed like sardines in their prison ship, without food or water. Toilets were overcrowded and disease threatened to erupt.

Eventually, the Turks tugged the disabled vessel back into the Black Sea, and the Struma floated aimlessly. But 12 hours later a submarine, perhaps considering it an enemy vessel on the attack, sank it with a single torpedo. Seconds later the sea was filled with the dead and dying, amongst whom were 100 children. There was only one survivor and he is still alive. His name is David Stoliar, and he was present when I attended the premiere in a crowded theatre.

It was not quite the riveting drama I had expected, but it was memorable nonetheless. The Struma has always been, in my book of memories, a symbol of the unwillingness of European nations to provide a safe refuge for the Jews who were fleeing oppression. The ill-fated ship was just one example amongst many – testimony to the unwillingness of European nations to provide even the most fundamental humanitarian help for the 800 Jews who were fleeing for their lives.

The Struma remains a symbol of the moral failure of Western nations to rescue Jews in flight from their pursuers. Somehow, in those days, being Jewish seemed to exclude one from the rest of humanity, and only the fewest nations treated our people with respect and accorded us a welcome.

Many decades have passed since those days and we would like to forget them. But Jacobovici's film somehow does not permit that easy escape. We still need to remember the 800 who went down in the sea and make sure that never again will any of our people be left undefended from the claws of their pursuers. *The Struma* reminds us of a period in our history that can repeat itself only if we abandon our self-respect and negate the fundamental concept of belonging to am echad, one singular people.

Brotherhood takes it on the chin

It hasn't been a good year for brotherhood, the family of humankind, governmental actions or individual behaviour. Are we stumbling towards a better year, or heading for worse in 2002? The signs are not encouraging.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

On individual behaviour: terrorists in North America and Israel had a good year, killing thousands in the United States, hundreds in Israel. By their own twisted logic, they were doing the will of a supreme being and therefore acting – the words stick in the throat – with uprightness that will reward them in the hereafter. To us, their evil is obvious. It brings only heartache and advances no cause except that of chaos and hatred. Yet hundreds of thousands took to the streets and rejoiced at the tragedies. Many, including the usually insightful John Ralston Saul, found an excuse for this behaviour: the United States had it coming. One can only hope that Canada does not deserve the same for practising and promoting democracy.

How did brotherhood fare? Not much better. We tried, after 9/11, to believe the best of Islam, but we all have a long way to go. This is not so surprising. It has taken centuries for Jews and Christians to speak frankly and with understanding to each other. Muslim leaders are just realizing that they need to begin meaningful participation in dialogue, not just with non-Muslims, but, more importantly, among themselves. Many who teach Islam preach hatred of the "other." Only when Muslims change these teachings can we begin to make sense of each other's universes.

Public utterances have not been encouraging, as many Muslim leaders drift between distancing themselves from the event ("No good Muslim would…") and denial ("Prove that it was…"). But someone obviously taught the terrorists that, indeed, good Muslims would do exactly what they did.

Nor have governments covered themselves with glory. As I write, India and Pakistan are eyeball to eyeball across a dangerous nuclear chasm. Israel's neighbourhood continues to deteriorate. Arafat may have given one speech redolent of peacemaking, but a second speech smelled worse – because he was franker. "Our people have been facing this plot ever since the Zionist Congress in Basel where the phrase 'A land without a people for a people without a land' was coined," *Ha'aretz* reported him as saying. "One hundred and four years later, our people are still standing strong against the magnitude of this plot." Is he again denying Israel's right to exist?

Arab textbooks abound with anti-Semitic canards. Egyptian TV airs a 30-segment show on the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*, featuring a popular actor. Anti-Semitism permeates Arab statecraft. Not much there for peacemakers to work with.

What about Canada? Lip service in favour of Israel, but votes at the UN for increasingly harsh resolutions that defame Israel. This dualism did no good for Israelis or Palestinians, while it aligned us with despicable autocrats. What we could have in common with Syria, whose government murdered 20,000 people, or murderous Iraq, escapes me. We not only look stupid, but we become irrelevant to effective participation in any peace process.

I am anxious about 2002, although there are some hopeful signs. Arab/Muslim countries did not come to the aid of the Taliban. People began to care more about the women of Afghanistan. But, sadly for the Middle East, Arab countries paid lip service to the intifadah while adding nothing to a search for peace. (Hopefully the prominent Palestinian Sari Nusseibeh may be given a real role to play in that search.)

Reflecting on 2001, Andrew Sullivan writes: "Part of the essence of civilization is the slow accretion of social and civic trust that enables us to live together in highly complex and interdependent ways." In Canada, shared rules of ethical behaviour allow us to live together in a multicultural society. We need to encourage that civic trust and show a frazzled world that multi-religious societies can thrive.

Social and civic trust is not built on demonizing the other or rejoicing in their suffering. Fanaticism in a cause does not lead to trust, but always in the opposite direction. So too do excuses for evildoers and cowardly UN votes. Will we have another year of terror and death? We stumble when we forget that, as Einstein wrote, "Man is here for the sake of other men."

Guest Voice

A letter to Mr. Ghassan Elashi

By RABBI AVI SHAFRAN

Dear Mr. Ghassan Elashi,

I can't say I'm sorry that the organization you head, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, is currently "out of business," as you put it recently to the *New York Times*. After all, the reason for your change in fortune is that your computers, records and half the $10 million dollars you raised this year have been seized by the U.S. government after an FBI investigation concluded that the Holy Land Foundation was raising money to support a Middle Eastern terrorist group.

That group, Hamas, seeks to destroy Israel, as you know, and over the past 14 months alone has claimed responsibility for killing more than 100 Israelis. It recently appealed to Arab ministers and diplomats meeting in Qatar to support its continuing suicide attacks against Israelis. I hope you understand that I cannot but be gratified when the would-be murderers of my relatives are hampered.

Your own organization, originally known as the Occupied Land Fund, has long been accused of being a front for Hamas, though in recent years you have carefully avoided terms like "jihad" and "intifadah" and stressed humanitarian activities. When the *Dallas Morning News* published several articles exploring your connections to Hamas, you even sued the paper for defamation.

Now, though, the U.S. government has weighed in, with, among other evidence, what it says is a tape of a meeting where you and five Hamas leaders discussed how the Middle East peace process might best be violently subverted. Credit card records, moreover, purportedly show that your group paid for fund-raising trips around America for prominent Hamas activists.

If the accusations turn out to be true, you can assume that I, and most Americans, will find it exceedingly difficult to summon sympathy for you. We don't take well to people whose hands are stained with the blood of innocents, especially these days.

But entirely aside from anything you and your organization may have done, I am personally outraged by something you said to the *Times* reporter.

He had questioned you about comments made by one of the Hamas representatives whose trips you had allegedly bankrolled. In 1994, Sheik Muhammad Siyam told the Muslim Arab Youth Association in Los Angeles, "It's simple. Finish off the Israelis! Kill them all! Exterminate them! No peace ever!"

To your credit, you disowned the particular sentiments expressed. Somewhat less to your credit, you excused yourself as not being responsible for them. And to your shame, you then tried to defend Mr. Siyam by adding, "I thought we had freedom of speech here."

But what was most ugly of all was what you said next.

"But anyway," you went on, "it's the same thing when American Jewish organizations raise money. They always say, we need to get rid of the Arabs, they're roaches, that kind of thing."

Mr. Elashi, I work for a large Jewish organization. As an Orthodox group, it is likely more "hawkish" than some others on issues pertaining to Israel's security. The sons and daughters and mothers and fathers of many of our members study or live in Israel, and all of our constituents wholeheartedly believe that the Holy Land was entrusted to the Jewish people by God Himself.

And yet, having heard hundreds of speeches and presentations at Agudath Israel meetings, conventions and seminars, I must tell you that I have never heard anything remotely like what you asserted is commonplace in the Jewish community.

The Jewish religious tradition teaches that every human being, whatever his or her colour, ethnicity or beliefs, is created in the image of God, and I believe that wholeheartedly, as does every Jew I know. I bear no animosity toward any person of goodwill, whether he is my Christian neighbour in New York or a Muslim Arab who wishes to live in peace on the land I believe is the home of the Jewish people.

Yes, I am angry at those who have maimed and killed in the name of Islam or the "Palestinian cause." Yes, I pray daily that those who want to harm me or my fellow Jews will be frustrated in their plans. And yes, because of the heartless and brutal actions of people like those you are accused of abetting, I am finding it increasingly hard to assume goodwill on the part of some.

But I still try mightily to do so. And I believe not that "we need to get rid of the Arabs" but rather that Arabs and Jews in the Middle East and everywhere else should live in peace with one another.

Sincerely,

Avi Shafran.

Rabbi Shafran is director of public affairs for Agudath Israel of America.

The Kirshner File

Jews of Brazil have moved up the ladder

Soaring and imposing, the Grand Templo Israelita finds itself marooned on Rua Tenente Possolo, a drab street in Centro, a dilapidated working-class area of Rio de Janeiro now bereft of Jews.

In 1932, when this white, Moorish-style synagogue was inaugurated, Rio's immigrant Jewish community was concentrated in gritty Centro, far from the tropical glamour of the city's airy beaches, luxury hotels, swank restaurants and upscale stores.

Sheldon Kirshner in Brazil

But as Jews left this district behind them and moved to leafy middle and upper class residential enclaves in Botafoga, Copacabana, Ipanema, Gavea and Barra Da Tijuca, the Grand Templo Israelita, formerly known as Beit Yaakov, Rio's first Ashkenazic shul, gradually lost its congregants and its raison d'etre.

"Regular services stopped about 10 years ago, when it became increasingly difficult to raise a minyan," said Ruy Flaks Schneider, the 59-year-old president of the synagogue, a merchant banker whose grandfather, Jacob, was one of its founders.

Today, like a beached whale, the Grand Templo Israelita, modelled after a synagogue in Trieste, Italy, is starkly out of its element in Centro, a gray-hued neighbourhood clustered with ugly tenements, decrepit shops and itinerant fruit vendors, all within walking distance of the Lapa red-light district.

But as odd as the Conservative shul may look in its incongruous urban setting, it still has a vital communal role to play. Refurbished two years ago, its hardwood floors and benches gleaming, it is used on major Jewish holidays and for special occasions such as weddings and bar mitzvahs.

Sheldon Kirshner Photo

Ruy Flaks Schneider

If nothing else, the Grand Templo Israelita is a telling metaphor of the strides, economic and otherwise, Brazilian Jews have made in the past 70 years.

Comprising less than 1/10 of one percent of Brazil's population of 175 million, Brazilian Jews are mainly the descendants of European and Middle Eastern immigrants. They arrived in this vast, developing country – the biggest in Latin America – in the first four decades of the 20th century. They came, primarily, from Poland, Romania and Germany, settling in cities like Rio, Recife, Sao Paulo, Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre. But decades before their disembarkment, Jews from Morocco and Turkey had already established themselves in Brazil.

Jews, in fact, were among Brazil's first European settlers. They came originally as New Christians, or newly-converted Roman Catholics. Pedro Alvares Cabral, the Portuguese explorer, landed in Brazil in 1500, accompanied by Gaspar da Goma, his New Christian personal secretary.

New Christians, some of whom practised Judaism secretly as Marranos, were involved in the emerging sugar, rice, cotton and tobacco industries. Some were even slave traders. By one estimate, a significant proportion of the Portuguese settlers in 16th century Brazil were New Christians.

With the arrival of the Dutch in northeastern Brazil, Marranos embraced Judaism openly. In Recife, they built a synagogue, Zur Israel, the first shul in the Americas.

When the Portuguese reconquered Recife in 1654, the Jews were driven out. Some sailed with the Dutch back to Holland. Still others wandered to Dutch Caribbean islands. A group of 23 Jews ended up in New Amsterdam, a Dutch colony that would morph into New York City.

Sheldon Kirshner Photo

Anete Hulak

The New Christians who remained in Brazil after 1654 were eventually absorbed and totally assimilated. For all intents and purposes, the Jewish community in Brazil after the 17th century ceased to exist.

The next wave of Jewish immigration occurred after Brazil's independence from Portugal in 1822. Sephardi Jews from Morocco and the Ottoman Empire streamed into Manaus and Belem, the citadels of the rubber trade and the gateways to the Amazon rainforest. Later, some drifted into Rio.

By the late 19th century, Jews from the Russian empire, racked by pogroms, began settling in Brazil, which, in the meantime, had been transformed into a democratic republic free of religious discrimination.

Sponsored by the Jewish Colonization Association, a handful of Bessarabian Jews set up agricultural colonies in the southern part of the country. Among them were Philippson and Santa Maria.

Between 1920 and 1928, Brazil's Jewish population tripled to 30,000. Among the arrivals was Anete Hulak, who, at 98, is the oldest living Jewish person in Recife today.

In 1937, the Brazilian populist dictator, Getulio Vargas, an admirer of Benito Mussolini, enacted secret regulations aimed at restricting the entry of Jews into Brazil. But these edicts did not achieve their intended effect, and still more Jews flowed into Brazil, according to American scholar Jeffrey Lesser.

As a result of the Arab-Israeli conflict, a further wave of Jews, predominantly from Egypt, Syria and Lebanon, poured in. Giuseppi Taman, a merchant from Alexandria, was one of those Middle Eastern immigrants. He arrived in 1957, and has lived in Recife since then.

The Grand Templo Israelita in Rio de Janeiro

By common consent, Brazil is home to approximately 130,000 Jews, making it Latin America's second largest Jewish community after Argentina. But since a formal census has never been conducted, and reliable demographic information is sorely lacking, there have been claims that as many as 300,000 Jews actually reside in Brazil.

Sao Paulo, Brazil's booming business capital, has the greatest number of Jews, at 60,000. Rio, with about 40,000, is in second place, followed by Porto Alegre, with 10,000. The remainder are scattered in cities ranging from Brasilia, the federal capital, to Salvator, in the northern state of Bahia.

Instititionally, Brazilian Jewry is rich and varied, with an array of organizations, agencies, synagogues, day schools, cultural and sports clubs, old age homes and community centres.

In a nation plagued by appalling poverty, where $72 (US) is the monthly minimum wage and where miserable *favelas* (shantytowns) spill down menacingly from green hillsides into fashionable neighbourhoods, Jews have fared reasonably well.

Although the majority are members of the middle class, which has felt the chilling effects of a slowing economy and a declining currency in recent years, there are Jews in Brazil whose wealth is legendary: the Safras in banking, the Klabins and Feffers in pulp and paper and the Sterns in jewelry.

To some, the yawning economic dispartities here are a source of immense concern.

"We are sitting on a volcano, and it is not dormant anymore," warned Henry Sobel, the senior rabbi at Sao Paulo's Congregacao Israelita Paulista. "The high rate of violence in our country is the most visible sign that the volcano is erupting. It is a constant preoccupation of our government and of all citizens with a minimum of sensitivity."

Schneider, however, begs to differ.

"I don't really think that Brazil, in spite of the current economic situation or the great disparities that still exist, is sitting on a dormant volcano." Nor, he claimed, would the spectre of a worsening economy pose any special threat to Jews, who are extremely well-integrated.

In general, Jews feel eminently comfortable in Brazil, a mixed-race society in which whites, blacks, mulattos and indigenous peoples mingle easily, at least on the surface. Jews, therefore, have been the beneficiaries of what Brazilians commonly refer to as their "racial democracy."

In this tolerant, live-and-let-live milieu, where open anti-Semitism is a fairly rare phenomenon and where racial incitement is punishable by law, there are no discernible obstacles to social mobility, said Schneider, whose ancestors migrated from Eastern Europe about a century ago, and whose father-in-law was an admiral in the Brazilian navy.

Before World War II, many Jews earned a livelihood as peddlers, but their sons and daughters have turned to the professions. Traditionally, Brazilian Jews stayed clear of politics and the civil service, but in recent years this has also changed. The current foreign minister, Celso Lafer, is Jewish, as are two of the directors of Brazil's central bank.

"This is a society where Jews enjoy a free life," observed Schneider, whose wife's grandfather, Mordechai Guertzenstein, was Brazil's first Ashkenazi rabbi.

Schneider is right, yet the Jewish community has inevitably paid a price – assimilation and intermarriage – for the openness of Brazilian society.

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Stem cells and the Torah

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Science fiction has taken a step closer to becoming science fact. On Monday, Nov. 26, Advanced Cell Technology Inc. (ACT) of Worcester, Mass., announced to a stunned world that its scientists had succeeded in cloning human embryos.

Comparative Law

That a human would be cloned was inevitable. "Dolly," the now-famous sheep, was the first successful cloning in 1977. Many other animals have since been cloned. Dolly began her life as an egg whose nucleus had been removed and another inserted in its place. The nucleus contains the genetic blueprint of life. The egg was then implanted into a surrogate mother where it grew as an exact copy of the animal that provided the nucleus.

Similarly, ACT took a human egg and replaced its nucleus, tricking it into dividing itself into a small ball of multiple cells. Conceivably, these, too, could be implanted into a human surrogate mother, carried for nine months of growth and born as a carbon copy baby of the donor nucleus.

But creating a human being is not the goal of ACT or of a number of other such competing laboratories. Instead, the race is on to grow these cells to the point where they will divide and begin to develop, each to its own purpose: one group, kidney cells; another, lung cells; another, skin; and so on. These are known as stem cells.

Stem cells are like seeds, each having the capacity to develop into a distinct organ. The desire is to grow healthy organs, or at least organ tissue, from these stem cells. This tissue could then be implanted without fear of infection or of being rejected by the donor. Conceivably, there could be an unlimited supply of organs able to replace diseased and malfunctioning ones, or simply ones ravaged by age. The possibilities are as sensational as they are endless, and indeed, they hint of immortality.

If what is happening in the world of scientific research was inevitable, the resulting world reaction was equally predictable. ACT's experiment was quickly vilified by politicians, the Vatican and scientists alike. U.S. President George W. Bush promptly addressed Congress, British Prime Minister Tony Blair addressed the House of Commons and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien addressed Parliament. World leaders cried out for direction to govern this biotechnology, if not to stop it altogether. Ethicists were summoned to determine what is right and wrong. Legislators were called to quickly make laws defining what is permitted and what is not.

As Jews who believe in the divinity of the Torah, we find little value in these ethicists. Judaism is not situational ethics, where one looks at contemporary issues and reports the social norms of acceptability in order to offer guidelines. Essentially, these are not really guidelines but merely reflections of current societal mores. To the Jew, ethics do not reflect society, they define it. Jewish values are a constant; they do not fluctuate with the tides of time. Our ethics and values are the goals of our people rather than the result of contemporary opinion. Boards of ethics are like the general, who, when losing control of his men, faces the direction of the mob and shouts, "Follow me!"

Our Torah teaches us the supremacy of life

What, then, is the Jewish position on cloning and stem cell technologies?

Our Torah teaches us the supremacy of life. It tells us that guarding life is more important than even guarding the Torah itself. Notable exceptions to this rule are made when one tramples on the laws of immorality, idolatry and bloodshed. One is to abstain from these three, even when life is at stake. Clearly, killing one life to save another is contrary to God's plan.

To address the question of stem cell technology, one needs to establish whether growing these human cells in order to harvest them as spare parts when needed is killing one life to save another.

Judaism teaches that life begins at birth; hence the possibility to kill life can only begin at the same time as that life begins. In Judaism, an unborn child is not life but the potential of life. Certainly an unborn child may not be aborted, but to do so is not killing. It is wrong. It is forbidden, but it is not killing.

There is yet at least one other stage in the process of life: the period of 40 days immediately following conception. At this stage, the budding of life is viewed to an even lesser degree. For stem cell technology to succeed, the growth of the embryonic cells must be stopped after a matter of days in order to harvest the stem cells well within this 40-day stage.

Categorically, Judaism does not see the artificial growth of human cells on a laboratory dish as a human life. Although this fact alone is an absolute in Judaism, further reasoning is always acceptable and even welcome. For example, it is routine in medicine today to grow human skin for use in skin grafts. Growing stem cells should then be seen in the same light. Arguably, there is a world of a difference between the growing of skin and growing a whole potential person. Yet this too is already not uncommon; in vitro fertilization is widely practised as a last resort for couples unable to conceive by other means.

Are we playing God? Is life so sacred that we must leave certain things untouched? This same question could be asked any time one is ill and seeks a cure. Judaism never said, "If you are ill, it is God's will, do not intervene!" Quite the opposite: "and cure you shall cure." God commands us to aggressively and creatively pursue every venue to a healthier life.

The ethical tempest that has now overwhelmed the world emanates from the Christian right. What a travesty this would be if their bias could succeed in halting one of the most promising advances of humanity.

On a line stretching from the beginning of time to the present, the human experience has not changed all that much. It is only in these last centuries that God has given us the capability to combat hunger with high-yield commercial food production. It is relatively recently that we have fast forwarded into expanding horizons of transportation and communication. But by far the greatest accomplishment and advancement in human endeavour have been in the eradication of suffering, disease and needless mortality.

God is now presenting us with this further gift in the march of human experience. We are being ushered into a new and exciting era, one of good health and even better life. To reject this gift is to turn God down. It is as much an affront to the very life that these people profess to protect as it is a reversal of the progress of humanity.

Rabbi Ben Ayon writes a monthly column for The CJN *entitled* Through a Sephardi Window.

Jewish Life

Some distilled wisdom

Books
Bernard Baskin

Books that offer advice for more successful living are legion. Several cross my desk every month. What follows is the distilled *chochma* of what many of them contain.

Our society is built on a division of labour; every kind of work is important to the whole. As long as a person does what comes to his hand to do, and does it with honesty and diligence, he is contributing to the sum total of human good. The food we eat, the clothes we wear are the products of thousands of skills and hundreds of hands. The teacher, the banker, the inventor, the engineer, the designer, the weaver, the electrician – each is vital to the entire process, and if one fails in his task, then all of us are the poorer. Each of us is important – no matter what his work or profession – to the welfare of all others.

Moreover, there is no positive correlation between success and happiness. Are the famous and celebrated of the earth the happiest? On the lofty peaks of success are to be found loneliness and insecurity. High positions create the tensions that result from onerous obligations and the need to make significant decisions.

The wealthiest persons must wonder, at times, if they are admired for themselves, or the favours that they can bestow. Who would not trade his fortune for the restoration of the health we usually take for granted? Some of the most admired of personalities would trade fame for obscurity if it could bring the assurance of a secure home and loving children. What the world regards as success is often a sham and illusion.

As the new year dawns, you will be a successful person in 2002 if you:

- will find the resources – regardless of your age and position – to keep your mind alive, active and curious;
- will be able to get along in mutual understanding and regard with your spouse and your children;
- will find a measure of meaning in your work and the satisfactions that come from the knowledge that you are earning your bread honestly and without deceit;
- can be guided by your own standards and values, rather than by those of your neighbours;
- have won a few good friends whom you admire and who add a measure of zest and comradeship to your life and activities;
- are able to accept the good and bad life with equanimity; not made arrogant by the former or embittered by the latter.
- can spend some time alone and make use of your own resources without falling into loneliness or panic;
- can forget yourself long enough and your own problems to reach out in genuine concern and consideration for others;
- can feel that you are reaching for your full potential and experiencing new ripening of mind and spirit.

How long will we continue to identify bigness with greatness, price with value, activity with achievement and position with success? Too long have we boasted of our standard of living. May we, in the new year, be able to boast of our standard of life.

Selecting a summer camp

BY MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It may be the middle of winter, but if you are looking for a Jewish summer camp, now is the time to choose. Fortunately, many camps and Jewish youth movements have created Web sites. And that makes comparison shopping much easier for parents of prospective campers. Today, an overview.

There are well over one hundred Jewish camps in North America and it is beyond the scope of this column to list them all. But there are some very good sites that will do that for you. The Jewish Camp Guide is broken into Canadian and American regional sections, in addition to international listings. It lists more than 150 camps, including all-girls, all-boys, kosher and sports camps **[http://www.jewish.com/ camps/]**.

If you can't find your favorite camp on the list, you can ask them to add it.

Moment magazine maintains a similar list of Jewish camps in addition to a list of camps in Israel that cater to North Americans **[http://www.momentmag.com/resources/campguide.html]**. And you can also check out the Association of Jewish Sponsored Camps **[http://www.jewishcamps.org/]** which represents 33 not-for-profit children's and adult camps, including five camps for people with special needs.

There may be many Jewish camps to choose from, but every year campers are turned away because the camps just cant meet the demand. The Foundation for Jewish Camping wants to do something about that. The foundation was started in 1997 by Robert and Elisa Spungen Bildner, a New Jersey couple. It has already provided $200,000 (US) in grants to help camps expand. It is working to triple Jewish camp attendance and believes the Jewish camping system requires 100 new camps. **[http://www.jewishcamping.org]**.

As campers grow up, they embark on their next challenge: as counsellors. The Jewish Camp Staff Web site is designed to help counsellors and Jewish camps find each other. Counsellors fill out online staff profiles (listing skills, education, religious affiliation, etc.) that can then be used by camps looking for summer help. At the moment, this site is used by two dozen Jewish camps **[http://www.jewishcampstaff.com/]**.

But according to an article in *Jewish World Review*, some camps are having a tough time finding counsellors. Camps find themselves in competition with fast food chains and theme parks for summer help. And some college students prefer to go for jobs and internships that are connected to their careers. In order to hold on to staff, Jerry Kaye, director of a Reform camp in Wisconsin, has even awarded $1,000 scholarships to counselors who return for a third year of work **[http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0600/lure.html]**.

To help fill their staffing needs, many Jewish camps turn to Israeli teenagers. These teen shlichim play a crucial role at Jewish camps around the country. They introduce North American campers to the human side of life in Israel **[http://www.campramah.org/news/shlichim.html]**. You can read more about the importance the State of Israel has played in Jewish summer camps in a comprehensive article by David Friedman and David Zisenwine **[http://www.israelives.org/camp/camps.html]**.

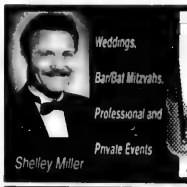
How do you know if the time is right to send your own children off to camp? Ellen Nash, director of Ontario's Camp Northland – B'nai Brith says "around age nine or 10 is ideal for many kids to begin to go to camp. Twelve is sort of the top end." Ask yourself: "Do they like being with groups of kids? Are they comfortable sleeping over at other kids' houses? Those are good signs." **[http://www.todaysparent.com/school_age/article.jsp?cId=3927]**. The Family Education Web site also has some very good articles about talking to your kids about camp, homesickness and even camp packing tips: "Send nothing to camp (except your child) that you can't afford to lose." **[http://www.familyeducation.com/topic/front/0,1156,22-5197,00.html]**

Once their kids are off at camp, parents will fret until they get mail. Then they may fret even more. Eileen Goltz has accumulated some choice letters from campers. After two weeks at camp, one postcard home started with "My counselor is a witch. I hate everyone in the cabin. But other than that, I'm having a great time." **[http://www.clevelandjewishnews.com/camp/]**

And then there was nine-year-old Stevie Palmer. "He wrote that his counselor was taking the whole cabin to see a cannibal and that he wasn't sure why, and could his parents call the camp and find out because he was afraid someone would get eaten. Turns out it wasn't quite that exciting. It was just a field trip to Cape Canaveral and nobody from Stevie's cabin was on the menu."

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.



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Jewish, Muslim students share college dining hall

By JULIE WIENER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

SOUTH HADLEY, Mass. — Sharon Adams, a Jewish student at Mount Holyoke College, recently sat down with a Muslim student and got into a conversation about the challenges of remaining religious in college.

An outgoing, newly Orthodox exchange student from London, Adams might have started the discussion anyway. But it was a little easier because the two women could share a meal – one that was both kosher and halal – while they chatted.

At a time when Jewish-Muslim relations in America are strained, many Jewish students find themselves on the defensive from anti-Israel rhetoric and Muslims are fearful of being lumped together with Osama bin Laden, this elite New England women's college is a rare haven of relative harmony.

Two days after the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, Mount Holyoke opened what is believed to be the first kosher-halal dining hall at an American college.

"This was just the best thing that could have happened at that time," said Nadia Rahim, a Muslim senior from Bangladesh. "There was such a feeling of co-operation and partnership."

Dartmouth College is opening a similar facility later this month, and there are preliminary discussions about creating kosher-halal facilities at other universities, including the University of California at Los Angeles.

> *'Believed to be first kosher-halal' eating on American campus*

The centrally located dining hall – a homey room with floral wallpaper, pink curtains and comfortable wooden chairs – serves 80 to 100 students per meal, the majority of whom are neither Jewish nor Muslim but simply live in the nearby dorm.

With its relatively small Jewish and Muslim populations – Jews make up about six percent of the school's 2,000 students, and Muslims about four percent – Mount Holyoke might seem an unlikely spot for the country's first kosher-halal student dining hall.

Some students new to kosher and halal restrictions are grumbling about the new rules, but most students praise the cafeteria for its tasty food – by institutional standards, at least – and the implicit message that Jews and Muslims have "more in common than separates us," as one Muslim student put it.

The project took off last year when Muslim and Jewish students approached the administration, complaining that they were outgrowing the small student-run kitchen they shared in the religious life building. Administrators warmed to the idea, saying it "resonated with the core values" of the school, which has a large number of international students.

After an anonymous alumna contributed $250,000, the college scrambled to convert Wilder Hall. The kitchen was redone over the summer, new equipment was brought in and staff were trained on everything from separating dairy and meat items to scrutinizing ingredients like mustard and vanilla to ensure that they are alcohol-free, a halal restriction.

Even before plans for the dining hall emerged, Jews and Muslims here enjoyed good relations, leaders of both communities say. In addition to the small kitchen in the religious life building that they used to share, the Muslim and Jewish chaplains have adjoining offices, and they have come together each winter for an ecumenical celebration called "The Festival of Lights."

Some credit the smooth relations to what they say is a female tendency to be a little more peaceful and diplomatic than men.

"Because we're all girls, we tend to be more calm about these things," Adams said. "We're a little less aggressive."

But another element of the harmony may be the general environment. On the campus of elegant red brick Gothic Revival buildings, gracious trees and open grassy areas, genteel civility, friendliness and multiculturalism seem to be religions in their own right, and the two sides generally avoid discussing the Middle East, at least with each other.

Even in the aftermath of Sept. 11, when many American Jews draw comparisons between Palestinian terrorists and bin Laden's network and when many Muslims blame the attacks on U.S. support for Israel, the topic of Israel seems to come up little in campus discussions.

For the most part, conversations about the war are focusing on opposition – quite common here – to the U.S. bombing of Afghanistan. However, at a recent campus peace rally, a speaker – who is Jewish – compared Zionism to racism, upsetting many Jewish students.

Muslim students, at least when interviewed by a Jewish reporter, were reluctant to broach the issue of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Several Jewish students said they generally avoid talking about Israel for fear of creating conflicts.

"I don't walk around wearing my Camp Tel Yehudah 'Property of the Zionism Department' T-shirt," said Naomi Gates-Monasch, a Jewish sophomore from the San Francisco area, referring to the camp run by the Young Judaea Zionist youth group. "That would be asking for trouble.

"In general, it's a very accepting community, but yes, obviously there are subjects we don't talk about," Gates-Monasch said.

Farrah Hamid, a Muslim freshman from New Hampshire, said Jewish and Muslim students "definitely mix," despite "some differences of opinion."

Hamid, who is of Pakistani descent, said she does not know a lot about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. But when asked about the causes of the current conflict with bin Laden, she grew quiet.

"I don't want to go into it," she said.

Efraim Eisen, the Jewish chaplain at Mount Holyoke, said he hopes to increase awareness on campus about Israel's history, and is planning a teach-in about Israel.

Most students on campus "don't know a lot about the history of Israel and why it exists," he said, adding that he is concerned that anti-war sentiment on campus could lead to anti-Israel rhetoric here, as it has on some other campuses like the University of California at Berkeley.

There is also talk of creating a formal Muslim-Jewish dialogue group at Mount Holyoke, though some students are wary of the idea.

Rachel Hammerman, a sophomore from New York, said she is "kind of hesitant" about formal discussions on the Middle East.

"It's nice to talk about, but unless you really know what's going on, it's not helpful to discuss it," she said.

It is unclear whether the new dining option will attract more Muslim and Jewish students to the school. The administration says that's not the goal, but individual Muslim and Jewish students are hoping otherwise.

The Jewish community is small compared to those at other prestigious East Coast schools but is growing more active and visible – though many of the most enthusiastic participants are non-Jews exploring Judaism.

A Jewish a cappella group is starting, the school recently acquired a kosher Torah and the Jewish student group this year became affiliated with Hillel: The Foundation for Jewish Campus Life.

However, the dining hall is unlikely to attract strict observers of either faith. The meat is not technically halal, though the Muslim community agreed to accept kosher meat, citing a Muslim tradition that kosher food is acceptable when halal is not available.

In addition, the kitchen is under Conservative, not Orthodox, rabbinic supervision. That wouldn't satisfy most Orthodox students, who are far more likely than Conservative or Reform students to choose a campus based on the availability of kosher food.

In any event, the dining hall has become popular among many students who are neither Jewish nor Muslim, partly because of its central location, and partly because of a by-product of the strict, kosher-halal demands: most of the food is freshly made. That distinguishes it from the other dining halls, which rely on pre-made, processed ingredients such as canned spaghetti sauce and powdered mashed potatoes.

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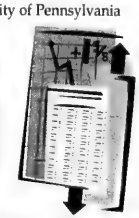

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Coast to Coast

Kosher Food Fest raises funds for Montreal's hungry

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Kosher Food Fest, an annual showcase of products from local caterers, hotels and food merchants, drew 1,000 patrons this year and raised about $225,000 to feed the city's poor.

The event, which has been organized by Mazon Canada for the past seven years, has grown each year.

Demand for this type of help is greater because of government cutbacks to subsidized meals, Mazon Montreal chair and Food Fest founder Dodo Heppner said.

"We could sell more tickets, but we try to be fair to the caterers who generously donate everything," Heppner said.

Founded in 1986, Mazon, which bills itself as "the Jewish response to hunger," provides money for free breakfasts and lunches for students from low-income families at several schools.

This past year, Mazon, whose motto is, "we respond to the needs of the hungry wherever and whoever they may be," made grants to close to 80 food banks, soup kitchens and other charitable organizations on a non-sectarian basis within and outside the Montreal area.

The food festival, held at Congregation Shaar Hashomayim, is its major fundraiser. Its recipients range across religious, cultural and linguistic lines, including the Mission of the Great Shepherd, Tomchei Shabbos, Entraide aux Gens de la Rue, Centre Communautaire Multi-Ethnique de Montréal and Auberge Shalom Pour Femmes.

All the items up for bids in the silent auction, from paintings to fur pieces, were also donated. These savings and the fact that Mazon's Montreal office has only one staff member, help to keep the overhead for the food festival below 10 percent of the gross, Heppner said.

Volunteers are the core of the organization. This year's co-chairs were Cheryl Brott and Harriet Muroff.

This year's food festival was sold out a week ahead, with general admission tickets going for $75 a piece and special gifts categories ranging from $250 to $25,000. (Ann Loeb Bronfman of Washington, D.C., was the event's top patron, matching the $25,000 donation she made last year.)

Heppner acknowledged that some may consider an evening of over-indulgence to be an inappropriate means of raising money for those so poor they can't afford groceries.

"We have had a few people question it," Heppner said. "I had a letter from one man who organizes a number of charity golf tournaments. I asked him, 'How many of the people who you help play golf?'

Heppner defended the format.

"The fact is the end result is that we are able to pay for hundreds of thousands of meals each year," she said. "And, believe me, the need out there gets greater every year. What's wrong if people enjoy themselves at the same time?

Mazon Kosher Food Fest co-chairs Harriet Muroff and Cheryl Brott (centre) take a break with Denyse Zunenshine (left) and Terry Landau, auction co-chairs.

"When I explain that to the doubters, they usually rethink it. Obviously, with the response we get, not many people feel that way."

Mazon makes on-site visits to every charity funded. What they see, said Heppner, is heart-rending and shocking. The only reason she has stayed on as Mazon chair for 14 years is that the cause is so compelling, she said.

The food festival is also an opportunity to display the variety of ways kosher food can be prepared.

Asian cuisine businesses dominated the 29 presenters this year, with Japanese sushi and more traditional Chinese fare in abundance, with the occasional Malaysian-style satay. Traiteur La Marguerite's chef made fresh sushi, and Glatt's Kosher Self-Service St. Louis offered a Chinese feast of General Tao's chicken, orange beef, dim sum, bo-bo balls and peanut dumplings.

Meanwhile, more traditional food included shwarma pitas prepared by Tradition Caterers and made-to-order sauces for pasta prepared by Etmo Catering Services.

Moishe's handed out samples of its herring, horseradish and pickles, including its new award-winning bread-and-butter variety. These are sold in selected stores and, unlike the restaurant, are kosher.

Levitt's dished up hot dogs, smoked turkey, smoked carp, hot brisket and roast beef. Not to be outdone, Ernie the Caterer toasted the ever-popular "Wilensky" deli sandwiches. Kosher Quality was a hit with its liver and onions.

Elvinco provided samples of wines, including a very potable new California zinfandel. Those abstaining could choose from Bennett's juices, including unsweetened grape juice, cranberry cocktail and peach nectar.

Heppner pointed out nothing was wasted. The leftovers were picked up for distribution among the Jewish needy, who enjoyed plentiful Shabbat dinners the next day.

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– CORRECTION –

SING-A-LONG
SOUND OF MUSIC
Performance date:
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CJN Giveaways
20 PRIZES

Win a pair of
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The CJN is giving away 20 pairs of tickets to this classic film, now with subtitles so everyone can sing along!

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Rules: To be eligible to win a pair of tickets to Sing-A-Long SOUND OF MUSIC, please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:

What famous songwriting team wrote the music and lyrics to "Sound of Music"?
(Hint: the answer is printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 3 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 15/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Feb. 18/02 at 10 a.m. The winner will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: Sing-A-Long Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: Sing-A-Long Contest, 416-391-0949.

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Coast to Coast

Clinton to speak to ORT

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Tickets at $100 to $500 went on sale to the public this week for former U.S. president Bill Clinton's benefit lecture at Place des Arts in February. The event's organizer, ORT Montreal, is confident all 2,700 will go quickly.

Executive director Emmanuel Kalles said the Feb. 18 event is expected to gross between $850,000 and $1 million. Clinton's speaking fee has been widely reported in the American media as being between $100,000 and $150,000 US. Kalles said only that ORT is paying "closer to the lower end."

The proceeds will be shared by an ORT project in Israel under which ORT students teach computer and Internet skills to children undergoing cancer treatment in hospital, and similar projects at the Montreal Children's Hospital and Hôpital Ste. Justine.

First visit to Montreal

Tickets were made available to ORT board members prior to Jan. 7 and sold "briskly," Kalles said.

Before the lecture, Clinton will be the guest at a private dinner for 100 at the Musée d'Art Contemporain de Montréal. The ticket price is $2,500 per person for the dinner sponsored by Liberty Sites Ltd., a property development and management company, whose president and CEO is Sandra Levy.

Kalles said that if a sponsor is found for the lecture as well, revenues are expected to reach $1 million.

Clinton's speaking fee at charitable events has been the source of controversy in the past. The former president has spoken at one other fund-raiser for a Jewish charity in this country – the Canadian Society for Yad Vashem – at Toronto's 3,200-seat Hummingbird Centre last June.

Clinton's star has fallen since last June. The events of Sept. 11 and the swift progress of the Afghanistan war, with the attendant rise in President George W. Bush's popularity, have hastened Clinton's fade-out since he left office a year ago.

Kalles, however, thinks Montrealers are still interested in what he has to say. "This is the first time Clinton has ever been in Montreal... This is a unique opportunity to hear one of the most dynamic leaders of our time present his views on world events."

"This charity event will inaugurate a new relationship between ORT Montreal, the Montreal Children's Hospital and Hôpital Ste. Justine," said ORT Montreal president Arthur Silber in a press release. "Part of the evening's proceeds will go towards developing new technological programs that will improve the quality of life for children undergoing long-term care at both hospitals... A similar program in Israel will also benefit children in hospitals."

"We are excited to bring together leaders of the Montreal community, whose time is being volunteered to ensure the success of this event and to raise awareness of the educational and skills training that ORT offers people around the world."

In the Sunflowers Project, initiated by ORT Israel three years ago, trained students go into the pediatric oncology wards throughout the country to teach the young patients the technological skills they themselves are learning in ORT schools. The computers, Internet access and software are provided by ORT Israel.

At the Children's Hospital here, proceeds from the Clinton evening will fund the setting up of Starbright World™, an interactive computer network designed for hospitalized kids, chaired by film director Steven Spielberg and Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf. It will be the first hospital in Quebec to have the program, which helps patients cope with illness and its treatment. Its features include chat rooms, bulletin boards, and video conferencing that lets users thousands of miles apart see and talk to each other.

Starbright is aimed at reducing the isolation, fear and depression that sick kids experience.

At Ste. Justine, a program called Virtually Yours will be set up to prepare children and their families for hospitalization. From their homes, they can access a multi-media Web site that acquaints them with the hospital and their medical team. The program will also include setting up Internet facilities in the rooms of certain departments.

Kalles said the proceeds will probably be split almost equally, but that will depend on the beneficiaries' needs and total amount raised.

This is a new venture for ORT Montreal, whose dollars have traditionally gone directly to ORT schools in Israel, Kalles said. It is hoped that the new relationships with Montreal institutions and business leaders will make the broader community aware of what ORT is and expand the local organization's potential base of supporters.

Clinton and his wife Hillary have had another connection to ORT. In December, Hillary Clinton, now a New York senator, was honoured by American ORT for her work in education. She was presented with the first annual Ambassador David B. Hermelin Award, the organization's most prestigious citation.

Kalles said the Clintons were close friends of the late Hermelin, a past American ORT and World ORT president. Hermelin resigned the latter position when Clinton named him U.S. ambassador to Norway in 1997. He died in November 2000. However, Kalles said Clinton's acceptance to speak for ORT Montreal is "totally unrelated" to his wife's honour.

ORT Montreal approached Clinton last spring about appearing here, and he readily accepted, subject to his availability. The February date was his choice.

The event's honorary co-chairs are: Stephen Bronfman, chair of Claridge SRB Investments Inc.; François de Gaspé Beaubien, co-CEO of Telemedia Corporation; Michael Goldbloom, former *Gazette* publisher; Larry Smith, Montreal Alouettes president; and John Rae, executive vice-president of Power Corporation. The evening's chair is Dr. Roger Korman.

Coast to Coast

Steinfeld first Winnipegger to head JCC group

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Local lawyer Barry Steinfeld was elected president of the Canadian Council of Jewish Community Centres (CCJCC) and YW/YMHAs for a two-year term at the council's annual meeting in Montreal in November.

Steinfeld is the first Winnipegger to fill the position, although he notes that two former Winnipeggers play prominent roles in the organization. Jerry Zipursky is the executive director of both the national organization and the Vancouver JCC, while Avrum Namak, who used to be assistant director at the old Winnipeg Y, is an advisor to the council and the Jewish Community Centres of America (JCCA).

The council represents Canadian JCCs in Montreal, Toronto, Hamilton, London, Ottawa, London, Windsor, Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria. Steinfeld was president of the Winnipeg Jewish Community Centre in the mid-1990s during its transition from its long-time downtown location to the new Asper Jewish Community Campus, which opened in September, 1997. He has been a board member of the Canadian Council for several years.

As president of the CCJCC, Steinfeld represents the organization on the JCCA board. Paralleling Steinfeld, Hal Bordy, executive director of Winnipeg's Rady Jewish Community Centre, was re-elected president of the Canadian Region of the Association of Jewish Centre Professionals at the JCCA of North America/Association of Jewish Center Professionals annual meeting in Baltimore in early November. Bordy has also been named editor of *Kesher*, the association magazine.

It was a successful annual meeting for some other Rady Centre staffers as well. Tamar Barr, the Rady Centre's program director for adult services, special events, cultural arts and Judaica, was named Canadian JCC Professional of the Year, while graphic designer Gustavo Rymberg displayed his media work for the Rady Centre. His work won the JCCA North America Award for Excellence last year.

In other Rady Centre news, Bordy reports that the Winnipeg JCC has established a satellite program in Regina in conjunction with Regina's House of Jacob synagogue. "We have been working on this for six or seven months," he says. "Our program is an offshoot of the Asper Foundation's promotion of Holocaust education in smaller western Canadian centres."

The new Regina JCC is to be known as the Pearl and Max B. Herman Jewish Community Centre. It will be using the synagogue gym and social hall for its recreational programs.

"We are helping the Regina community develop a summer day camp," Bordy says. "That will be the first big program.

"We will also be reaching out to the general community with our programming since the Jewish community, with a population of about 500 to 600, is too small to support this on its own."

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

מזל טוב

Mazel Tov

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Mazel tov Karen & Jonathan on the birth of your daughter Leah Hannah Shein. Much love from Safta Esthee, Saba Josh and Uncle Ron Sarid.

Darren & Debbi Lastofsky, Boca Raton, announce the arrival on Sept. 14, of Marlee, sister to Jesse. Grandparents, Evelyn & Max Lastofsky and Barri & Len Acker, New York.

Max & Gisele Mamann are thrilled to announce the recent marriage of their daughter Yael to Kevin Beigel, son of David Beigel and Jocelyn Hecht.

Mazel tov to Aaron as you graduate from the University of Waterloo as a computer engineer. Your family is proud of you and wishes you luck.

Happy birthday Jedd Kenedy, who turned one on Dec. 24. Proud parents are Dr. Robert and Helen Kenedy.

Renee & Marv Rubinoff announce the marriage of Jeffrey to Nicola, daughter of Ray and the late Joan Jones. Wedding took place in London, England.

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Jan. 14, is deadline for Jan. 24, issue and Monday, Jan. 21, is deadline for Jan. 31. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Friday, Jan. 11

CARLEBACH MINYAN

At Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, downstairs, 15 minutes before candlelighting, followed by a lively and spiritual Kabalat Shabbat service. 416-789-3216.

Sunday, Jan. 13

EMBRACING JUDAISM

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda series, An Introduction to Judaism, based on the text *Embracing Judaism* by **Simcha Kling,** continues with Ancient and Medieval History 9:30-10:45 a.m. Instructors **Rabbi Howard Morrison** and **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**. 416-633-3838.

ROSH CHODESH

Rosh Chodesh celebration for women with **Chana Bracha Siegelbaum,** director, Midreshet Be'erot Bat Ayin, leading the discussion on Tu b'Shvat, plus music and dancing. 7 p.m., Anshe Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrews St., Kensington Market. Women are welcome to bring musical instruments. 416-595-5723.

JEWISH FILM SOCIETY

Toronto Jewish Film Society presents the Toronto premiere of *Left Luggage* (Belgium/Holland/UK) 1998, at Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario at 5:15 p.m. and 7:45 p.m. Cast includes **Isabella Rossellini, Maximillian Schell, Topol** and **Jeroen Krabbé.** Tickets available 15 minutes prior to screening. Yearly memberships now on sale for the 2002 season. 416-924-6211.

A HEALTHY BODY

Shaarei Shomayim Entertainment and Cultural Connection and Brotherhood present **Dr. Paul Goldbach**, chiropractor, speaking on Staying Slim Naturally: Treat Yourself to a Healthy Body, 8:30 p.m. Co-ordinators **Jerry** and **Sandra Genesove.**

Tuesday, Jan. 15

MONTESSORI DAY SCHOOL

The Montessori Jewish Day School open house for primary (age 2½-5) and lower elementary (age 6-8) program. 7 p.m., 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Information/registration 416-784-5071.

AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY

People and Ideas in Jewish History lecture series offered by Queen's University Programme in Jewish Studies features Culture and Stereotype: Images of the Jew in French Romanticism with **Prof. Jean-Jacques Hamm**, department of French, 7:30 p.m., Policy Studies Building, Room 202.

SPACE SHUTTLE MISSIONS

Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University (Toronto) annual general meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Barbara Frum Library. Keynote speaker is **Colin Price**, associate professor of atmospheric sciences, department of geophysics and planetary sciences, Tel Aviv University. Topic: The Space Shuttle Mission: Israel's Contribution, For information and RSVP, call CFTAU 416-787-9930.

Wednesday, Jan. 16

JWI CHAPTER MEETING

Jewish Women International Markham-Unionville Chapter monthly meeting. Special guest speaker. New members welcome. For further information, **Sheryl** 905-305-7026 or **Susan** 905-940-0286

HOMELESS DROP-IN

Ve'havta invites those who are on or off the street or living in a shelter or residence and would like to shake the mid-winter blahs away with a bunch of friends to drop in at St. Lawrence Hall (Front and Jarvis) 4-8 p.m. for games, food, gifts, music, entertainment.

Continued on page 19

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Continued from page 18

Thursday, Jan. 17

SIX WAYS TO ASK GOD

The Toronto Jewish Healing Project six-week lecture series, Six Rabbis: Six Ways to Ask God, starts off with Choni the Circle Maker and Rabbi Levy Yitzhak of Berditchev: Their Talking to God with **Rabbi Yitzhak Witty**, director, Albert Latner Jewish Public Library, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation, Hendeles Chapel. For information, **Etta Ginsberg McEwan,** co-ordinator 416-944-3359.

THOUGHT AND PRACTICE

The Jewish Health Alliance, a social and professional network for health care providers, and Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, are sponsoring a lecture, The Lion Meets the Dragon: Exploring the Intersection Between Jewish Thought and Eastern Practice, given by **Rabbi Jordan Cohen** 7:30 p.m. at Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. RSVP 416-208-0610.

And What Else Is New

ETHICAL QUESTIONS

How to respond Jewishly to ethical questions with **Arthur Benjamin**, 4 sessions at Temple Har Zion, Mondays at 7:30 p.m., Jan. 28, Feb. 4, 11 and 18. For information, **Paulette** 416-222-7033.

MEDINA AUDITIONS

Medina Theatre Ensemble is holding auditions for a staged reading of *The Dining Room* written by **A.R. Gurney Jr.**, directed by **Ralph Small**, Monday, Jan. 21. at 15 Hove St., B'nai Brith Building. Members 7-8:30 p.m., non-members 8:35-10 p.m. Résumé and recent photo required. Cold readings are from the script only. No monologue required. Young adults to seniors welcome. **Fran** 416-785-1074.

SINGLE SCENE

Sunday night single scene, the hippest scene to hit Toronto! A perfect opportunity to get a taste of Judaism by listening to dynamic speakers followed by pizza and beer, every Sunday at 7:45 p.m. at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. No RSVP required. 416-785-1107.

YIDDISH GROUP, CLASSES

Yiddish discussion group and conversation classes begin this month. Call the Yiddish hotline at 416-635-2883, ext. 150.

TRADITIONAL MINYAN

Shomer Israel Congregation traditional heimish minyan welcomes all non-affiliated. No dues. Shabbat 9 a.m. Shabbat Minchah study class with **Rabbi Sheldon Schwartz.** Sunday morning minyan 8:30 a.m. 60 Rockford Rd. (behind Rockford Road Public School). **David** 416-256-1600.

HEBREW CLASSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., is taking registration for winter courses for adults, teenagers, preteens, in conversational Hebrew, all levels. Courses run Tuesday mornings Jan. 15-April 16; Wednesday mornings Jan. 16-April 17; Thursday evenings Jan. 17-April 18 and Friday mornings Jan. 18-April 19. Call **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Jan. 10, sing along; Jan. 17 bingo; Jan. 24, lecture by **Ely Shanhav**; Jan. 31, video concert of **Barbra Streisand.** For information **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Casino Rama Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 20; Casino Niagara Feb. 14; membership open for 2002. 416-395-7881.

LZA seniors Club has only a few rooms left for the Miami trip. Limited number of rooms available for 4 and 6 weeks. For information **Libby** 416-782-2059 or **Stanley** 905-669-1347. The Borochov Cultural Centre is open for socializing Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. For information, call the office 416-782-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Sleep/Wake Disorders Group features **Nancy Hunter**, certified hypnotherapist and registered art psychotherapist, presenting A New Rested You: Hypnotherapy and Sleep/Wake Disorders, Tuesday, Jan. 15, 1:15-2:15 p.m. For information, **Joan Turner** ext. 126.

Parkinson's Support Group for people with Parkinson's disease and their caregivers meets Tuesday, Jan. 15, 1:15 p.m. **Janice Stober**, clinical social work, facilitates an interactive session on Shifting Relationships: How Illness Affects Marriage and Family Life. For information, **Ruth** ext. 105.

The Monarchy: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, with **Hugh Innis** of Ryerson University, Jan. 15-22. 10-11:30 a.m.

Wellness Lecture series presents **Inna Rapoport**, nursing student, York University, discussing A Happy Foot is a Healthy Foot: How to Prevent Foot Problems, Thursday, Jan. 17, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Jan. 15, lecture; Jan. 22, concert; Jan. 29, Tu b'Shvat party. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *The Wedding Planner*, Sunday, Jan. 13, 2:30 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Jan. 16, 8 p.m., cello and guitar concert with **Daniel** and **Carey Domb**. Ext. 228.

Jan. 17 at Koffler Gallery, new art shows, Playthings, **Catherine Widgery,** and Sound Bites, **Kelly Mark**. Artist's talk 6 p.m., opening reception 7-9 p.m. Both shows run to March 3. Ext. 380.

Jan. 27, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Museum. A Tu b'Shvat event. Plant herbs, learn more about different kinds of leaves and trees, play tree games, sing songs about trees. Ext. 456.

Feb. 10 and Feb. 17, noon to 2:30 p.m., Purim workshop at the Jewish Discovery Museum. This is a 2-part mask-making workshop. Children create masks of their favourite Purim characters and other masks of their choice. For ages 7-10 years. Pre-register. Ext. 284.

Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Purim event at Jewish Discovery Museum. Ext. 456.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

HADASSAH-WIZO MEETING: Pictured at the recent Toronto Hadassah-WIZO general meeting to celebrate the International Year of Volunteers 2001 are (from left) Carol Lou Spiegel, past president, Beverley Crackower, president, MP Jim Peterson, guest speaker, and Judy Zelikovitz, vice-president.

Toronto Jewish Film Society 2002 season starts Jan. 13. Memberships on sale at the JCC.

Good Age Club programs:

Thursday, Jan. 10, 1:30 p.m. Rakugo, Japanese traditional comedy. Volunteer **Sohei Takeda** acts out some funny vignettes

Thursday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m., Traditional Chinese medicine with **Hugo Ramiro**. Learn about ancient healing remedies.

ABOUT PEOPLE

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT

The David & Eunice Mouckley Endowment Fund, created to honour the late David Mouckley, past president of Jewish Vocational Service 1969-71, was established to support the training and education of a worthy JVS client to help them accomplish their career goals. The recipient of this year's David & Eunice Mouckley Scholarship is Elena Gurakova, a single mother of three children who immigrated to Canada from Israel in 1996 (she is originally from Russia). She is currently enrolled as a part-time student in the early childhood education program at Seneca College and supports herself working as a substitute teaching assistant at a day-care centre. Pictured below, Gurakova receives her scholarship cheque from Jeff Mouckley at the recent JVS annual general meeting.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 16

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Any kitchen can be made kosher, rabbi says

BY MICHAEL JACKMAN
Special to The CJN

Ann Huttner has always had a kosher kitchen. She's also a vegetarian. But fiancé David Miller is a carnivore, which called for sweeping changes in their kitchen. Literally.

Huttner and Miller spent a recent Sunday in Louisville, Ky., sweeping, sponging, labelling and rearranging. The work was necessary, not only to accommodate his kitchenware, but to maintain the kosher status of the kitchen by properly separating meat and dairy, as well as dishes and containers used to serve, eat and store them.

"Luckily, we have plenty of space," Huttner said.

Space is the most pressing concern for people who want to conform to Jewish dietary laws. It's the number 1 reason to remodel a kosher kitchen.

Polly and Andrew Adler, also of Louisville, found themselves in a space quandary when they remodelled their kitchen last August.

"We just got more cabinet space; that's what we needed," Polly Adler said.

Prior to the renovation, she had to store all their meat dishes in the hall and laundry closets.

"It's still not big enough to keep everything in there," she said. "I still have to keep my meat silverware and some other items in the china cabinet."

Once space needs have been taken care of, the next thing to consider is appliances.

Some people who are stricter in their observance have two sets of appliances such as dishwashers. They also wash dairy and meat dishes in separate sinks and put them on separate counters.

It's not necessary to have two stove tops because they use a direct flame and are much easier to kosher, said Rabbi Avrohom Litvin of Louisville's Congregation Anshei Sfard.

"Therefore, the same stove is most often used for both," Rabbi Litzin said.

If you're thinking that redecorating to be kosher can cost a bundle, you're right.

"It's expensive," Adler admitted.

The Adlers use only one dishwasher, but just for dairy. They would have used it for both had the racks inside been made of stainless steel. They didn't feel the porous plastic met their requirements for materials that could be neutralized by heat. Unfortunately, that means hand washing all the meat dishes. Or using disposables.

"Hand washing the dishes is a little bit tedious, especially when you have two kids," said Adler, who recently gave birth to her second child. "So we end up using a lot of paper and plastic, which is not great for the environment, but it's good for mommy, because mommy doesn't have to hand wash the dishes."

They also use one oven. The new unit is self-cleaning, and the extremely high temperature of the self-cleaning cycle makes it easier for her to kosher the oven for Passover.

It may sound like a lot of work, but people who keep kosher say they enjoy many benefits.

"It's a spiritual thing," Adler said. "It's an act of faith you take because you feel strongly about being a part of the Jewish community, and it makes you a part of the Jewish community in a way that we felt was important to us.

"It brings God into it in a way that wouldn't be there if you didn't have to think about everything you put in your mouth," she added.

There's also a practical element when living in a Jewish community.

In order to fulfil the mitzvah of hospitality and to entertain friends and family, Weissbach "didn't want any Jew to have to say to us, 'I can't eat in your house.'

"But at least we wanted to give them a fighting chance," he said, laughing.

You might think from all this that keeping kosher is too hard, but it's not.

"Basically, any kitchen can be made kosher," Rabbi Litvin said, "and kosher can be made in just about any kitchen."

Adler agrees. "It's not difficult once it's installed," she said. "Once it's done, it's just automatic, you don't think about it."

"It feels good," Weissbach said simply, adding, "Our culture has kept kosher for about 3,000 years; we don't really have the right to stop."

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CJ Food

Vegetarians can enjoy pareve recipes too

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Eileen Goltz, a U.S. caterer, food writer and cooking teacher, got her love of cooking genetically.

"I've been cooking since I was old enough to hold on to a spoon. My sister and I were the chopped liver grinders and gefilte fish choppers from a very early age," says Goltz, author of the recently released *Perfectly Pareve* and a freelance food writer for *The CJN*.

"There is an old joke about the Jewish holidays, she says. "It's either feasting or fasting, but either way it's all about food.

"Jews around the world seem to end up at a meal at some time during any holiday. I would say that next to praying and studying together, eating together as a family or community is one of the strongest ties that bind us together," she says.

Goltz graduated from the Cordon Bleu Cooking School in Paris, France, where her teachers "were big on classic French cooking.

"Nouveau cuisine had yet to be invented and everything was about cream, butter and eggs. They felt that once everyone in the class had mastered the basics, we would be able to create, invent and explore any avenue of taste that intrigued us. What I wanted was to create great kosher recipes."

Her catering business began by accident, she says, when she moved to Fort Wayne, Ind., about 24 years ago.

"I started helping friends and family plan for bar mitzvahs and weddings, and eventually I was asked to cater a private party. It grew from there.

"I often cater kosher events for corporations that have several executives who require kosher meals. They prefer that the entire event be kosher, so everyone is served the same meal," she says.

A confessed chocoholic, Goltz also "adores cookies and bread, and don't forget French fries and portabello mushrooms and...

"I love to bake, but not bread. A very poorly kept secret is that no one ever wants me to bake challah. I can never make it come out right, no matter whose recipe I try."

The idea for a cookbook, which she began writing about seven years ago, came about when she began searching for pareve recipes for a catered wedding.

"I realized that I had collected some great recipes that anyone could use. I knew my vegetarian friends would love them."

She shares the following recipes:

WILD RICE SOUP

This is a nice twist on an old classic. You can add exotic mushrooms and give it an unusual flavour.

1 lb. halved or quartered mushrooms
4 medium potatoes, cubed
2 chopped onions
1/3 cup shredded carrots
1 tbsp. dried parsley
8-10 cups vegetable broth

In a large pot, combine all the ingredients. Mix well. Bring to a boil. Reduce flame and cover. Simmer 40-60 minutes. Makes 8-10 servings.

BEEFLESS STEW

This is a hearty, full-bodied stew.

2 tsp. olive oil
2-3 crushed garlic cloves
15 small boiling onions cut in half lengthwise
1 lb. peeled baby carrots
1 cup celery cut into 1-in. chunks
3 medium potatoes peeled and cut into 1-in. cubes
1 cup frozen peas
1 cup frozen corn
1 cup tomato sauce
1/4 to 1/3 cup onion soup mix
1 cup water
1/2 cup red wine
1 tsp. thyme
1 bay leaf
8 oz. extra firm tofu cut into 1-in. cubes
1/2 tsp. black pepper, freshly ground
3 tbsp. all-purpose flour
1/4 cup water

Continued on page 22

LifeStyle

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Vegetarians can enjoy pareve recipes too

Continued from page 21

Heat oil in a large, heavy saucepan over a medium heat. Add the garlic, onions, baby carrots, celery and potatoes. Cook for 10 minutes, stirring frequently. Add the remaining ingredients except the flour and 1/4 cup water. If necessary, add extra water so that all the ingredients are covered. Cover, reduce heat and simmer for about 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender, stirring occasionally.

In a small bowl, mix flour with the 1/4 cup water until smooth. Add to the stew, stirring constantly until the liquid of the stew thickens. Remove and discard bay leaf before serving. Serve over rice or noodles. Makes 6-8 servings.

BEANS AND CORN SAUTE

1 tbsp. olive oil
1 medium onion, diced
2 cups cooked lima beans
2 cups fresh string beans steamed
1 cup chopped, seeded tomatoes
1/2 cup whole kernel corn
1/2 tsp. paprika
dash cayenne pepper
2 1/2 tsp. salt (optional)

In a large skillet, heat the oil and saute the onion until golden brown. Add the other ingredients and toss well until thoroughly heated, about 5 minutes. Remove from the heat and serve immediately. You can double or triple this recipe. Makes 4 servings.

OATMEAL DATE BARS

Filling:
2 cups chopped dates
grated rind of 1/2 orange
1/4 cup cold water
2 tbsp. orange juice
2 tbsp. brown sugar
1 tsp. lemon juice

Crust:
1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
1 cup soft margarine
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 1/2 cups oats

Make filling first. In a medium saucepan, combine the dates, water, orange rind and brown sugar. Cook over medium heat until thick and smooth, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and add fruit juices. Mix well and set aside to let cool. It must be cool before you spread it.

Preheat oven to 325. In a bowl, combine the flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add the margarine and mix it in with a fork or in a food processor.

Add the brown sugar and oats. Mix well (with fork or food processor). Spread half the crumbs in a greased shallow 9 x 13-in. pan and pat to smooth.

Cover with cooled filling, spreading evenly and then layer the remaining crumbs on top. Pat smooth. Bake for 30-35 minutes. Increase heat to 350 for an additional 5 minutes to lightly brown the top. Cut into squares while hot and allow the bars to cool in the pan. Makes 32 squares.

The Annual General Meeting of Jewish Campus Services will take place on Monday, January 28th, 2002 at the Lipa Green Building, Room #421 at 7:30 p.m.

Friends and Supporters of the organization are encouraged to attend. Please advise Rachel at 416-785-1465 if you will be joining us.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

י י ד י ש ־ ו י נ ק ל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

אַן איבערבליק איבערן יאָר 2001

פֿון בענן ג. חפֿץ

דאָס איז דאָס ערשטע אַרטיקל פֿון נייַעם יאָר 2002 אָן עס איז טאַדיצייַגעל צו מאַכן אַן איבערבליק איבער דעם פֿאַרגאַנגענעם יאָר, וואָס האָט אונדז ערשט פֿאָר־לאָזט. דעם אמת געמאַגט האָט קיינער נישט געלאָזט קיין טרער, וואָס 2001 איז געקומען צום סוף. קיין גרויס מזת האָבן מיר, יידן, נישט געשעפט אין דעם יאָר. אָן לאָמיר צוגעבן, אַז די רעשט פֿון דער וועלט האָט אויך נישט שטאַרק הנאה געהאַט דערפֿון. ספּעציעל איז עס געווען אַ שווער יאָר פֿאַר אונדזערע שכנים אין אַמעריקע.

עס זייַנען יערן גוט באַקאַנט די געשעענישן אין די לעצטע 4 חדשים פֿון יאָר, וואָס האָט זיך געוואַנדיקט מיט אַ מלחמה אין אַפֿגאַניסטאַן. אַמעריקע בשותפֿות מיט אַנדערע מערב־מלוכות, זייַנען אַרויס אין אַ מלחמה קעגן דער טאַליבאַן־רעזשים אין אַפֿגאַניסטאַן, וואָס האָט געבן אַ מקום־מקלט צו אָסאַמאַ בין לאַדען און זייַנע אַל־קיידאַ טעראָריסטן. ווען די ווערטער ווערן געשריבן האָלט שוין באַלד בייַם סוף פֿון דער מלחמה, אָבער עס איז נישט באַקאַנט, וואָס עס וועט זיך וויַטער.

טויזנטער קרבנות זייַנען געפֿאַלן אין די טעראָריסטישע אנפֿאַלן, און נישט בלויז אַמעריקאַנער בירגער. צווישן זיי זייַנען געווען בירגער פֿון אַ סך מדינות, אַריינגערעכנט יידן און ישׂראלים.

אין מדינת ישׂראל זייַנען די לעצטע חדשים פֿון יאָר געווען בלוטיקע אין פֿול מיט קרבנות. אַ צאָל ישׂראלים זייַנען אומגעקומען אין צווייַ טראַפֿלאַקראַכן. 66 זייַנען אומגעקומען אויף זייער וועג פֿון ישׂראל קיין נאַוואָסיבירסק. עטלעכע זייַנען אומגעקומען אין טראַפֿלאַקראַך אין שווייצאַריע.

אין לאַנד גופא האָבן די מערדעריש חאַמאַס־טעראָריסטן דערמאָרדעט אין לעצטן חודש אינער דרייַ צעוודלקער אומשולדיקע ישׂראל־בירגער, ינג און אַלט. די מערסטע דעמאָקראַטישע מלוכה־פֿירערס האָבן שוין געטאַדלט יאַסיר אַראַפֿאַט און זיין רעזשים, פֿאַר געבן די טעראָריסטן אַ פֿרייַע האַנט. די ישׂראל־באַפֿעלקערונג האָט געפֿאַדערט נקמה און די רעגירונג איז זיי נאָכגעקומען דורך אָנגריפֿן די טעראָריסטן. שווער פֿאַרויסצוזאָגן דעם סוף פֿון דעם אינטשקן קאַנפֿליקט.

דער יידישער ישוב האָט במשך פֿון יאָר פֿאַרלוירן אַ צאָל אָנגעזעענע פֿערזענלעכקייטן. צווישן זיי זייַנען:

דער ענציקלאָפּעדיסט־וידטוואָז **אייזיק שטערן** (81 יאָר), אייַנער פֿון די לעצטע רוסיש־געבוירענע קינסטלער.

מעט קאַהאַן, מחבר פֿון ראָמאַנען, וואָס באַשרייבט דאָס לעבן פֿון די אייַנוואַנדער פֿון קינגסטאַן, אָנטעריאָ, און אומגעגנט. נאָך זיין טויט איז אים פֿרעזענטירט גע־וואָרן די פּרעמיע פֿון גאַווערנאָר־דזשענעראַל.

מרדכי ריטשלער (72 יאָר). איז אַנטוויִיִקט האָט ער איז זייַנע ביכער געהאַנדלט פֿון די מאַנטראַלער יידן. ער איז שפּעטער שטאַרק פֿאָפּולער געוואָרן אין בייַ זיין טויט האָט מען אים געהאַלטן וויַ אַ קולטור־העלד.

מאיר ניד־עבערגער (90 יאָר), אַ זון פֿון אַ סופֿר אין קראַקע. ער איז געווען אַ זשורנאַליסט אין פּוילישן שפּראַך: ענגליש, יידיש, עבֿרית, פּלעמיש און פֿראַנצויזיש. געווען רעדאַקטאָר פֿון „מאָרגן־זשורנאַל" אין ניו־יאָרק, און אויך פֿון „קעגעדיקן דושפּיש ניוס" אין טאָראָנטאָ.

פֿראָ' בענן לאַפֿף (85 יאָר) אין נתניה, ישׂראל, ווו ער האָט געוווינט זינט 1970. מחבר פֿון בוך וועגן אריינבראַנגען מלחמה קרבנות קיין קאַנאַדע. ער איז געווען אַקטיוו אין פּועלי ציון אין קאַנאַדע, און איז געווען עקזעקוטיוו דירעקטאָר פֿון קאַנ. יידישן קאָנגרעס, אָנטעריאָ ראַיאָן.

אַבֿא באַיטוסקי (80 יאָר), אַן אינערקענטער מאָלער, וואָס האָט זייער אָפּט געוואַנט יידיש־היסטאָרישע טעמעס פֿאַר זיינע געמעלן.

לואי מולשטאַק (94 יאָר), אַ מאָלער, וואָס האָט באַקומען פּרעמיעס פֿאַר זיין אַרבעט. געבוירן אין נאַראַ־יעוו, אַ לאַנדסמאַן פֿון משה נאַדיר.

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Zinni sees a 'real' chance for progress

By ALUF BENN and DALIA SHEHORI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — U.S. Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni summed up his recent visit to the region, saying that alongside serious challenges, it is clear that there are real opportunities for progress.

Zinni, who completed his visit Sunday and returned to Washington, will return to the region on Jan. 18 for another round of talks to assess each side's readiness for the implementation of the Tenet report.

Zinni convened the joint Israeli-Palestinian security meeting Sunday and proposed the implementation of a plan that involves mutual steps to attain a cease-fire, as agreed upon in a meeting between Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat in late September.

Zinni described the meeting as "positive and constructive." He asked the Israelis and Palestinians to continue the security meetings with or without an American presence, in order to formulate practical steps to increase security co-operation and to plan the implementation of the Tenet report "at the right time."

Zinni told Arafat on Saturday that he must not only reduce the number of terror attacks, but must also take measures against the terror infrastructure, and that almost nothing has yet been done in this area. According to Zinni, the PA must deal with the "ideological basis" of the terror organizations, their commanders and the types of weapons they use.

"Every time I come to the region, Israel makes a gesture; it's time you also made a gesture," Zinni said to Arafat regarding Palestinian efforts to arm themselves.

In meetings Sunday with Peres and Israel President Moshe Katsav, Zinni asked Israel to continue to ease restrictions on the Palestinian population in the territories. It is important, he said, that economic measures accompany the security measures, and that this would facilitate the implementation of the Tenet report. Zinni told Katsav that the easing of restrictions helped considerably to improve the atmosphere and serves as a positive sign, especially to the Palestinian population, which is looking for a ray of light for the future. But, Zinni added, Israel must show further signs of goodwill – for example, allowing the transfer of vegetables from Jericho to Ramallah.

Zinni did not comment on Israel's seizure of the arms ship Karine A. He rejected a request from senior PA officials to set up a three-way Israel-Palestinian-American investigation to look into the affair. The matter must be dealt with directly by the Israelis and the Palestinians, without American intervention, Zinni said. But, he said, the seizure of the arms ship should not interfere with continued efforts to create conditions for the implementation of the Tenet report and a cease-fire.

Zinni did not say how many days a cease-fire would have to be maintained before the plan could be implemented. But he emphasized that the continued reduction in the level of terror and the normalization of life in the West Bank and Gaza should be viewed as a process leading to implementation of the Tenet report.

U.S. Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni speaks with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. [RNS photo]

The capture took months to plan

By Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Staff

EILAT — The capture of the ship Karine A took only a short time, but it was months in the planning.

It essentially began several months ago, when naval intelligence discovered that the Palestinian Authority (PA) had secretly purchased a 4,000-ton cargo ship. The IDF promptly began monitoring the ship's activities, and it soon discovered that the vessel was being operated by some of the same people involved in the PA's failed attempt to smuggle arms from Lebanon to Gaza by sea six months ago.

A few weeks ago, the ship, which sailed under the flag of Tonga, reached the Persian Gulf and anchored off the Iranian isle of Kish, north of Dubai. There it took on its cargo of weapons. It then stopped in Yemen, where crew members said it was supposed to take on more arms, but for some reason did not. It was then supposed to traverse the Red Sea, go through the Suez Canal, unload its cargo off the Gazan coast and then proceed to Bulgaria for repairs.

Three weeks ago, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon approved the interception operation – dubbed Operation Noah's Ark – during a nighttime visit to his residence in Jerusalem by the IDF's top brass. The time and place for this meeting were chosen to avoid attracting attention that could compromise the operation. Defense Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer also approved the plan.

The IDF decided to perform the interception in the Red Sea, in international waters located between Sudan and Saudi Arabia, in order to avoid conducting it off the Egyptian coast – which would risk both a political crisis with Egypt and interference by the Egyptian fleet. Army sources said this distance to the target was the one real difficulty in the operation, as it necessitated large air forces, including midair refueling.

The operation formally began early last week, when naval boats set off for the Red Sea from Eilat, carrying the naval commandos who would comprise the actual boarding party. Then, a few hours before the planned interception, the airborne forces – comprising fighter planes, combat helicopters, spy planes and midair refueling jets – took off from Israel.

Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz cancelled a planned trip to Washington at the last minute last week in order to oversee the operation from an airborne command post, along with the commanders-in-chief of the navy and air force, Maj.-Gens. Yedidia Ya'ari and Dan Halutz.

The actual operation took place early last Thursday morning, after last-minute photographs from one of the spy planes confirmed that this was indeed the Karine A. But it lasted only moments, as the boarding party encountered no resistance from the crew. Only three crew members were even awake, and not a shot was fired on either side.

Shin Bet investigators promptly began interrogating the crew, while Israeli sailors put the ship on course for Eilat. It arrived last Friday afternoon, and the unloading of its cargo began.

TRAVEL Israel

A Land Beyond Description

Welcome to **Travel Israel**, our new weekly feature on one of the world's most magnificent countries.

She is fifty times smaller than Ontario. Barely a dot on a worldwide map. But Israel is more than the headlines surrounding her name, more emotionally powerful than any destination on earth. Israel houses the Jewish soul. From Metulla to Eilat, from the Mediterranean coast to the Jordan River Valley, **visiting Israel is an inspiring experience.**

Israel is easy to reach and only half a day away primarily via **El Al** or **Air Canada**, which offer direct and non-stop flights from Toronto. Consult your travel agent for the best airline schedule and fares to suit your needs. Once in Israel, both car rentals and all-inclusive, secure pre-packaged bus tours by companies such as Egged (www.eggedtours.co.il) are plentiful.

And speaking of tours, many Jewish organizations conduct well-priced, popular, packaged missions to Israel. Contact us at the **Israel Government Tourist Office** for more information.

Next week, we'll do what many Canadians enjoy once winter begins –head south for a look at the **Eilat** area.

Travel Israel is produced and sponsored by the Israel Government Tourist Office.
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Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce
The Sixth Annual
Passover Literary Supplement.

We invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works. The works must be previously unpublished, original fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words.

We must receive your submissions
no later than Feb. 15, 2002
at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4.

If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so. *The editor.*

CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our seventh annual Purim Art Contest.

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 21. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However, they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colourful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2002. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of colour, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 8, 2002.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 21, 2002.

Saudis help Hamas with rocket project

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Hamas operatives in Saudi Arabia have been sending money, instructions and information to their colleagues in Gaza for their Kassam rocket-development project, the Shin Bet security service has revealed.

The information was elicited from a liaison between the two groups who was recently arrested and interrogated.

The Kassam, developed to provide a longer-range alternative to mortar shells, was fired in Gaza for the first time three months ago. Since then, Hamas has used it against Israeli settlements at least 10 times. It carries a one-kilogram warhead and has a range of 1.5 to three kilometres.

However, Israel has learned that an improved version, with a range of up to five kilometres, is already in the advanced stages of development. Fired from the Gaza Strip, such a rocket could reach the southern suburbs of Ashkelon.

Defence sources said that Hamas is trying to develop a threat against southern towns, similar to what Hezbollah achieved in the north with the use of its Katyusha rockets.

The Hamas liaison with Saudi Arabia, Osama Zuhari Hamad Krika'a, is a 27-year-old resident of Gaza City. He was arrested at the Rafah border crossing on Dec. 18, while en route to Saudi Arabia.

Krika'a told his interrogators that he had joined Hamas last August and had been sent to Saudi Arabia for the first time in September. The cover for his trip was a pilgrimage to Mecca. While there, he delivered messages to local Hamas activists and was given money to bring back to Gaza.

In December, Krika'a was asked to go to Saudi Arabia again, using the cover story of a medical problem that required special treatment. But he was arrested by the Shin Bet, which found large quantities of information about the Kassam project on his person.

Krika'a told his interrogators that once the rocket was operational, instructions for making it would have been transferred to Hamas cells on the West Bank so that cities in central Israel could also be threatened. The West Bank's "arms industry" is considered less sophisticated than Gaza's.

One of the project's co-ordinators was Adnan al-Rul, who is also high on Israel's wanted list. Al-Rul is considered an expert in preparing weapons, including rockets, mortars and bombs. Another key figure is Nidal Frihat, who recruited Krika'a. Shin Bet officials said that Israel had asked the Palestinian Authority to arrest Frihat several times, but it had not done so.

This is not the first time information and money has been smuggled to terrorist groups in the territories from Arab states. Hamas has frequently received assistance in upgrading its weapons from graduates of engineering colleges in these states.

Israel asks U.S. to strike western Iraq first if it fights Saddam

By AMIR OREN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer paid a visit to the secretive Ness Ziona Biological Institute last week.

It appears one of the main subjects of the briefing was the concern about a possible attack by Iraq, with unconventional payloads delivered by either missiles or planes.

According to security sources participating in Israeli preparations for a possible American move on Iraq, any decision by U.S. President George W. Bush makes about when to attack Iraq depends on three main elements: building the case against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, including charges and evidence; identifying an alternative ruler; and building up the forces that will execute the attack.

The defence establishment here believes the Bush administration has given up trying to find an Iraqi version of Afghanistan's Northern Alliance. Instead, Washington is studying intelligence profiles of top Iraqi army commanders who could take control in Baghdad concurrent with or immediately after the start of an American campaign.

In a U.S. attack, Saddam won't hurry to attack Israel, say defence sources, because, among other reasons, he won't want to expose the weaponry that he managed to hide – and deny he had hidden – over the past decade.

Unlike the spring of 1990, when Saddam was already threatening to "burn half of Israel" (before he invaded Kuwait) if attacked, no such threats toward Israel have been coming out of Baghdad, the sources say.

But if Saddam concludes that the Americans are about to topple him, he'll try to attack Israel with a barrage of missiles or airplanes. Topping Israel's worries are a possible ground-to-ground missile attack, with chemical or biological payloads.

The defence establishment believes that much lower on the list of possibilities is Iraq sending pilots on suicide missions, whether to drop non-conventional payloads, or to crash their planes. The loyalty of Iraqi pilots to Saddam, and their readiness to die for him while his regime is crumbling, is not a certainty.

In contacts between Israeli and American defence officials over the past few weeks, Pentagon representatives were asked to plan their operations in Iraq in such a way as to minimize the Iraqi ability to move missile launchers into western Iraq, from which missiles can reach Israel. The Americans were told that Israel expects them to conduct operations, including on the ground, in western Iraq from the start of a campaign, and not to wait until Iraq starts launching missile attacks on Israel, as happened in 1991. Israeli officials say they believe the Pentagon will accede to this request.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, is very interested in the technologies, weapons systems and military doctrines that have been developed in Israel over the past few years. Israeli defence officials and representatives, led by Defence Ministry Director-General Amos Yaron, and including head of weapons development and technology infrastructure Maj.-Gen. Yitzhak Ben-Israel, met with American officials in Washington and showed videos demonstrating examples of Israel's policy of "pinpoint targeting" in the West Bank and Gaza. The emphasis was on combat helicopter attacks that caused no collateral damage to anything other than the target, even if civilians were in the area.

American air force and special operations officers visited Israel to learn about pinpoint targeting from Israel Defence Forces special operations commanders. The Americans were offered Israeli assistance in many areas, including inoculations against anthrax.

PA centre of terror: Sharon

Continued from page 1

"Arafat chooses to purchase long-range Katyushas instead of education for the children. Arafat chooses to purchase mortars instead of investing the money in creating jobs. Arafat chooses to invest tens of millions of dollars in missiles, mines and rifles, instead of investing them in the welfare of his people."

IDF Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz said the vessel was supposed to make another stop before it was to land in the Gaza Strip, but he did not specify the location. He said that upon arrival the weapons would have been transported from the Gaza Strip to the West Bank.

The American navy attache, Roger Bass, who was in Eilat, said that he was under the impression that the weapons cargo was intended for the PA.

Top political advisor to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Osama al-Baz, said Sunday in Cairo that if it was proven the Palestinian Authority was behind the smuggling attempt, then it was a serious blow to the peace process.

Zinni returns to the Mideast for round 2

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Recalled on Dec. 16 after failing to persuade the Palestinians and Israel to abide by a formal ceasefire, Anthony Zinni, the U.S. special envoy to the Mideast, returned to the region last week for another round of peacemaking.

His goals were two-fold: to urge the Palestinian Authority (PA) to take stronger steps against homegrown terrorism and to convince Israel to ease its maze of security restrictions on the Palestinians.

Mideast Analysis

Zinni spent three weeks in Israel and the Palestinian autonomous areas in November and December, hoping to enlist both sides to observe the Tenet understandings. He failed miserably. More than 40 Israelis were killed during his mission, ostensibly designed to defuse the 15-month-old intifadah.

Last June, George Tenet, the director of the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, worked out an agreement specifying how Israel and the PA could reach a ceasefire and begin implementing the Mitchell report, released on April 30.

Under the Mitchell framework, named after retired U.S. senator George Mitchell, a truce would be followed by cooling off and confidence-building periods, then by a resumption of bilateral talks. Israel broke off final-status negotiations with the PA last January, on the eve of its general election.

When Zinni arrived in Jerusalem on Nov. 26, the area was boiling over. Israel had just hunted down and killed Mahmoud Abu Hanoud, a Hamas military leader in the West Bank, and the Palestinians had retaliated by shelling Jewish settlements and Israeli army outposts in the Gaza Strip. In one mortar barrage on Nov. 25, an Israeli reservist was hit, the first fatality of its kind since the outbreak of the uprising.

Immediately after Zinni's arrival, five Palestinian boys set off an Israeli booby-trap in Gaza with fatal consequences, and Hamas gunmen murdered two Israeli civilians in Afula. On the day Zinni met PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in Gaza, an Israeli women was slain in an ambush near Gush Katif. Zinni called for an end to the violence – Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon insists on a week of complete calm before the Tenet plan kicks in – but on Dec. 1 and 2, Hamas suicide bombers detonated bombs in Jerusalem and Haifa, killing 26 civilians. Shortly afterward, an Israeli nuclear researcher was cut down in Gaza.

After blaming Arafat for the bombings, Sharon went on the offensive. Israel destroyed Arafat's fleet of helicopters, plowed up Gaza airport's runway, bombed PA facilities, tightened the existing closure and besieged Nablus and Ramallah. Subsequently, the Israeli cabinet declared the PA "an entity that supports terrorism."

Pounded by Israel, and relentlessly pressured by the United States, the European Union and the United Nations, Arafat placed Ahmed Yassin, Hamas' spiritual leader, under house arrest. Arafat also began arresting Hamas and Islamic Jihad functionaries and closing their offices. These developments led to serious intra-Palestinian clashes. Claiming that Arafat was still holding back, Sharon ordered F-16s to bomb a Gaza mortar factory.

On Dec. 13, Hamas terrorists killed 10 Israeli Jews in a bus ambush near the West Bank settlement of Emmanuel, bringing to 242 the number of Israelis who have died in the intifadah. Sharon broke all contacts with Arafat, declaring him "irrelevant." When Israel bombed PA buildings and bases, the PA described these attacks as a "declaration of war." Rendered redundant by the surging spiral of violence, Zinni left the region in despair.

In the aftermath of U.S. President George W. Bush's suggestion that Arafat had not cracked down sufficiently hard on terrorism and its infrastructure, Arafat, in Arabic, demanded a complete halt to all armed attacks and suicide bombings. Hamas, reluctantly, agreed to a truce, but not in the territories.

Since then, the level of violence has subsided significantly, and not a single Israeli has been killed by Palestinian fire. (By contrast, 14 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli anti-terror operations.) But the intifadah simmers on, with daily shooting and bombing incidents.

Zinni has his work cut out for him.

The Week in Israel

Dec. 31

• The government announced a campaign to expel illegal foreign workers. Special teams of police and inspectors are aiming to deport 1,000 to 3,000 illegal workers a month.

Jan. 1

• Approximately 300 Jewish students from Argentina, ages 18 to 26, arrived on a 10-day visit under the auspices of the Taglit organization and the Jewish Agency. An additional 200 students are expected to arrive next month.

Jan. 2

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon met with Norwegian Foreign Minister Jan Petersen, telling him that Israel would not conduct diplomatic negotiations under fire. Sharon also told Peterson that the decline in the recent number of terrorist incidents stems from Israel's counter-terrorist operations and international pressure on Palestinan Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Jan. 3

• Egypt began broadcasting Hebrew-language television news programs to Israel.

• The IDF withdrew from Jenin, Nablus and Ramallah. A blockade was also lifted around Hebron and Kalkilya.

• U.S. envoy to the Middle East Anthony Zinni suggested in a meeting with the heads of the Israeli security branches that Israel give up on the demand of seven days of quiet before negotiations can begin anew under the Tenet Document.

Jan. 4

• A ship intended for the PA carrying some 50 tons of weaponry and ammunition was captured in the Red Sea by Israel's Navy and Air Force.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Israel falls out of the headlines

According to Reports

The most interesting fact about Canadian media coverage of Israel around New Year's was its near absence. Why is it noteworthy when Israel, even for a short period, is not deemed all that newsworthy? One answer is that it allows us an opportunity to see Israel and Israeli-Palestinian relations in a global context where the attention is proportionate.

It is not that there has been no news from Israel; indeed, while there has been a drop in violence since Arafat's Dec. 16 call for an end to suicide attacks, there have been violent incidents – albeit, relatively minor ones – almost daily. It is rather that other events around the world have been more newsworthy: the alarming rise in Indian-Pakistani tensions following the suicide terrorist attack on the Indian parliament by Pakistan-based militants; the Argentinian economic meltdown and related political instability; the raging fires in Australia; the continuing hunt for Mullah Omar in Afghanistan, and for Osama bin Laden; even the introduction of Euro bank notes.

Compared to these events, the continuing but distinctly lower-level violence in the West Bank and Gaza – and the absence of any suicide bombing – bumped Israel from the headlines for days. How long will attention to other global issues last? To take one case, *New York Times* columnist Paul Krugman opened his Jan. 1 article on Argentina on this ironic note: "Although images of the riots in Argentina have flickered across our television screens, hardly anyone in the U.S. cares. It's just another disaster in a small, faraway country of which we know nothing – a country as remote and unlikely to affect our lives as, say, Afghanistan."

If Americans hardly care about Argentina, is it any different for Canadians? For that matter how much do they really care about Israel and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? According to a Leger poll conducted in early December, 80 percent of Canadians said they follow the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with 35 percent saying they follow it regularly and 42 percent saying they follow it occasionally. Only 21 percent said they never follow it.

The interesting question is whether eight out of 10 Canadians follow the conflict because of the prominent , and perennial, media attention or whether the media attention reflects inherent Canadian interest. It would also be of interest to learn how Canadian interest in Israeli-Palestinian affairs compares with interest in other regions of the world.

Furthermore, this level of interest must also be considered in light of a Maclean's/CBC year-end poll that found that Canadians are overwhelmingly concerned with health, education and economic issues and that foreign affairs issues rank low on their list of priorities.

Prepared by Paul Michaels of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Storm among South African Jews

By MOIRA SCHNEIDER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

CAPE TOWN, S.A. — A South African Jewish politician has caused a storm in the community by calling for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip and disparaging Jews who disagree with him.

At a public meeting Dec. 7, cabinet minister Ronnie Kasrils launched a petition calling for people "of Jewish descent" to support "justice for Palestine."

Kasrils addressed a group of about 50 supporters under the banner Not In My Name at the District Six Museum, which is named for an area subjected to forced removals under the apartheid government. He lashed out at those in the Jewish community who had been critical of his stance, labelling them "conservative" and "reactionary."

"The declaration is hardly a radical position, it's a universally adopted one," he said. "Our argument is not dealt with by our detractors in South Africa, not even by the learned rabbis of the beit din [rabbinical court].

"Instead they denounce us in terms of personal vilification."

Kasrils' call, which attempts to link the suffering of the Palestinians to the treatment of black South Africans under apartheid, is creating rifts in what is normally a united Jewish community.

Mervyn Smith, immediate past president of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, said he has no problem with the issue being aired publicly, and believes the controversy has united the community in opposition to Kasrils and his cause.

"I just question why, of all the issues that face South Africa, such massive public prevalence should be given in the media to the South African Jewish attitude toward the Middle East conflict," Smith said. "The publicity has been relentlessly driven by Kasrils."

Responding to the criticisms, Kasrils said at the rally, "The honest and critical debate which was once the hallmark of this Jewish community has withered away under the stifling leadership of conservatives and reactionaries.

"We're neither anti-Israeli nor anti-Jewish. We call for justice and fairness for both" Israelis and Palestinians, Kasrils said. "We unreservedly condemn terrorism in all its forms, whether by the Israeli government [or] Palestinian suicide bombers."

Kasrils drew a parallel between his supporters and Jews who had participated in the struggle against apartheid.

"We may be a minority at present, but change is often started thus: South African history is proof of that," Kasrils said. "The very tiny fraction of us who stood up" in the anti-apartheid struggle "well know how we were shunned by our Jewish community."

Smith, however, expressed cynicism about Kasrils' motives. "What he has done is linked his current campaign simplistically to his years as an apartheid fighter, but the two issues are separate," Smith said. "There's little doubt in the community that it is an overt attempt to gain support among the Muslim community for Kasrils and his party."

In addition, Smith said, Kasrils has misrepresented the Jewish community's position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

"It is preposterous to suggest that the Jewish community is against dialogue and debate on the Middle East issue," Smith said. "Many South African Jews are not happy with some of the policies of the current government of Israel, but it is a far cry from criticizing those policies to declaring oneself hostile and anti-Zionist, as Kasrils has done."

At last month's meeting, however, it appeared that at least some in the Jewish community support Kasrils. Messages of support came from Physicians for Human Rights in Israel and Israeli groups such as Gush Shalom and the Israeli Committee Against Housing Demolitions.

In a follow-up move, Kasrils organized countrywide demonstrations on Dec. 28 in solidarity with Women in Black, an Israeli group that says Israeli-Palestinian violence is caused by Israel's presence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the debate continues in the op-ed pages of the mainstream and Jewish press, anathema to a community who until now presented a united face.

Despite the uproar, Smith does not think the incident will change South African Jewry.

"I feel that the effect of the Kasrils campaign has been to unite the community in the face of unfair and blatantly hostile attacks on Israel, and on the community itself," he said.

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What's New in medicine and health

The following is a selection of brief notes on what's new in medicine and health.

New Drug Therapy for Crohn's

Remicade (infliximab), a new drug for the treatment of Crohn's disease, has been approved by Health Canada.

Double-blind, placebo-controlled trials have shown Remicade to be both safe and effective in treating adult patients who have severe Crohn's disease which has not responded to conventional treatment. It is one of a new class of drugs, called monoclonal antibodies, that have been shown to have excellent potential as drug treatments.

Remicade is given intravenously over a period of two to three hours, once for those with severe, active Crohn's, and three times in those with fistulas. Patients typically see relief within two to six weeks after treatment begins.

Although there are some side effects, including upper respiratory tract infection, headache, nausea, sinusitis, rash and cough, it does not appear to interact with any foods, beverages or other drugs.

Crohn's is a form of inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), in which the gastrointestinal tract becomes inflamed, forms sores, bleeds easily and loses the normal smoothness of its inner lining. If the inflammation penetrates into nearby organs, such as the bladder or vagina, some people develop fistulas, open channels from the bowel wall to the skin or nearby organs, through which fecal matter can drain. These fistulas can cause pockets of infection, which must often be treated surgically.

The cause is unknown, although there is a theory that it is an auto-immune disease.

Cardiac Rehab Program

St. John's Rehabilitation Hospital is offering a six month outpatient program for those with heart disease. It is one of eight new provincial sites providing outpatient cardiac rehabilitation as part of a ministry of health and long-term care pilot project to provide Toronto area residents with better access to treatment for heart disease.

Program physician Murray Waldman says in a media release that the program's goal will be to "help patients prevent the progression of coronary heart disease and help them achieve active, healthy lives."

The program includes supervised exercise; nutritional, psychological and medication counselling; and classes to stop smoking and develop a healthy lifestyle. You are eligible if you have had a recent transplant, heart attack, angioplasty, post-valve replacement, bypass surgery, congestive heart failure or angina. A referral from your family doctor or specialist is necessary. For more information, call the Cardiac Outpatient Rehabilitation Program, 416-224-6953.

Cloning Update

The controversy continues over the report by scientists at Advanced Cell Technology, a Massachusetts biotechnology company, that has cloned human embryos.

Although the original claim was that the research was purely for therapeutic purposes – that is, to generate cells identical to a particular patient's that can be used to treat disease – *Scientific American* magazine reports that several groups have indicated that they are considering reproductive cloning. Creating babies, in other words.

The United States, Canada, and Great Britain, among other countries, are working on legislation to ban reproductive cloning.

Rabbi David Schochet, president of the Vaad Harabonim of Greater Toronto, and Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, president of the Toronto Board of Rabbis, told *The CJN* that while therapeutic cloning was perfectly acceptable to Jewish law, reproductive cloning is contrary to Jewish law.

Iron supplements for children

Stanley Zlotkin, head of the division of gastroenterology and nutrition at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, has been given a three year, $1.2 million grant from the H.J. Heinz Company to support his research into iron supplements for infants, particularly in the developing world.

Zlotkin has developed Supplefer Sprinkles, an iron supplement in the form of tasteless powder granules that can be sprinkled on any food. Currently used treatments, such as iron drops, are considerably more expensive, often have an undesirable taste, and also stain teeth.

Susie Johnson, who presented the award to Zlotkin on behalf of Heinz, described his work as "a major breakthrough in the battle against global childhood anemia due to iron deficiency, a condition that harms fetal health and impairs mental development. More than 30 percent of the world's population are iron deficient."

Zlotkin also received the company's first humanitarian award.

- Compiled by Leila Speisman

AN EVENING WITH HEART: A special dinner was held at the Windsor Arms Hotel to honour and thank the sponsors and patrons of An Evening With Heart – A Tribute Dinner for Dr. Tirone David. David L. Smith and Linda Goldsack, executive co-chairs of the gala, presented a $1.6 million cheque to be shared jointly between the two host foundations, The Canadian Shaare Zedek Hospital Foundation and the Toronto General and Western Hospital Foundation. Prof. Jonathan Halevy, director general of Shaare Zedek Medical Centre, Jerusalem, (far right) and Tom R. Closson (far left), president and CEO, University Health Network, Toronto, accepted the gift on behalf of the two organizations.

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CJKids

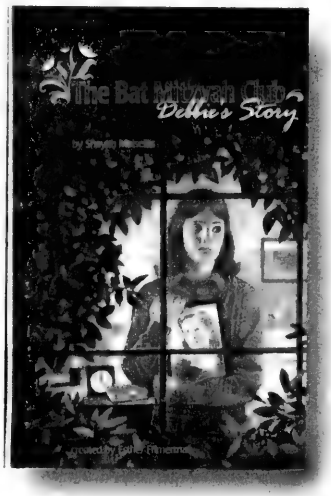
Join the Bat Mitzvah Club

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Preparing for your bar or bat mitzvah celebration can seem like an overwhelming task. Besides having to read from the Torah, for those who do, there is also the speech in front of a crowd of family and friends, and meeting lots and lots of people. It is also the time you become an adult, Jewishly speaking, and are responsible for your own mitzvot.

Sometimes it seems as if a boy's bar mitzvah is more important, but that is not true. Both the bar and bat mitzvah are equally important stages on one's life.

Debbie Solomon, the heroine of *The Bat Mitzvah Club: Debbie's story*, by Shayna Meiseles (Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, 2001) is 11 years old, just months away from becoming bat mitzvah. And she is not happy about it.



Her family has just transferred her and her little sister, Miri, from a public school to a Jewish day school. That isn't so bad, because she catches up with her class very quickly, is doing well in school (except for math!), and has made some really good friends, especially Leah.

She is also one of the best swimmers on the swim team and is hoping to compete in the junior finals.

Everything would be fine, except that her parents keep trying to talk about her bat mitzvah. When she thinks about it, all that comes to mind is Leah's brother David's bar mitzvah, which was a very lavish affair. Besides, she would have to make a speech in front of a whole bunch of guests, and that is very scary.

Just to make matters worse, her parents enroll her in the Bat Mitzvah Club, an after-school program for girls her age. She is not pleased about this – not only will she have to think about becoming bat mitzvah, but it will make her late for swim practice.

When she gets to the club, she is pleasantly surprised. Several of her classmates are there, including Leah, and the teacher, Mrs. Levy, seems to be very nice and makes the class interesting.

As time goes by, the girls discuss what it means to be a bat mitzvah and what it means to be Jewish, and especially a Jewish woman. Debbie had never thought about that much.

Mrs. Levy's describes the bat mitzvah as "the time when your godly soul becomes complete... It's like your soul has been waiting all this time to really show itself and now it saturates you like... water fills a sponge." It was something Debbie had not recognized.

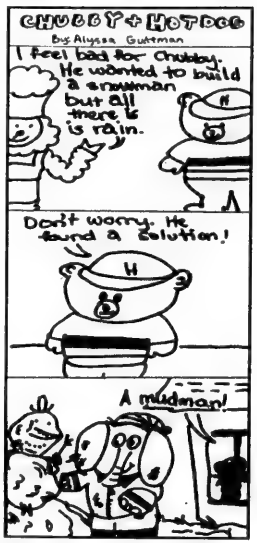
Each girl is given a journal to write their thoughts in, and Debbie finds that she can sometimes express her feelings better in writing than she can to people.

Debbie has to decide what kind of person she wants to be. She doesn't have to go along with the rather harebrained ideas Leah has, and she is entitled to have other friends besides her and make her own decisions. She also realizes that although her little sister can be a pest, she is still her sister.

As Mrs. Levy explains, bat mitzvah is "the time to start training yourself to check in with your mind before you go along with your heart."

When her family realizes how grown up she is becoming, she is let in on a family secret. Her beloved grandmother had an older sister, named Esther. When World War II began, Esther left home and joined the resistance. She was never seen again. The family had tried for many years to find Esther, but finally gave up.

For a school project, Debbie decided to find Esther, a task that would take a lot of time, a lot of work, and a lot of hoping and dreaming.


CHUBBY + HOTDOG
By Alyssa Guttman
I feel bad for Chubby. He wanted to build a snowman but all there is is rain.
Don't worry. He found a solution!
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It meant a lot to her grandmother and her parents that she was trying so hard to unite the family.

When her bat mitzvah came, there was no ice sculpture or big show, just an elegant luncheon, with lots of flowers, close friends and family, and a wonderful surprise.

The Bat Mitzvah Club: Debbie's story is one of a series of books created by Esther Frimerman. You can find it, and other books in the series, at Jewish book stores.

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KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

Eggs for Breakfast?

Rabbi and Mrs. Chanina ben Dosa always did what was right, sometimes with unexpected results. In this story adapted from the Gemarah, they do the mitzvah of ***hashavat aveida*** *(returning lost objects).*

Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa was very poor, like most talmudic scholars of his era, and ours as well. One morning, as his wife was sweeping the front yard of their cottage, she noticed a hen and a rooster tied together by their scrawny legs. She looked around. Whose chickens were these? She wondered who had lost them.

When her husband returned from the *Beit Midrash* (study hall), she showed him the chickens.

"Hmmm..." he said, inspecting them. "We have to announce our find. Put up signs reading: '**Found: Chickens. If they are yours, please come to Rabbi Chanina ben Dosa and identify them.**' Well, dear. bring them in. We'll be having scrambled eggs for breakfast tomorrow!"

"We can't cook their eggs!" exclaimed his wife. "We'd be stealing from the owners. After all, if the eggs hatch, the chicks would belong to whoever lost the chickens. We've just got to let them hatch."

And hatch they did. Soon their tiny cottage was full of squawking, hopping, hungry chickens, which gobbled up the feed that Rabbi Chanina bought for them.

"Enough!" his wife finally pleaded. "All these chickens will eat us out of house and home! And the owner hasn't shown up yet. It's been months already!"

Rabbi Chanina agreed. He scooped the chickens into a large crate, and shlepped it to the marketplace. "Chickens! Chickens! Does anybody want to buy delicious, nutritious chickens? Fresh, healthy, and tasty! Enough to feed your family for half a year!"

"Chickens, eh?" inquired an old man leading some goats to a fountain. "You want to sell 'em?"

"Yes."

"Hmmm... I'll give you a hundred... oh, I left my money belt at home.... Ah, we could use some chickens, the wife and me. Hey, want to trade 'em? I'll give you these goats for 'em."

"Sure!" agreed Rabbi Chanina, relieved that now he would have something easier to take care of. He returned home with the goats, and built a small enclosure for them. They also began to multiply, until he had a full-sized goat farm on his hands.

Years passed. One day a traveller came to town. His clothing was ragged, and he had wandered from place to place begging for food. Tired and hungry, he sat down by Rabbi Chanina's front gate and looked around. "**RABBI CHANINA'S GOAT FARM**," screamed the large sign in front of him.

"I don't remember a goat farm here." he muttered to himself.

Mrs. ben Dosa came out and invited him to dinner.

"But this all seems familiar," he mused. "Wonder why... oh, yes, I lost my chickens here a couple o' years ago. My life's savings... never saw 'em again."

"What?" exclaimed Mrs. ben Dosa. "You did?"

The traveller continued. "A rooster and a hen, feet tied together. Ah... they're gone for good now."

"Chanina!" she called.

"Yes?" answered Chanina, appearing at the doorway.

"This man lost the chickens we found."

"You found 'em? Oh, so that's where they went. No wonder. Ah, pity. They must be dead by now."

Rabbi Chanina interjected, "That may be, but that doesn't mean.... Come with me, I want to show you something."

The pauper followed Rabbi Chanina through the gate. Before him hundreds of goats grazed on the tender grass.

"These are yours," said Rabbi Chanina.

"But... but... I lost a couple o' chickens.... This... this... but this is a multi-million dinar establishment!"

"And it is yours."

The speechless former beggar led the goats out of the yard.

"Thank you," he managed to say.

"No," replied Rabbi Chanina. "Thank **you** for enabling my wife and I to do the mitzvah of *hashavat aveida*."

TIME OUT

This story takes place almost 2,000 years ago. How many items can you find in the illustration that were not yet invented?

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By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Mediterraneo 2002, artist and clinical psychologist Dr. Ron Clavier's latest collection of oil paintings and limited edition photographs, is infused with warmth and banishes winter as it recalls locales in Southern France, Italy, Israel and Greece.

Clavier will be showcasing his work later this month in a striking venue, the North Toronto Station. The historic landmark on Yonge Street just south of Summerhill Avenue was once a major stop on the CPR railway line, but was converted to an LCBO retail outlet 60 years ago. Its three-storey high great hall, faced with marble walls featuring extraordinary leaded windows, was concealed by a false ceiling plus well-stocked liquor and wine shelves. Now, for a short time, a section of its former glory will be revealed.

Rosedale Equities and Equifund Corporation, the site's developer, sees the show of Clavier's paintings and photographs as an opportunity for the public to see the station as it used to be and to present architectural plans for the property.

Born in Montreal in 1948, Clavier studied art from early childhood, training for a time with his father, a professional artist who specialized in period scenes of the city's neighbourhoods.

Clavier's figurative pieces explore the unity of human anatomy and the human spirit. His landscapes and waterscapes, both representational and abstract, intensify the colours and forces of nature.

He is versatile and imaginative. His Ariadne focuses on a graceful figure from Greek mythology, gazing out to sea. He brings to life this daughter of Minos and Pasiphae, who gave Theseus the thread that enabled him to escape from the labyrinth. Deserted by Theseus, Ariadne became the bride of Dionysus.

Above all, Clavier's work is evocative. Just look at the worn stone steps in Jaffa and feel your feet descending, perhaps, to an ancient subterranean synagogue, or wonder at the blood red poppies scattered over the hillsides of such places as Netanya and you can almost touch them. An enduring little donkey, led by his master, suggests a sense of patience and devotion as he bears his heavy load with equanimity.

Clavier holds a doctorate in physiological and experimental psychology from Chicago's Northwestern University and for several years taught anatomy to medical students. He also conducted research into brain mechanisms of emotional disturbances.

Ariadne focuses on a graceful figure from Greek mythology, the bride of Dionysus gazing out to sea

In 1981, he joined the faculty of the University of Toronto and trained to practise clinical psychology. Since 1986, he has practised counselling and psychotherapy, focusing mainly on adolescents. Twenty percent of the revenue from the Mediterraneo 2002 exhibit will go to the Council on Drug Abuse.

Clavier lives in Toronto with his wife Lita. They have two daughters, Jessica and Gillian.

Mediterraneo 2002 is at North Toronto Station, 1121 Yonge St., Jan. 19 and 20, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

MEDINA THEATRE SEEKS TALENT

The Medina Theatre Ensemble has scheduled an audition for a staged reading of *The Dining Room*, by **A.R. Gurney. Jr**. Young adults to seniors are welcome to read from the script (no monologues required). Each new participant is asked to supply a resume and recent photo.

B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St., North York. (One block west of Bathurst, north of Sheppard.) Monday Jan. 21. Members 7 to 8:30 p.m., non-members 8:35 to 10 p.m. For details, contact Fran at 416-785-1074 or email medinatheatre@hotmail.com

* * *

Walking to Russia: Toronto playwright **Jonathan Garfinkel's** new play, *Walking to Russia*, previews Jan. 10 and opens Jan. 12. The story involves an elderly Jewish couple, based loosely on the playwright's grandparents, who are haunted by the spirit of their lost daughter.

Garfinkel says he was only peripherally involved in the cast rehearsals that were wrapping up last week. "There are only minor changes to make at this point," he said of the play, his first to go into full production. "I've been wanting to make sure everything is sound so I've been continuing to write, but I think it's just about there."

Garfinkel is also working on a short Holocaust-related play, *The Trials of John Demjanjuk*. Commissioned by the Rhubarb Festival, it is expected to open in February with a four-person cast. The Blythe Festival has also commissioned a play from Garfinkel. "I've got a number of things on the go," he said.

Walking to Russia is being staged at Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace, 16 Ryerson Ave. thru Jan. 27. $25- $18. 416-504-7529.

* * *

Complimentary Comedy: Ten years after it spotlighted a group of female stand-up comics, and helped boost the careers of **Ellen De Generes** and others, the comic documentary film Wisecracks is being given a free screening this week in Toronto.

Ninety minutes of entertainment, Wisecracks offers a highly stimulating and insightful look at many female comics, including stars like *Whoopi Goldberg*, *Phyllis Diller* and *Sandra Shamas*. De Generes has said the film gave her the worldwide exposure necessary to catapult her from the comedy club stage to television and film. Other personalities featured in the film have become major Hollywood producers and writers.

During the showing, director **Gail Singer** intends to film some reaction shots from the audience for use in a new film, *Going to the Movies*.

Monday Jan. 14, Fox Theatre, 2236 Queen St. E. The film starts at 7 p.m., and the filming starts at 6:30 and continues to 8.45 p.m. For reservations, email [going-tothemovies@hotmail.com.]

* * *

Arts Briefs

•Father-and-son entrepreneurs **Ed and David Mirvish** were recently spotted among the pots and pans, crystal glassware and kitschy souvenirs of their retail landmark, Honest Ed's, where they were signing copies of Toronto: *The World Within a City*.

The Mirvishes co-authored an essay about Toronto that appeared in the coffee-table book, published by Towery Publishing of Memphis.

•An American craft magazine has named a Canadian as one of four finalists in the Judaica category of a craft competition. **Boris Kramer**, of Kramer Sculptures in Beamsville, Ont., was cited by *Niche Magazine* for a "Simcha Menorah" that he designed. The other finalists are from New York and California. Winners are to be announced Feb. 17 at the Buyers Market of American Craft in Philadelphia. For details, visit the Web site, www.nichemag.com.

Director/actor explores Jewish issues

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Though he was a "red diaper" baby whose parents were Communists and atheists, director and actor Richard Greenblatt is proud to live life as a Jew and fasted on Yom Kippur this year for the first time.

Recently, he also observed the bar mitzvah of his son, William, a rite of passage he was denied as a boy in Montreal. His wife, the former Kate Lushington, is a director and writer, and they have three children, Natasha, 16, Wiliam, 13 and Luke, 11.

"My wife and I and the children attend services on all the High Holy Days, though I would not describe myself as a religious Jew," said Greenblatt. "The tradition of a Jew is to ask questions and that is how I identify myself. And when I say questions, I mean difficult questions, both of yourself and the world.

"We celebrate the holidays, we observe Chanukah, and we have seders at Passover and tell the stories to our children. The irony of it is that I didn't have a bar mitzvah myself.

Yet, he said, despite his parents' communism and atheism, "even in Montreal, we identified ourselves as Jews and I remember going to shul on the High Holy Days."

One of the co-stars of *Two Pianos, Four Hands*, Greenblatt has just finished directing *Danny – King of the Basement* for the Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People (formerly Young People's Theatre), a play about how poor children manage to survive in society today.

He is also known for his acting in *Sibs*, about two estranged Jewish siblings reuniting for the funeral of a parent, and *The Theory of Relatives*, about Passover.

He is currently working on seven separate projects, some as an actor, some as a director and writer.

Greenblatt, who often explores Jewish themes in his work, said changes in the world since the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 defy any simple answer to the Mideast impasse.

Continued on page 32

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.

1 J	2 O	3 N	4 A	5 S		6 T	7 R	8 E	9 F		10 T	11 G	12 I	13 F
14 I	R	E	S	T		15 R	O	S	A		16 E	L	S	E
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28 E	L	I	29 T	E		30 S	31 E	X		32 A	S	H			
33 R	E	F	O	R	34 M			35 R	I	36 G	S		37 O	38 P	39 S
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62 R	A	Y	E		63 G	64 A	B	E	K	A	P	65 L	66 A	67 N
68 T	S	A	R		69 E	V	E	R		70 R	A	I	S	E
71 H	E	H	S		72 R	I	L	E		73 K	N	E	E	D

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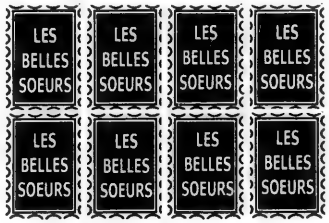

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Book says U.S. and Sweden let Wallenberg rot in gulag

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Raoul Wallenberg arrived in Budapest on July 9, 1944, an emissary of the U.S. War Refugee Board. Its mandate was to save Jews in Hungary threatened by Nazi Germany's exterminationist policy.

By that time, 437,402 Jewish men, women and children from areas outside Budapest had already been shipped on a one-way journey to Auschwitz.

Wallenberg's objective was to save the remaining 230,000 Jews left in the capital. It was an onerous task, given the fact that certain elements in the Hungarian government were eager to finish off the rest of the Jewish community.

Wallenberg, a Swedish businessman attached to Sweden's legation in Budapest, threw himself into his work with selfless energy, and managed to rescue about 100,000 Jews.

On Jan. 17, 1945, his job done, Wallenberg met with a Soviet army general, Rodion Malinovsky, in Debrecen, near the Romanian border. They were to have discussed postwar developments in Budapest.

As we all know, Wallenberg never returned from that fateful meeting. What happened to him? Did Sweden and the United States do enough to help him?

Alan Gersten, an American journalist, grapples with these and other questions in *A Conspiracy of Silence* (Xlibris Corp.), the latest book about Wallenberg and his mysterious disappearance nearly 60 years ago.

Using declassified U.S. Central Intelligence Agency documents, among other sources, Gersten – as one may infer from the title – argues that Sweden and the United States basically let Wallenberg rot in a Soviet gulag.

At the outset, he claims in this thought-provoking book, the United States expressed an interest in freeing Wallenberg, whom the Soviets accused of being a Nazi spy.

But after rebuffs from Sweden and the Soviet Union, he adds, "the Americans conveniently ignored Wallenberg."

Washington gathered information and voiced platitudes about Wallenberg's heroism, but "never took one step" to save him.

Harsh though this accusation sounds, Gersten saves much of his venom for Sweden.

A succession of Swedish governments, he notes, adopted a do-nothing position so as not to provoke Moscow.

As he puts it: "Sweden was unwilling – or afraid, or both – to push the Soviets beyond paper protests."

Nor, with few exceptions, did the Wallenbergs try to assist him. "To Wallenberg supporters, the obvious answer is that the Wallenberg family carried out a lucrative business with the Nazis during World War II, and recovering Raoul Wallenberg would reawaken those unpleasant memories."

Unencumbered by any significant pressure, the Soviets buried Wallenberg in the gulag system.

According to Gersten, Wallenberg was dragged from one prison to the next. He quotes two German citizens, who spent time in Soviet gulags from 1945 to 1956, as saying they met Wallenberg in one of them, Vladimir.

Gersten briefly speculates he may have been moved to a Siberian jail, Wrangel Island, as late as 1961. But he quickly squelches that notion, citing a CIA report that there was never a prison camp there.

Throughout the decades, the Soviet Union stuck to its basic story, namely that its most famous prisoner died of a heart attack in 1947.

Even during the glasnost (openness) period from the mid-1980s onward, this remained the Soviet explanation.

Not everyone, of course, accepted it at face value.

In 1990, Canadian law professor Irwin Cotler issued a report stating that Wallenberg had lived long past 1947, maybe into the 1980s.

Since the Soviet Union was not completely open about Wallenberg, we may never know the truth.

Gersten, at any rate, is certain that Wallenberg is no longer alive. This much seems certain in this sad, convoluted affair.

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Exploring Jewish themes

Continued from page 31

"When my son was bar mitzvahed, he took as his portion, the dispute between the siblings Jacob and Esau. His d'var Torah was that in a way Arabs and Jews are siblings. They came from the same father, Abraham, and it's just sibling rivalry taken to an extreme.

"My feeling is that they are two people who are closely related racially, anthropologically and historically, fighting over the same birthright, which is the Holy Land.,

"It's a very complicated, deep-rooted problem that requires a huge amount of patience and a huge amount of goodwill, and thinking about the world in different ways, and thinking about co-existing in different ways. The stakes are so high, even one individual can cause so much destruction, and you worry about terrorists doing even worse things."

Asked if the dialogue in *Sibs* accurately represents his position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Greenblatt said when it comes to the Middle East "I believe there is a peaceful solution.

"No one is expecting the State of Israel to disappear or the Palestinians to disappear. To say the State of Israel is about to disappear is ridiculous. Or that the Palestinians who have been there for a long time, are going to go away somewhere.

"There has to be a solution where the Jews have a homeland, where the Palestinians have a homeland, and each feels safe and that they will not be invaded."

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Arts & Travel

Rio: A tale of two cities

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

RIO de JANEIRO — In Portuguese, the lingua franca of Brazil, Rio is affectionately known as *cidade marvailhosa*, or "marvellous city." The appellation is richly deserved and not a function of mere puffery.

Rio, which marks the 500th anniversary of its founding this month by Portuguese explorer Gaspar de Lemos, is indeed a wonder to behold.

Internationally famous for its frothy tropical exuberance and joie de vivre, Rio is stunningly beautiful.

Densely populated, crammed into several verdant valleys and defined by a steep green mountain range, the Serra da Carioca, it faces a placid bay – Bahia da Guanabara – picturesquely dotted with uninhabited islets.

When you add its sandy beaches and perpetual summery weather to the mix, the combination is simply irresistible.

Brazil's capital from 1763 to 1960, Rio is best seen from two high vantage points – Pao de Acucar (Sugar Loaf) and Corcovado.

Connected by two cable cars that whisk you to the top in minutes, Sugar Loaf, at 396 metres above sea level, is Rio's signature logo.

Reached by cable car as well, Corcovado is yet higher, 710 metres. Rising from a 33-square kilometre rainforest protected as a reserve, Parque Nacional da Tijuca, Corcovado is crowned by Christ the Redeemer, a 13-storey statue that has stood here, with welcoming outstretched arms, since 1931.

Ipanema beach in Rio.

The vistas from Sugar Loaf and Corcovado are exquisite, especially on a clear, sunny day. The curving beaches and neighbourhoods of Copacabana and Ipanema. The rugged mountains stretching away into the distance. The shimmering bay. The downtown core with its clusters of skyscrapers and colonial buildings. The Jardim Botanico, the botanical gardens framed by lofty imperial palm trees.

Rio, which comes into its own with the revelry of Carnival in February, is really a tale of two cities.

It is composed of the *zona sul* (southerly), where the well-off reside and where tourists congregate, and the *zona norte* (northerly), where the working classes eke out an existence.

The *favelas* (shantytowns) of Rio, incongruously occupying its highest points, spill down into middle and upper-midde class neighbourhoods, a jarring reminder of Brazil's grinding Third World poverty.

Fed by the misery of the favelas, Rio once had a serious crime problem that inhibited tourism. But of late, the criminality has been brought under control by vigorous policing, and now Rio is as safe as any Latin American metropolis.

The authorities have made a special effort to keep petty criminals off the streets in the prime tourist areas of Copacabana and Ipanema/ Leblon, joined to the rest of Rio by long tunnels cutting through sheer rock.

The beaches, restaurants, cafes and hotels of Copacabana and Ipanema are the stuff of legend, burnished by Hollywood movies (*Flying Down to Rio*, starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers) and local songs (*Girl from Ipanema*).

On a typical day, the beaches are usually crowded with sun worshippers and bathers, some taking cover under an expanse of blue and yellow umbrellas.

Joggers and pedestrians share sidewalks decorated with wavy black and white mosaics. Cyclists glide by in adjacent bike lanes, reinforcing the perception that well-heeled Cariocas – Rio's residents – are masters of a healthy outdoor lifestyle.

Rio has many fine hotels, but the doyenne is doubtless the Copacabana Palace, a national heritage site whose dazzling white facade bespeaks an exotic elegance.

Yet, in terms of amenities, sophistication and locale, the Caesar Park, in the beating heart of Ipanema, and the Inter-Continental, just a few kilometres away in Sao Conrado, are on a par with the Copacabana Palace.

No visitor should leave Rio without having watched a *plataforma* song-and-dance show. Plataforma is quintessentially Brazilian, an electric spectacle of half-naked bodies, boundless energy, joyous music, bright colours and feathery costumes.

In their haste to immerse themselves in Copacabana and Ipanema, visitors often overlook Old Rio, which is well worth exploring.

Start with Largo do Boticario, or Apothecary Square, hidden away in one of Rio's quiet nooks and shaded by a tangle of trees and foliage.

The seven neo-colonial buildings here, painted in shades of pink, yellow and pale green and trimmed with white and blue tiles, summon up the spirit of 19th-century Brazil.

The Royal Portuguese Reading Room, finished in a Flemish Gothic facade and adorned with statues of stellar Portuguese explorers like Vasca de Gama and Pedro Alvarez Cabral, is stacked with wall-to-wall shelves rising to the ceiling.

It is the repository of 300,000 books on every facet of Brazilian history, including Judaica.

Nearby, on a narrow and congested cobblestone street, is the Confeitaria Colombo, a two-storey monument to Belle Epoch architecture rich with Belgian mirrors, rosewood showcases, Italian marble benches, ornate light fixtures and period furniture.

Strong Brazilian coffee and wickedly caloric pastries are consumed on the first floor. The buffet, dispensing a variety of local and regional dishes, is upstairs.

Rio's piece de resistance must be the Teatro Municipal, the early 20th-century theatre modelled after the Paris Opera.

Brazil's largest theatre, with a seating capacity of 2,361, the Teatro Municipal is resplendent with sweeping marble staircases, stained glass ceilings, half-ton chandeliers, bevelled crystal windows, heavy bronze doors and Art Nouveau statues.

It epitomizes an era of excess in Brazil's development as a South American powerhouse.

***

Lonely Planet, distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, publishes a useful and informative guide book on Brazil. Varig Airlines flies to Sao Paulo, Brazil, via John F. Kennedy Terminal in New York City.

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330 OBITUARIES

GOODMAN, Henry – on Dec. 12, 2001, late of 3800 Yonge St., #612.
PARLMUTAR, Marshall – on Dec. 14, 2001, late of 6 Rockland Dr.
FINER, Nathan – on Dec. 15, 2001, late of 255 Bamburgh Circle, #2303.
SIMON, Philip – on Dec. 15, 2001, late of 333 Clark Ave. W., #514.
DIAMOND, Gert – on Dec. 14, 2001, late of 32 The Bridle Path.
BLACKMAN, Archie – on Dec. 15, 2001, late of 11 Brill Cres.
ATIN, Dr. Harvey – on Dec. 15, 2001, late of 138 Kilbarry Rd.
LEWIS, Ralph – on Dec. 15, 2001, late of 55 Skymark Dr., #1006.
PRESEMENT, Al – on Dec. 16, 2001, late of 55 Ameer Ave., #319.
ROEBUCK, Trudie – on Dec. 16, 2001, late of 131 Torresdale Ave., #204.
MANDEL/WAISGLASS, Shirley – on Dec. 17, 2001, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
LANGBORD, Sadie – on Dec. 15, 2001, late of 339 Walmer Rd., Upper Duplex.
SHAPIRO, Sydney – on Dec. 18, 2001, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BROWN, Nancy – on Dec. 19, 2001, late of 89 Skymark Dr., #1812.
GOLDFARB, Ben – on Dec. 20, 2001, late of 141 Exbury Rd.
BANK, Berta – on Dec. 19, 2001, late of 2 Covington Rd., #506.
SHAPIRO, Ben – on Dec. 21, 2001, late of 55 Skymark Dr., #102, Code 030.
LUBEK, Joseph George – on Dec. 21, 2001, late of 73 Prince Charles Dr.
HELLER, Michael – on Dec. 22, 2001, late of 97 Baynards Lane.
SCHACTER, Rose – on Dec. 19, 2001, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

Coast to Coast

Winnipeg CJA gets new president

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — For Ian Goldstine, the new president of the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal, and his wife, Elaine, community work has long been a family affair.

Elaine has been director of Winnipeg's Combined Jewish Appeal Women's campaign for several years while Ian has served on the Federation Board since the mid-1990s and before that co-chaired the doctor's division of the annual CJA campaign.

The 46-year-old former family physician is a lifelong Winnipegger. He left family practice two years ago and is currently medical consultant for the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Manitoba and medical advisor to the Workers Compensation Board's pain management unit.

In the Jewish community, his record of involvement includes leadership roles in the professional and business division, Winnipeg chapter, of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, the Board of Jewish Education and the Jewish Community Centre as well as Federation/CJA.

Goldstine assumed the presidency of Federation/CJA on Dec. 11, succeeding lawyer Howard Morry.

Goldstine inherits a legacy of increased annual CJA revenues over the past two years – the campaign expects to raise $3.75 million this year and $4 million next year – and a plan to increase Winnipeg's Jewish population from its current 14,000 to about 18,000.

Goldstine says he looks forward to the challenges and talks about the need to improve communications with Federation/CJA beneficiaries and other Jewish community organizations.

"We need to break down barriers and talk to each other if we are to successfully meet the challenges ahead," Goldstine says.

He plans to attend at least one board meeting of every community agency to familiarize himself with community issues. "I intend to spend a lot of time listening to what people have to say," he says. "To be a good president, I believe that you have to be a good listener."

330 OBITUARIES

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WAINBERG, Esther – on Dec. 21, 2001, late of 10 Torresdale Ave., #1003.
WINBAUM, Sam – on Dec. 22, 2001, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
WOLFE, Harvey – on Dec. 23, 2001, late of 38 Avenue Rd., #1702.
LEBOVICI, Irving – on Dec. 24, 2001, late of 8 Marathon Cres.
CARSLEY, Harry – on Dec. 25, 2001, late of 71 Charles St. E., #1206.
ROWAN, Edith – on Dec. 25, 2001, late of 1201 Steeles Ave. W., #1401.
FELDMAN, Lonia – on Dec. 27, 2001, late of 15 Rockford Rd., #708, Code 130.

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KELLER, Peter – on Dec. 16, 2001, late of 66 Roncesvalles Ave.

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ZALOWICZ, Saul – on Dec. 23, 2001.
FUKS, Alexander – on Dec. 23, 2001.
PROKOPETS, Michael – on Dec. 24, 2001, late of 110 Promenade Circle.
COPELAND, Abraham – on Dec. 23, 2001, late of 184 Combe Ave.
POZNANSKY, Vladimir – on Dec. 23, 2001.
LEIZEROVICH, Freida – on Dec. 25, 2001, late of 12 Goldfinch Crt.
STARKMAN, Ben – on Dec. 25, 2001.
WEISZHAUS, Jeno – on Dec. 26, 2001, late of 52 Townsgate Dr.
GROSS, Pearl – on Dec. 26, 2001.
KIEFFER, Moritz – on Dec. 27, 2001, late of 90 Fisherville Rd.
JAFFE, Tobi – on Dec. 27, 2001, late of 2 Neptune Dr.
GROSS, Jack Jacob – on Dec. 27, 2001.
SANDALOWICH, Tekla – on Dec. 19, 2001.
COHEN, Zena – on Dec. 28, 2001, late of 4000 Don Mills Rd.

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STERN, Thomas – on Dec. 29, 2001.
BLUESTEIN, Helen – on Dec. 29, 2001, late of 75 Wynford Heights Cres.
PERELMAN, Moisei – on Dec. 30, 2001.
LUBINSKY, Rosalie – on Dec. 30, 2001.
SEIBER, Steven – on Dec. 30, 2001, late of 15 Torresdale Ave.

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Arts & Travel

More Stories From My Father's Court

A collection of newly translated Isaac Bashevis Singer stories

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

Yiddish author Isaac Bashevis Singer was prolific in his lifetime and remains so a decade after his death.

The Nobel Prize-winning novelist and short-story writer died in 1991, but newly translated works by him continue to appear in English, most mined from the pages of the *Yiddish Daily Forward*, to which he was a longtime contributor.

More Stories from My Father's Court, a collection of 27 pieces translated by Curt Leviant and published in paperback by Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, shows that despite the reason Singer may have had for leaving these pieces untranslated, it had little to do with their quality, which ranges from good to superb.

Singer grew up in a rabbinic household on Warsaw's Krochmalna Street before World War I. Troubled Jews in the neighbourhood streamed to his father's court, or beit din, eager for advice; the future writer, then a boy, was usually lurking in the woodwork, all ears and imagination.

Singer originally published the pieces under his journalistic pseudonym, Isaac Warshawsky. He regarded them as a literary experiment that combined the memoir and the belle-lettre. The first collection, *In My Father's Court*, greatly charmed the critics when it was first published in English in 1966.

For Singer fans, the appearance of this second collection so belatedly and unexpectedly can only be regarded as a delightful surprise.

Some of the stories in this collection seem to focus on people with darker secrets than those in the first collection. These Warsavian Jews are possibly possessed by dybbuks; they curse and cast spells on one another and live brazenly in sin: one man calls his wife a whore but doesn't seem to mind that she's having an affair right under his nose.

Some characters are portrayed as living in ignorance and even spiritual squalor, as if they know that they are the final generation of a doomed and dying civilization. Even several rabbis who visit the author's father – including a rabbi and his family who, seeking a viable livelihood, abandon their faith and go to America; and another rabbi of small accomplishments but a huge ego – seem to have lost their lofty Jewish ideals.

These are simple sketches, brilliantly rendered, resulting in the presentation of a rich and complex moral universe. Although perhaps the second collection doesn't sparkle with quite the same lustre as the first, it is a worthy and compelling successor.

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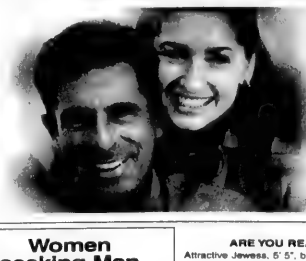

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Pretty Jewish young female, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions. Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship **AD#1028**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me ! am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who is divorced with 2 kids. I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired ! seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1135**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed. If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1106**

LET'S MEET
Single female, late 60's , retired professional, attractive, healthy, happy, personality, enjoys a variety of interests, seeks similar male **AD#1378**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature. She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family Please reply **AD#1620**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call. **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life **AD#1041**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family. **AD#1067**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs. Please call, will meet for coffee **AD#1433**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5' 3", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun tobe with, trustworthy, considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated Looking for love in all the wrong places Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years Would like a photo **AD#1577**

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile. Together we will make for an award winning performance **AD#1446**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle , 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes. Loves music, dancing, movies Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1514**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim, blonde, blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive and emotionally available, seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times. She likes quiet times, playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories **AD#1045**

REACH FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big" Single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important. Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation. **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, coming and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoys walks, travel, dancing, dining, conversation. Seeks male, 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship **AD#1432**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive lady, seeks friendship first with a wonderful man, preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and secure. If you are tall and dark it's a bonus, you'll be happy you made the connection **AD#1073**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 40 yrs, enjoys a glase of wine, dinner, movies, travel, theatre, and skiing, seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring. Share laughter, fun and friendship **AD#1021**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis, skiing, movies, restaurants, going for walks Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere. **AD#1134**

WARM & AFFECTIONATE
Jewish, South African widow, 60 yrs, attractive, slim, 5' 5", warm, affectionate, seeks down to earth Jewish male, and friends who are compassionate and caring. **AD#1110**

DINING AND SPORTS
Attractive, professional Jewish female, enjoys sports, dining and movies, seeks a cute male, who is handsome, honest and trustworthy **AD#1333**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Attractive, professional female, sexy with class, enjoys hiking, biking, tennis, water skiing, long walks, with dog, seeks male, with similar interests. **AD#1425**

LOOKING LONG TERM
Single, 47 yr old female, who positive, giving, outgoing, very attractive, and has a good sense of humour, seeks life partner for long term relationship. She likes music, dining and dancing. **AD#1229**

SINGLE FEMALE
43 yrs, 5' 9", brown eyes, attractive, honest, sincere, likes sports, dancing, dining, movies, seeks active, romantic, honest, established male, 40-50 yrs of age. **AD#1082**

55, DIVORCED
Many interests, dining, sports, dancing, 5' 1", easy to be with seeks interesting male, to celebrate, birthday in December. **AD#1430**

DANCE WITH ME
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 4", a non smoker, thoughtful, caring, enjoys theatre, walks, dancing, seeks male, 48-63 yrs, who enjoys life to the fullest, and is financially stable for a long term relationship Must be loving, a kind hearted, warm and honest. **AD#1015**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Very attractive, intelligent, 51 year old modern orthodox lady, who likes cooking, nature, travel, and the theatre, seeks possible long term relationship with a warm caring, healthy, sincere, 60 plus man. **AD#1040**

ART LOVER
Attractive female, single, early 60's, enjoys sports, arts, good music, travel, and dining Seeks independent, caring, and affectionate male, who is single. **AD#1120**

LOTS TO SEES AND DO
Very attractive, Jewish female, 5' 7", almond hair, blue-green eyes, medium build seeks a caring, honest male, above average looks, tall or over, a full head of dark hair, a good personality, upbeat and fun to be with. Someone who can make me laugh and be a mensch overall. If this sounds like you, and you wish to meet me, call. We can do a wide variety of things. **AD#1148**

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS
Female, mid 40's, 5' 7", brown hair and eyes, enjoys candle lit dinners, a good glass of wine, is playful and quiet Seeks male, non smoker, 40-58 yrs old, who wants what the good life has to offer. **AD#1273**

LOVE TO TRAVEL
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs young. Loves theatre, dining, travel, and music. Seeks male, 66-73 yrs, with similar interests. **AD#1262**

KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR
Divorced mom, 35 yrs of age, attractive, honest, sincere, good sense of humour, seeks modern, orthodox man, who is romantic and positive and someone who will slay dragons for me. If interested call me. **AD#1331**

BE MINE
Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, and good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 56 yrs young, who is 5' feet tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, a non smoker, and one who loves life. **AD#1052**

Men seeking Women

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TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic, seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courtedus, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile **AD#1195**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1394**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors. A traditional male, works a a financial consultant Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female. **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention. **AD#1427**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, bilingual and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday. **AD#1396**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc... seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1329**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5' 6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please call me. **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more senous later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking **AD#1267**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1208**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour. **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5'9", physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer, things in life, emotionally and financially, stable, seeks female, with similar qualities. **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children. **AD#1502**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs, 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, down to earth, personality, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see. **AD#1546**

CALL ME
Male, 48 yrs, humourous, good natured, friendly, enjoys stock markets, dancing, many other things, if interested, please leave me a message **AD#1004**

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SHY ONE
Shy male, 6' 3", 220 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeks 30-40 yrs, who enjoys dancing, playing sports, surfing, the internet, and spending, time with family if this interest you, get back to me. **AD#1108**

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A JEWEL
Single female, attractive, slim, classy, seeks Jewish man, 50-68 yrs, non smoker, healthy, positive outlook on life. **AD#1636**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single attractive, Jewish mom, 5' 5", intelligent, single, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks single Jewish male, over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind loves responsibility, must be over 6 feet tall **AD#1264**

CALL ME
30, single female, Jewish, born in Russia, lived in Israel, seeks man, 35-38 yrs old, weight factor not a problem. She is a plus size woman, looking for a tall man. **AD#1542**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Single female, with kids, Russian/Israeli descent, looking for someone who likes to dance and go to the movies, loves outings and has similar qualities. **AD#1556**

SHARE LIFE'S ADVENTURES
Single mom, mid 40's, brown hair, and brown eyes, seeks male, 40-45 yrs, to share life's adventures, let's have coffee, dinner and wine. **AD#1581**

LIFE IS TO BE SHARED
Single mom, 43 yrs old, 2 teens, believes in sharing life to the fullest, outgoing, compassionate, family oriented, great new opportunities for a joyful life exists. **AD#1330**

SHARE HER WORLD
Single, pleasant, romantic, 60 years old, who likes music, dancing and travel, seeks someone to share her world with. **AD#1218**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Smiling redhead, hazel eyes, senior, loves holding hands, enjoys music, sunshine, theatre, the arts and companionship, please give me a call. **AD#1316**

LIKES NATURE
Single female, 45 yrs, 5' 4", slim, non smoker, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, country drives, nature, travel, seeks male, kind, honest, great sense of humour, confident. **AD#1088**

SPECIAL LADY
Intelligent, funny, active, romantic, 5' 4", lady with brown hair, green eyes, seeks an established, confident and generous man. She is self-employed, loving and loveable, and likes travel, antiques, wine tasting, dining, theatre and music. **AD#1039**

CALL ME
Jamaican female, 55 yrs, flexible, down to earth, enjoys dining, dancing, music, reading, seeks male, nice, kind, likes sports, reading, walking, dining, long drives, if you think I am the person, you are looking give me a call. **AD#1580**

FEELING LUCKY
Female, single, Jewish, 43 yrs, works in special education, loves arts, antiques, flea markets, auctions, gardening, cooking, films, time with family/friends, enjoys life, seeks male, with health and happiness, and your soul and mind in the right spot. **AD#1389**

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 42 yrs, no children, brown hair, brown eyes, 5' 2", medium build, enjoys movies, music, sports, long walks, travel, cooking seeks male, kind, hearted, trustworthy, respectful, for long term relationship. **AD#1527**

FUN LOVING
Female, looking for male who is fun loving, enjoys movies, dancing and travelling **AD#1257**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1242**

DOWN TO EARTH
Single male, 53 yrs, enjoys sports, dining and dancing, long walks, flea markets, antique shows, rides in the country, loves animals, seeks female, 43-45 yrs, weight not important, must enjoy the same interests. **AD#1421**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Grouchy male, 75 yrs, enjoys Florida sunsets, movies, fine food, classical music, social activities, seeks female, attractive, loves to hold hands for companionship. **AD#1359**

EASY TO LOOK AT
31 yrs, 5' 5", associate producer, lives in central Toronto, brown hair and eyes, down to earth, affectionate, handsome, enjoys dining, movies, outdoors, long drives in the country, flying, gliders, seeks female, 25-33 yrs, down to earth, affectionate, not too hard to look at. **AD#1012**

QUALITY TIME
Single white male, 59 yrs, romantic, warm,caring, self employed, enjoys movies, music, travel, romantic, evenings, seeks female, easy to talk to, good sense of humour, with similar interests. **AD#1354**

CHARMING AND FUN
Single Jewish male, 36 yrs, 5' 11", gray green eyes, brownish hair, enjoys travel, music, movies, coffee houses, sports, seeks female, 25-40 yrs, warm compassionate, caring, good sense of humour, non materialistic **AD#1245**

GIVE ME A CALL
Male, early 40's, professional, tall, fit, athletic, divorced Dad, likes to work and play hard, seeks female, over 30 yrs, 5' 4" to 5' 9", great shape, athletic, fun loving, responsible, playful, self sufficient, looks good in towel or dress, single mom's welcome, enjoys wine, beer or martini's **AD#1250**

HONEST & TRUE
Single male, handsome, fit, 5' 10", independent thinker, compassionate, warm, creative, good sense of humour, eclectic tastes, seeks female, honest, ethical mentality and physically, and spiritually evolved. **AD#1362**

COMPASSIONATE AND SINCERE
Divorced, Jewish male, 5' 9", blue eyes, semi-retired, sincere, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys theatre, concerts, quiet time at home, visits to the synagogue, seeks female with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1255**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single male, 59 yrs, white, warm, caring, romantic, self employed, businessman, enjoys travel, movies, good conversation, quiet evenings, seeks female with similar qualities and interests **AD#1339**

LOVES TO HAVE FUN
Male, 41 yrs, professional, athletic, passionate, loves to have fun, likes to hike, run, cycle, tenns, ski, water ski, travel, movies, long walks, seeks stable, centered, grounded, Jewish female, in early 30's, with similar interests, give me a call **AD#1244**

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Goalie's exploits noticed by Central Scouting

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When last we checked in on him, Robert Gherson was a rookie goaltender with the OHL's Sarnia Sting, fighting to break into the starting lineup.

He got into his share of games and performed well, but never grabbed the starter's mantle.

That was last season.

Robert Gherson *[file photo]*

This year, he started slowly and had to fight for the starting job, but he responded with hard work and improvements in the technical aspects of his game.

The results are in and they are impressive. In the current season, the lanky Toronto-born goalie edged out the team's incumbent starter, becoming the Sting's uncontested number 1 goalie.

What's more, NHL Central Scouting recently ranked him as the second best prospect among Ontario goalies going into the summer's amateur entry draft.

His GM, Terry Doran, believes Gherson is even better than Central Scouting gives him credit for.

"My view is that he's the top goalie in Ontario," Doran said, ranking ahead of Central Scouting's number one netminder, Tyson Kellerman of North Bay.

Unlike Kellerman, who's split the netminding duties for the Centennials, Gherson has played in the majority of the team's first games, taking on the toughest opponents behind a team that could charitably be termed defensively challenged.

Gherson is the go-to guy in Sarnia, starting in 32 of the team's first 40 games. Named OHL goaltender of the month for November after appearing in 11 of the Sting's 12 games and registering a 6-3-0-2 record, Gherson was named the game's first star twice and one of three stars in five of the games he appeared in.

With an .897 save percentage and a 3.62 goals against average and a 14-17 won-loss record, Gherson's stats are not exactly in the Patrick Roy category.

But he's constantly improving and making enough saves to give his team a chance to win most games.

"Technically, he's pretty good, his reflexes are quick," Doran said. "He's at his best when he's at the top of the crease, facing the shooter."

Doran believes Gherson will go high in the draft, with a good chance of eventually playing in the NHL.

Not surprisingly, Gherson's agent, Mark Guy of Newport Sports, agrees.

Gherson's play has really picked up in the last two months and that helped him move up in the rankings, Guy said.

"His consistency has improved. He's had a string of very strong games."

While his overall save percentage is still in the .800s, in November it was over .900, Guy pointed out.

"That's phenomenal for a goaltender for a team who's' defence is definitely not experienced."

Gherson's reflexes, speed and his instinct make him an effective goalie, Guy added.

Still, he's only 18 and at six feet, 152 lbs., a bit of a string bean.

"He's got to work on getting bigger and stronger," Doran acknowledges. "He needs strength to take on a rigorous schedule. And he has to work on handling the puck behind the net."

Still, Doran is optimistic Gherson has what it takes to succeed in hockey. "He's a great kid and he's willing to learn. He's very coachable," he said.

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Football handicapper is no tout

By HARVEY ROSEN
Special to The CJN

WINNIPEG — It stands to reason that if a couple decides to build a dream home, they hire an architect. When an individual purchases a home or business, he usually employs the services of a lawyer. And, unless you're a handyman, you phone a plumber to repair a clogged drain.

But when it comes to wagering a loonie or two on a sports event, how many people actually enlist the expertise of a professional handicapper?

Sports fans in Winnipeg, especially those who enjoy National Football League games on cable or satellite TV, are probably familiar with the name Max Feierstein.

His NFL Picks column appears each week in the *Winnipeg Free Press*, in which he attempts to predict the outcome of upcoming weekend games.

A computer scientist by training, Feierstein assesses the games' point lines, attempting to dope out the winner and final score.

Feierstein works for Jerry Patterson Enterprises, which is based both in New Jersey and Carson City, Nev.

He provides services for 52 football clients in the United States – none in Winnipeg – contacting them via e-mail on Friday mornings prior to the Sunday action, with his mathematically-determined assessment of the upcoming games.

Feierstein is neither a tout nor a bookie. To the uninitiated, they may seem the same, but they are substantially different. A tout will say, "Take Detroit over Chicago; it's a sure-fire bet" and be paid for the supposed "hot tip of the day." A bookie will take a bet, which Feierstein never does, and pay off winners or collect from losers.

"I come up with the indexes or power ratings for each team. It takes years of experience and I am still learning. I keep charts over the years for all the sports… The methods I use are all mathematical," he says, pointing out the principles he employs are much like those used by stockbrokers.

Feierstein sells his knowledge for a fee but never, like the tout, gives the winner. He arms clients with the information that ought to increase the chance of winning and he leaves it up to the bettor to find the best betting line, whether in Las Vegas or over the Internet, where such services are available offshore.

Feierstein is neither a tout nor a bookie

No doubt, the vast majority of serious sports fans can pick winners more than 50 percent of the time if point lines were not involved. But point factors enter into most wagers.

For example, it's clear Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate boys in Winnipeg would never defeat the CFL's Blue Bombers in a serious football game. But what would be the betting line? Maybe the Bombers would be favoured by say, an unheard of 280 points, or 40 touchdowns. Would the Big Blue have enough time in 60 minutes to beat the spread? Therein lies the bet.

Feierstein has been known to Manitoba sports fans since the 1980s, when he played goal with the Portage Terriers and Selkirk Steelers of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League, and later in the senior circuit with the now defunct St. Boniface Mohawks.

He's has been steeped in sports all his life. He was also a player-coach in the Red Boine Senior Baseball League, playing first base and catcher.

He also has a background in computer science from the University of Manitoba, which led to a full-time position with a firm known as LGS. "I am a regional manager," he says. "We're an information technology consulting firm. We have 10 to 15 major companies such as Great West Life, Investors Group, Manitoba Telephone System, and the Canadian Wheat Board."

That's his day job, but his avocation takes in most sports, be it college basketball or football, or major league baseball, basketball, hockey or football. If you're really starved for alternatives, he even handicaps arena football.

"I got started when I met Jerry [Patterson's] son while attending a maths conference in New Orleans," Feierstein says. "We started talking about sports and betting and he put his dad, Jerry, who teaches people how to bet on sports, in touch with me."

That was about 10 years ago. "Since then I've done seminars on gambling in Las Vegas myself, at Union Plaza, Caesars, and Palace Station," he says. "I give them some of the tricks."

Can a person, armed with all the data he can gather from Feierstein or other information sources, actually get rich taking such risks? "It's a very tough way to make a living," he admits. "You have to have very good money management skills, which I try to teach, and know when to bet a game and when not to.

"I take my hat off to people who can make a living betting sports," he says.

Casting Asper-sions

Journalists are, predictably, the first to hyperventilate whenever someone tinkers with the supposed sacrosanctity of their craft. Deprived of a high horse, others sees things much more clearly.

The op-ed pages of late have blared shrilly of the coming gloom-and-doom imposed by Winnipeg's Asper family, which has acquired Southam News and its 14 dailies, along with the *National Post*. The Aspers, writers decry, have invented "national editorials," which are written at Winnipeg headquarters and ordered to run in all their papers once a week (soon to be three times weekly). Individual papers are powerless to oppose them, even if the editorials are inimical to local standards.

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

Writing in the *Globe and Mail*, Peter Desbarats, a former dean of journalism at the University of Western Ontario and longtime authority on the concentration of Canadian media ownership, opined that the Aspers have "broke[n] with tradition by using [their] editorial power to influence the nation's political agenda."

What planet has Desbarats been inhabiting? Since when has any Canadian media outlet *not* used its editorial power to influence the nation's political agenda? As one letter-to-the-editor writer put it, after profitability, wielding political power by controlling and colouring information is the media's very raison d'etre. Conrad Black had no trouble using the *National Post* as a personal platform to attack Jean Chrétien and the federal Liberals, sometimes in very nasty terms. The ferocity of the assaults were outdone only by their uniformity.

Speaking of which, as another letter writer pointed out, the *Globe*'s editorials in Victoria and Halifax are identical to those in Toronto and Ottawa, a "nationwide uniformity that delivers a strong political punch." As another reader put it, the Aspers are just more transparent and greater sinners only by a matter of degree.

John Miller, director of newspaper journalism at Ryerson University, warned in the *Toronto Star* that if the public doesn't speak up about the Aspers' one-size-fits-all editorials, "one of Canada's major media owners will have gotten away with one of the worst abuses of corporate ownership in recent history, and one that has the potential of permanently damaging the spectrum of public debate and the credibility of the press in this country."

It shouldn't be lost on anyone that Miller was writing in a paper run by a family that wears its Liberal bias on its sleeve, and, for that matter, isn't especially enamoured of Israel as a matter of editorial policy. The *Star*'s credibility has long been suspect.

Quebec journalist Lysiane Gagnon weighed in with the following: "The Aspers' philistine forays into a trade they know nothing about will undermine the credibility of their newspapers, and are commercially stupid to boot, for papers that don't reflect their communities' interests cannot survive. This is especially true for the [Montreal] *Gazette*, the flagship of a highly educated community." The *Gazette*? Is this the same paper that, through its compliance and spinelessness in the face of 30 years of Parti Québecois excess, has done more to alienate Anglos and Jews than any single institution in Canada?

What worries me more than the Aspers' opinions being forced on us is their influence on the news, especially as it relates to Israel. Apparently, any article in the chain even mildly critical of Israel must be scrutinized by headquarters before being published. As owners, the Aspers are entitled to air their thoughts, self-serving though they may be, and we, as sentient beings, are entitled to disagree with them. But the Jewish community, well-versed in these affairs, is more than capable of battling biased reporting without help from the boss.

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1/2 red onion, thinly sliced
3 green onions, white and green parts, sliced
6 tblsp. olive oil
2 tblsps. red wine vinegar
2 tblsps. sugar
1 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. black pepper
1/2 tsp. cumin
1/4 tsp. ground mustard powder
5 oz. sweetened dried cranberries

Mix together cabbage and red and green onions in large mixing bowl. Whisk oil, vinegar, sugar, mustard, salt, pepper and cumin together in a small bowl. Pour over cabbage mixture; add sweetened dried cranberries, mix thoroughly. Marinate in refrigerator for 1 hr. May be made up to 6 hrs. in advance. Serves 6.

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About Education

Seymour Epstein

No lesson is beyond the learner if the learner comes first. Moses learned that early in his career.

Moses our Teacher was given that title because he became the prototype of the Jewish teacher. He is indeed our teacher, but also the teacher of our teachers. In the Torah portion of this week, Va'era, Moses is still young, at the very beginning of his career. I have often wondered what would happen if we asked veteran teachers to reminisce about pedagogic errors they made early in their careers, and I always think of a passage at the beginning of Va'era that is just that.

Pirkei Avot teaches us that the wise person learns from everyone, but sometimes the lesson is what *not* to do. In the spirit of keeping Moses human and an accessible model, we can learn a lesson in communications from this early moment in his career.

Shmot chapter 6, verses 2-8 are an eloquent statement of the promise that God will end the slavery of Egypt and deliver the Israelites to freedom in their own land. So elegant is the language that the rabbis revered these words as the four expressions of redemption. This speech could have become the central liberating document of our people were it not for the reception it got by the Israelites themselves.

The text tells us that Moses spoke the words to the Israelites, but "they did not heed Moses because of shortness of breath [emphysema?] and hard labour." It's easy enough to understand why the people could not listen, but the real pedagogic question hidden in the biblical text is how Moses taught God's words. The original text is eloquent and inspiring to us after the fact, but we wonder whether Moses merely repeated the message. If so, perhaps he should have recrafted the message to suit the particular needs of his enslaved and worn-out audience.

It is from this early mismatch of message and audience that we learn that every teacher must begin from the starting point of the students, not from the lesson itself. Moses went on to become Moses, our master, but only after he learned some important pedagogics on the way.

Seymour Epstein is vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

Crossword Puzzle

The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 31.)

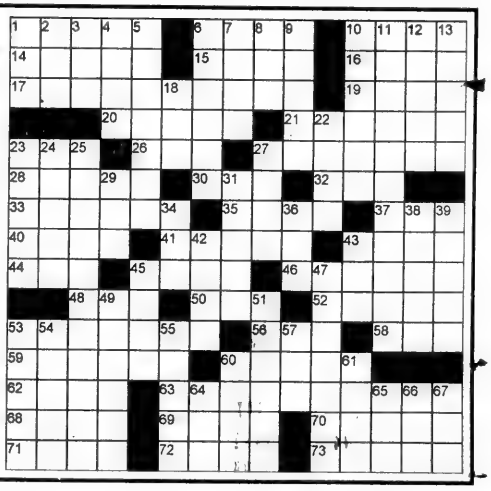
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Medical rival of Albert
6 Not kosher
10 End-of-week announcement
14 "___ my case!"
15 Anarchist Luxemburg
16 "What ___ is new?"
17 R.L. Stine's book series
19 "The Lion King" character
20 Family tree member
21 More like Mideast peace talks
23 Basketball caller
26 "Wow!"
27 Gives a hand
28 Upper crust of society
30 "Seinfeld" subject
32 *Kristallnacht* remnant
33 Conservative alternative
35 Big trucks
37 Photo-___
40 1998 movie featuring Woody Allen's voice
41 The Marx Brothers may do it to you
43 Many a Streisand hit
44 "Nope!"
45 Billy Crystal medium, 1977-81
46 Where Eisenstein's "Battleship Potemkin" takes place
48 Actress Meyers
50 Grand Central, e.g.
52 Put in the Knesset
53 Temptress
56 Home workplace
58 You, to Einstein
59 Carnival Cruise CEO Micky
60 Attention-getting sounds
62 Funny Martha
63 Kotter portrayer
68 Pogrom orderer
69 No matter when
70 Bring up
71 Nervous laughs
72 Stir up
73 Assaulted, in a way

Down

1 Fast dance
2 Conquistador's quest
3 Prefix with Nazism
4 Part of AMA
5 Willy Loman portrayer of 1966
6 War stoppers
7 Its Jews were relocated in 1555
8 Mind-reading ability
9 10th day of Tishri happenings
10 Paul Goldstein's sport
11 Classic Billy Joel album
12 Fleck of land
13 Xenophobia, etc.
18 Buzzer, so to speak
22 These, in Tegucigalpa
23 Showed more "Mad About You"
24 Chess star ___ Akhmilovskaya
25 1933-39 event
27 Holocaust perpetrators
29 From A ___
31 Blow
34 Chairman of note
36 World starter
38 Stern's fellow bad guy in "Home Alone"
39 New York or Israel
42 Major Sidney Freedman's show
43 Sen. Roth's state
45 Minuteman holder
47 Site of a September 1943 rescue of 7,000 Jews
49 Early ___
51 Stick (to)
53 __ Maul ("The Phantom Menace" menace)
54 X out
55 Some have trouble dealing with it
57 Housewife's stereotyped shriek
60 Famed second son
61 Breadth
64 Children's book author who wrote *"Man from the Sky"*
65 Lewinsky scandal watchword
66 Enzyme ending
67 Flanders or Beatty



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Mount Sinai Hospital study shows that support group participation does not prolong survival in metastatic breast cancer patients

A Mount Sinai Hospital study conducted at the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute on support group participation among metastatic breast cancer patients has created a stir in the international media. The study, known as the Breast Expressive-Support Therapy (BEST), was published in the New England Journal of Medicine on December 12. The team found that participating in supportive-expressive group therapy does not prolong the life of women with metastatic breast cancer but that it does have beneficial psychological effects for these women if they are distressed or in pain.

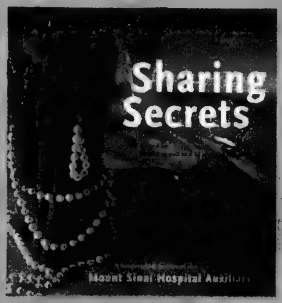
This is good news for many women with breast cancer. If they choose not to participate in a support group, they need not feel that they have lost out on the opportunity to prolong their lives.

The research team was led by Dr. Pamela Goodwin, the Director of the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre, with MSH co-investigators: Dr. Molyn Leszcz of the Department of Psychiatry; Vice-President of Nursing, Leslie Vincent; and Dr. Jonathan Hunter of the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre (Psychiatry).

The study resulted in high-profile stories in the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, the Globe and Mail, NBC, and CTV National News, among others.

Schwartz-Reisman family commissions six works of art by artist Bill Boyko for Schwartz-Reisman Emergency Centre:

The Schwartz-Reisman Emergency Centre has recently been made more beautiful with the addition of six paintings depicting different stages of life, from birth to retirement. The paintings were commissioned for the Centre by Heather Reisman and Gerry Schwartz. "This is a magnificent and uplifting compliment to our emergency centre," said Joseph Mapa, President and CEO, Mount Sinai Hospital. Pictured admiring the art are Heather Reisman and artist Bill Boyko.



Sharing Secrets Cookbook

Sharing Secrets, the newest Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary Cookbook, was recently launched at Indigo Books. Co-Editors of the book, Rona Cappell and Elise Mecklinger have done an outstanding job of preparing and tasting the many recipes that were submitted and then going through the laborious task of writing and editing all the recipes.

The books are available at Chapters, Indigo, the Hospital Gift Shop (416-586-8315) and at other independent bookstores in and around Toronto. You are also welcome to call the Auxiliary office to order at 416-586-8290 or toll-free at 1-888-509-8290.

Raising the bar

As anticipated, the Auxiliary has raised the bar once again! At *Wine Down Easy*, at the Easy and The Fifth, the Auxiliary was host to over 300 guests. The evening not only included dinner and dancing but also featured a silent auction of rare and vintage wine exceeding $125,000 in value. It proved to be a wine aficionado's delight, as all the lots of wine were sold. "High spirits" were in the air during a live auction where one rare bottle of wine, a 1997 *Screaming Eagle*, was sold for $2,600! Congratulations go to Nonie Plener and Candy Schnier, the Co-Chairs of this event along with their committee for hosting an evening to remember. Pictured here are:

From left to right:
Marlene Borins, President, Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary;
Elise Mecklinger, Vice President, Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary;
Nonie Plener, Event Co-Chair; Candy Schnier, Event Co-Chair

MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL — HEALTHY LIVING Lecture Series

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Aging Well: A Family Affair

Date: Wednesday, January 30
Time: 7 pm - 9 pm
Location: Sala Caboto, Villa Colombo, 40 Playfair Avenue (Dufferin & Lawrence)

Featured Speakers:
Dr. Simon Carette
Rheumatologist and Director, Rheumatology Division, UHN/Mount Sinai Hospital
Lieve Verheeghe
Senior Social Worker, Mount Sinai Hospital
Mary Persico
Registered Dietician, Villa Colombo
Moderator: Barbara Blakeshaw, CBC Newsworld

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Little Miriam Confronting the Head of the Sanhedrin

The Talmud (Tractate *Sotah* 12) relates an amazing story about the circumstances and events "behind the scenes" that made the continued survival of the Jewish people possible in Egypt. The Talmud describes a scene in which Miriam, who was then just a young child, speaks up boldly to her father, Amram, the head of the Sanhedrin, who was obeyed by the entire Jewish nation. The background for that confrontation was Amram's decision to divorce his wife, Yocheved, because of Pharaoh's decree to throw all newborn male babies into the Nile.

Amram's decision was "logical" — namely, he reasoned that it would be better to divorce his wife than to bring to the world children who were going to be cruelly murdered by Pharaoh. The child Miriam came up with her own reasoning. She told her father, the head of the Sanhedrin, that his decree was worse than Pharaoh's! Pharaoh, she said, made a decree only about the males, while he, by deciding to divorce his wife, would bring about a total cessation of births, both of males and of females, thus condemning the Jewish people to exctinction. His daughter Miriam's hard and obvious claims made Amram take back his wife, Yocheved; and all the Jews followed suit. This story makes one truly wonder — how could the head of the Sanhedrin, the unanimously accepted leader of the people, reach — by using his logic — such a dangerous, mistaken decision, that was liable to bring about the annihilation of the Jewish people? We must not cast doubt on the keen mental faculties of the head of the Sanhedrin, and it is inconceivable that Amram did what he did without giving full consideration to his deeds. How can it be that the head of the Sanhedrin does not understand what his very young daughter does? The continuation of the Biblical story reveals some more about Miriam's motivation.The Scripture calls Miriam "Puah, the midwife," because of her activities to encourage childbirth and tend to newborn babies. Later on, it is she who goes out to find out what has become of her brother, Moshe, and to ascertain that he is in the right hands. All these stories point to one theme in Miriam's activities: Miriam did not deliver nice homilies; rather, she went everywhere personally in order to encourage childbirth. What stood before her eyes, and what also made her feel shocked by her father's behavior, was the motherly instinct, imprinted in her from birth by the Almighty. While Amram sought, with male logic, ways to prevent the killing of Jewish children, Miriam was thinking in exactly the opposite way — namely, she was seeking ways to increase childbirth. What explains this tremendous difference between the two is Miriam's loyalty to her role of "mother," a role imprinted by G-d in the very nature of women. Miriam's simple emotion just could not grasp how it can be possible to stop childbirth.This inner truth made Miriam operate incessantly to attain her goal as midwife, and her motherly instinct drove her to take care of Israel's leader — Moshe —the one that eventually redeemed Israel from servitude.

In these difficult times we, too, must brace ourselves and pursue the path paved for us by Miriam: to strengthen the natural motherly instinct that exists within each and every woman. We must do whatever we can to save the unborn children of our people. The children bolstered the depressed spirit of the Jews in Egypt and helped bring the eventual redemption. Saving the children will revive the spirit of the Jewish people today, and will bring about our redemption from all our tribulations, speedily in our days, Amen.

Dr. Eli J. Schussheim MD
Chairman of the Board, C.R.I.B. – EFRAT

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We therefore call upon you to assist them in their praiseworthy endeavors, each according to his means. May Heaven bless all those who come to their aid in every way, with life. prosperity, health and supreme light.

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The blessed actions of EFRAT, which is involved in saving unborn Jewish children, are already widely known among the public, and whoever gives a hand in sustaining EFRAT and helping it expand its beneficial activities, is a partner in saving the souls of Jewish children.

In Yoreh De'ah, *section 249, and the* Acharonim *there, there are differences of opinion as to the question, if one fulfill one's obligation by giving tithe Ma'asar money to other mitzvot. However, regarding the issue at hand there are two positive aspects simultaneously: sustaining and helping the poor, and saving lives.*

May G-d pour down His blessing and open blind eyes to choose the path of Torah, which gives life, happiness, richness and splendor.

With blessings for success,
Yosef Shalom Elyashiv

Our FUTURE עתידנו

"...and they saved the children"

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Tel: 972-2-6536212 ▪ Fax: 972-2-6541393

We must all be deeply grateful to EFRAT, under the direction of our precious and prominent friend Dr. Schussheim, who does so much, and invests his energies and financial resources in this institution. EFRAT was established in order to operate in two areas: (a) to give guidance, encouragement and information in order to prevent abortions; (b) to grant financial assistance in a dignified way to those who need it, both during the pregnancy and after the birth.

Thank G-d, they have done a lot to prevent thousands, even tens of thousands of abortions — through lectures and publications that explain implications of abortion, including the the physical damage to the woman.

Our Sages say that Shifrah and Puah, the midwives, were actually Yocheved, Moshe's mother, and Miriam, Moshe's sister. When Pharaoh saw that the Israelites were increasing in number in a supernatural way, he ordered the two midwives to become murderers by killing the newborn babies (Exodus 1:16). But they refused, despite the fact that they were liable to extremely heavy punishment, even death. Our sages say that Miriam, who is also called Puah and Efrat, cried to Pharaoh: How can you, a king, say something like that? Pharaoh wanted to kill her for that, but Yocheved stood up and told Pharaoh: Why are you getting so excited about something that a little girl says? Leave her alone! Our Sages relate that the King of Egypt did not do them any harm (Midrash Exodus Rabbah 1:47).

Our Sages add that not only did they not kill the babies, but they also did them further favors. For example: if the mother was poor, they would go around and collect water and food for her from rich homes, and thus revive such mothers and their babies.

This is also the way of the EFRAT Organization, that does its utmost to prevent abortions. If a woman, or her husband, have no possibility of sustaining the baby once it is born, EFRAT finances all expenses, sometimes even diapers and food, for the entire family. Happy are they and happy is their lot, and happy is whoever assists them; for in helping to sustain even one soul, it is as if one has sustained an entire world.

May they, through this merit, enjoy perfect health, happiness and prosperity, and may they succeed wherever they go, both materially and spiritually. May this merit also benefit the entire People of Israel, and may they dwell in their country in calm and in peace, with no threats. Our Sages say that every boy or girl that is born brings the redemption closer — may it come speedily in our days, Amen.

Mordechai Eliahu
Rishon LeZion and Former Chief Rabbi of Israel

Message from the Editor

Pharaoh, the king of Egypt, ordered Yocheved and Miriam to kill all male babies. "And he said, when you are a midwife to the Hebrew women... if it is a son, then you shall kill him, but if it is a daughter then she shall live" (Exodus 1:16). This extremely cruel decree raises a big question: How could Pharaoh possibly think that he would be able to convince the two most prominent Jewish women — the wife and the daughter of the Head of the Sanhedrin — to kill the Jewish children? How could he expect them not to object to his decree? The *Be'er Moshe* says that Pharaoh thought that turning precisely to these two women would make it possible for him to carry out his cruel decree.

Pharaoh knew that if he were to make a decree such as "Every son that is born you shall cast into the Nile," the result would be an uprise against him. Therefore he plays the naive and gives them the following advice: Look, the Jewish people are now in a difficult economic and moral situation. Slavery is full of hardship, poverty is great — what mother would want her child to be born into a situation like this? What mother who cares about the future, education and daily sustenance of her children can afford to give birth in Egypt? Any person with the least amount of sense understands that in such a situation, it would be best to kill the baby just as it is born. You, the Jewish midwives, of all people, must be "humane" and help spare the poor babies, whose future seems so bleak, from the suffering to which they are destined, even before they are born.

In order to show to the midwives how he really "cares" about the future of the babies, and to prove to them that he has no ulterior motive, Pharaoh adds that actually, the Jewish women themselves can solve the economic difficulties — since they can marry Egyptians. He also adds that it is our moral duty to kill the males, for their own good.

What was Yocheved and Miriam's reaction to Pharaoh's decree? — Economic support! The midrash (Exodus Rabbah 1) says: "'And they saved the children' — this is a praise within a praise; not only did they not fulfill Pharaoh's decree, but they also did the babies further favors. The midwives would go and take water and food from the houses of the rich ones and give to the poor ones, thus helping sustain their children."

AS IN THE PAST, today we must also save the children of Israel. Get involved!

Gedolei Israel call out: "Every single Jew must be involved in the lofty goal of saving Israel's children."

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For the Shabbos Table

***"But the midwives feared G-d, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them"* (Exodus 1:17)**

The Midrash relates how Yocheved and Miriam fed the babies and tended to all their needs. The question arises: Why does the Torah mention only one virtue — their fear of G-d? Were they rewarded only for that?

Rabbi M. Rubman ZT"L, in his book ***Zichron Meir***, answers that virtues alone would not have enabled the midwives to do what they did. Breaking the king's decree can be done only by one who is filled with fear of G-d; only such a person can rise to such conduct, while ignoring the great danger. The Torah, then, mentions the true reason for their conduct.

***"Therefore G-d dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied, and [they] grew very mighty"* (Exodus 1:20)**

Scripture does not specify what was the good that befell the midwives because of the people's multiplying. One may say (based on *Pirkei Avot* 6:11) that "the Almighty wanted to give merit to Israel, therefore He gave them much Torah and commandments." In other words, much Torah and many commandments means a great reward. Here, G-d wanted the midwives to enjoy the reward of their numerous *mitzvot* — keeping the babies alive, which resulted in the great increase in numbers of the Jewish people, and their reward became greater and greater. (*Tosefet Beracha*)

On the basis of this same *mishnah* one can also say: becoming more numerous means that there were more Jews who performed the *mitzvot*, and the *mitzvot* performed by those babies were accredited to the midwives. Therefore, their reward was very great.

***"And it came to pass, because the midwives feared G-d, that He made them houses"* (Exodus 1:21)**

Rashi: "Houses of *cohanim* and houses of Levites from Yocheved, and kingship from Miriam." G-d runs His world according to the principle of "measure for measure," why did Yocheved and Miriam merit to be rewarded by lineage?

Rabbi Yosef Dov Soloveitchik ZT"L answers this in light of the ruling that says that the children of Jewish women who marry non-Jews are 100% Jewish, because they go by the mother; whereas a child is decreed a Levite or a Cohen according to the tribal lineage —namely, by the father.

The explanation, then, is: Pharaoh wanted to kill the males and keep the females. Had he succeeded, the Jewish people would not have perished, because the babies, who go by the mother, would still have been Jewish. The lineage, however, would have been lost. Therefore, by refusing to fulfill Pharaoh's orders, even by risking their lives, the midwives made it possible to protect and retain the lineage of the Jewish people.

A Short Chassidic Story

Once, some people came to Rabbi Yehoshua Tronk - known as Rabbi Yehoshua'leh of Kutno, author of the important works: Yeshuos Yisrael *and* Yeshous Malko *- with a question about a woman who was having such a difficult labor, that the doctors considered killing the fetus in order to save her. The rabbi said with great emotion: "G-d forbid! In this day and age, we do not judge in capital cases!" The Rav began praying with great fervor for her recovery. While still in prayer, the good news came that the woman gave birth, thank G-d, to a healthy baby.*

Unfortunately, quite often here, at EFRAT, we hear Pharaoh's claim about the moral duty to abort children whose economic future is uncertain. We hear it from hundreds of pregnant women who are in financial straits, due to which they intend to abort the fruit of their womb. They do not *really* want to kill their children, G-d forbid; but they, too, ask themselves what they can do in the difficult situation they are in. For a child who has already been born, they would be willing to make any effort; but the fetus within the womb, why, it is not a human being yet! And so, the financial situation tips the scales in favor of abortion.

The question I always ask myself in such situations is, did our parents also make similar economic calculations before we were born? What would have remained of the Jewish people had our forefathers in Egypt taken their financial situation into consideration, and accepted Pharaoh's advice to dispose of their sons? Would the Jewish people exist today? — The answer is an unequivocal No!

The true solution, which EFRAT offers to pregnant women in distress who consider having an abortion, is the same solution offered by Yocheved and Miriam: to accompany and support them, both psychologically and financially, so that not a single Jewish life be lost, G-d forbid.

This approach is of two-fold importance: it is a genuine rescue of lives, as well as a true fulfillment of the commandment of *Tzedakah* (charity).

EFRAT, that accompanies and supports women who, due to a transient state of distress, consider abortion, has succeeded in the past year in rescuing 1,186 babies from abortion — the modern-day "Every son that is born you shall cast into the Nile." Before they were born, these children were unwanted; but once born, they bring great happiness to their families. In the course of the 25 years of EFRAT's operation, the lives of tens of thousands of babies have been saved. Thus far, not a single woman has expressed any regret for having given birth to her baby.

Thank G-d, since the large-scale campaign we held some six months ago, in which EFRAT distributed 350,000 information kits (as reported in detail in the previous issue of ATIDENU — Our Future), **there has been a significant increase** in the number of women who understand the true implications of abortion, and who have decided to turn to EFRAT for assistance. The sum required for rescuing one baby is only $1,000. This sum enables us to give a monthly payment to the woman and her baby, to buy for her, if there is a need, some basic equipment for the newborn (a bassinet or a crib, a stroller, a baby bath, and the like), and also give her psychological and medical advice. $1,000 for saving a child — is a small sum. What is $1,000 when measured against an entire life span of a human being and his or her descendants? However, when the number of cases which we deem worthy of support increases, the sums add up to great amounts, that our budget cannot handel. Unfortunately, lately we were constrained to stop supporting a number of pregnancies — an act that is liable to bring about the termination of those women not with the birth of sweet, happy babies, but, G-d forbid, in undesirable ways. Given this critical situation, which involves the actual saving of many lives, we have decided — after consulting Israel's greatest Rabbinic authorities — to launch an **emergency fundraising campaign**, in which we plead for the lives of so many thousands of babies who are crying out their mute cry for life.

We hope that their cry will fall on your attentive ears. Please give us your generous contribution and become our partners in saving more lives.

Chagai Goldshmidt
Secretary-General
EFRAT

Rabbi Shimon bar Yochai says: "Three kinds of people drive the Shechinah away from the world and because of them people cry out and are not answered. These are: ...he who murders his offspring in their mother's womb, for he destroys what G-d has built, and such a person is worse than a murderer, for it is his own children that he kills..." (Zohar, Exodus 3)

Saving a Child is equal to Saving An Entire World

During the time of Pharaoh, the very survival of the Jewish people was at stake. Pharaoh had decreed to the Jewish midwives: "When you deliver the Hebrew women, and you see them on the birthstone, if it is a son, you are to kill him..." (Shemos 1:16). Pharaoh knew well that without sons there could be no fathers, and without fathers, there would be no new generation of Jews. If the plan had worked, then within a short span of time, *Klal Yisroel* would have ceased to exist.

The decisive response of Yocheved and Miriam, the mother and sister of Moshe Rabbeinu respectively, was legendary, and, in fact, set the standard for all time. "*Vatichayena es hayeladim* -- and they caused the boys to live." With complete devotion and in total self-sacrifice, they defied Pharaoh's edict and saved and sustained countless Jewish lives. Today, we face a similar challenge, as Jewish lives are again at risk. This time, however, we are doing it to ourselves. We have become the agents of our own destruction. As difficult as it is to comprehend, Jewish women are accomplishing what Pharaoh had set out to do. They are "drowning" their unborn children in the sea of abortion. We, a nation that so recently lost 1.5 million children during the *Churban Europa*, are living in the midst of a self-declared Holocaust, which for the most part, is being perpetrated through a lack of understanding and knowledge about the sanctity of human life.

Chazal, in *Mesechta Sanhedrin* (37a), explain that the Sanhedrin would try to convince would-be-killers to abandon their plans. The *dayanim* of the Sanhedrin would warn witnesses who were about to commit perjury and condemn an innocent man to his death to think twice regarding what they were about to do with the following admonition: *Hashem created Adam. The first man was created alone. Why didn't Hashem create millions of human beings at one time? To teach us that whoever, kills a single man of Israel, is considered by the Torah as if he had destroyed the entire world; and whoever preserves a single member of Klal Yisroel is considered by the Torah to have sustained the entire world.*

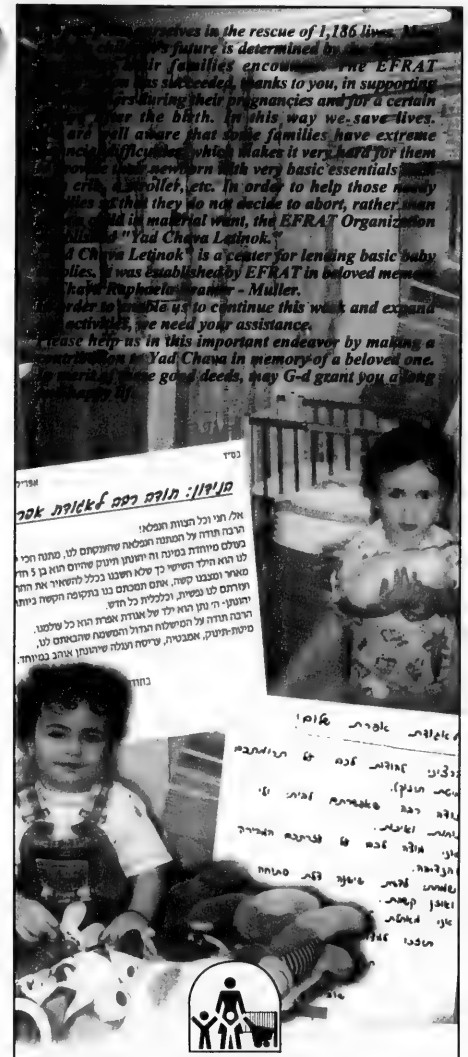
The would-be killer, in effect, was told to consider the importance and greatness of his intended victim. The entire world, he was told, was created for that person's life, he is preserving the world. If this admonition was not enough, the Mishna concludes: *If a man strikes many coins from one mold, they all resemble one another. However, the supreme King of kings, Hakadosh Baruch Hu, fashioned every man in the stamp of the first man, Adam, yet, not one of them resembles his fellow. Therefore, every single person is obligated to say:* "The world was created for *me*."

As Rashi explains, if the would-be-killer would only recognize his own greatness, he would never succumb to sin. The Sanhedrin, in short, is trying to motivate the would-be-killer to preserve life by impressing upon him the uniqueness and sanctity of his own life as well as that of his intended victim.

The lesson for us is clear. Jewish women, the future mothers of *Klal Yisroel*, must be taught how precious the fetus is; and, in turn, how special they are. Once they have this appreciation, they will always choose life. Indeed, this basic concept, the need to nurture a feeling of self worth, plays a prominent role in the spirituality of every Jew. My Rebbi, Maran Hagaon Harav Shlomo Zalman Auerbach, ZT"L, stressed countless times his understanding of the underlying foundation for each and every *aveira* that a person, *chas v'shalom* transgresses. According to Rav Shlomo Zalman, it is *atzvus*, literally a sense or even a state of depression. If an individual would only realize his own self worth, his own inner greatness, said Rav Shlomo Zalman, he would never succumb to sin. A person who feels exalted will do everything in his power to maintain that lofty state. EFRAT, directed by my dear friend, the venerable Dr. Eli Schussheim, *Shlita*, encourages the mother-to-be to be a mother. They inspire her to recognize her own special potential and to take her royal place in shaping the destiny of the Jewish people. EFRAT acts decisively, just as Miriam and Yocheved did some 3,400 years ago. They awaken the natural maternal feelings in the mother-to-be and persuade her through emotional support, as well as by subsidizing the increased financial costs associated with having a child, such as the cost of cribs, clothing diapers, formula, food, medical care and counseling.

RCHM"L, over two million *neshamos* have been lost in *Eretz Yisroel* through abortion. With your generous support, ten of thousands of lives will be saved. The future of the Jewish people is in our hands. Let us rise to the challenge.

HaRav Moshe Tuvia Lieft
Moreh D'asrah, Kehillas Bais Yisroel
Rosh Kollel, Minneapolis Community Kollel
Minneapolis, Minnesota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This Week

National

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Mekorot Institute gets ready for winter season. *Page 14*

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Israel & the Jewish World

CIA concerned about Syrian nuclear plans. *Page 28*

Argentine Jews turn attention to Zion. *Page 31*

Arts & Travel

A wealth of art, artifacts and architecture in Rhodes. *Page 35*

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Snow! The Great White... Holy Land

Snowstorms hit Israel last week from Jerusalem all the way to the north. In the top photo, the Jerusalem skyline of grey and gold is a landscape blanketed in white. The two accompanying photos are scenes more typical of a Canadian winter - the road near Kibbutz Margoliot being cleared by a tractor and children struggling to build a snowman.

[Isranet photos]

Gray defends Israel visit

Responds to Globe and Mail

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray is strongly defending his attendance at a meeting last week in Jerusalem of elected Jewish politicians from around the world organized by an Israeli think-tank.

Gray was responding to issues raised in a Jan. 8 front-page story in the *Globe and Mail* that said an "influential" group of five Canadian Liberal MPs – including two cabinet ministers – and two Liberal senators was "lending its support to Israel" by attending the meeting.

Herb Gray

The article also implied that the Canadians were compromised because the organizers of the conference, which the article identified as "the Israeli government," had offered to pay their expenses.

In a telephone interview with *The CJN* that he initiated from Jerusalem, Gray said that "attending the conference indicates support for Israel, but this is totally consistent with Canada's foreign policy, which supports Israel behind secure borders".

Continued on page 26

Please see related story on page 4

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CIA concerned about Syrian nuclear play — please see page 28

The News in Brief

CANADA

Interfaith Service

TORONTO — Synagogues have been invited to take part in a day of interfaith prayer slated for Jan. 24. The services will take place in six Toronto-area Roman Catholic parishes and will coincide with a day-long meeting between religious leaders and Pope John Paul in Assisi, Italy the same day. The Pope and representatives of several faiths, including Judaism, are to sign "a common commitment to peace." Faith groups in Toronto will also pray for peace.

ISRAEL

Enhanced Benefits

JERUSALEM — Israel has approved enhanced absorption benefits for new immigrants from France and South Africa. Immigrants from those countries who arrive during the next year will be awarded the same benefits as olim from the former Soviet Union and other countries. Immigrants from South Africa will also receive a special $10,000 housing acquisition assistance and a $1,400 stipend from the Jewish Agency for Israel. The government and Jewish Agency recently increased benefits to Argentine immigrants in the wake of the economic and political crisis there.

Clinton to Speak

JERUSALEM — Former U.S. President Bill Clinton is slated to visit Israel this month to receive an honorary degree from Tel Aviv University. Clinton is scheduled to give a speech on the Middle East peace process Jan. 20 in Tel Aviv and participate in the opening of the Clinton Centre for American Studies at the university.

Female Director

JERUSALEM — For the first time in Israel, a woman has been appointed director of a hospital. Dr. Orna Blondheim was appointed director of the Schneider Children's Medical Centre in Petach Tikvah. Blondheim, 46, previously served as deputy director of the Ha'emek hospital in Afula.

Refusing Service

JERUSALEM — Three more Israelis were jailed for refusing to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. In all, 36 army reservists have been given jail terms for refusing to serve in the territories during the current intifadah. The three reservists were given sentences ranging from 18 to 30 days in military prison.

'Jew Boy' Remark

JERUSALEM — An Israeli legislator called the U.S. ambassador to Israel a "a little Jew boy." MK Tzvi Hendel was criticizing Daniel Kurtzer, who had said Israel was spending money on communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip instead of helping the disabled.

WORLD

Flatow Scholarship

RIVER EDGE, N.J. — Scholarship applications are available for the 2002-03 academic year for those planning to study in Israel. The Alisa Flatow Memorial Scholarship Fund was established after its namesake, a New Jersey native, was killed in a 1995 terrorist attack in Israel, where she was spending a study year. Applications are at www.alisafund.org. The deadline is Feb. 15.

Synagogue Attacked

PARIS — Assailants threw gasoline bombs and stones at a synagogue in suburban Paris. No one was injured, but the synagogue sustained minor damage in the Jan. 5 attack, which took place in the Paris suburb of Goussainville.

Neo-Nazi Jailed

STOCKHOLM — A Swedish neo-Nazi who published an anti-Semitic booklet was sentenced this month to six months in jail for violating Sweden's hate speech law. A Swedish court said the booklet, titled *The Jewish Question*, constituted "agitation against an ethnic group."

Death Sentence

ANKARA — A Turkish court has imposed the death sentence on two Turkish citizens responsible for the March 1992 murder of Ehud Sadan, the chief security officer at the Israeli embassy in Turkey. However, the death sentences are unlikely to be carried out, since Turkey has put a moratorium on executions. Sadan was killed after a bomb attached to his car was detonated. A group calling itself the Islamic Revenge Organization claimed responsibility, saying it was revenge for Israel's killing of Hezbollah secretary-general Abbas Musawi in Lebanon a month earlier.

Victim's Brother Fights Court Ruling

NEW YORK — The brother of the chassidic man killed in the 1991 Crown Heights riots said he will fight a decision that overturned the convictions of two men for violating the civil rights of victim Yankel Rosenbaum.

Norman Rosenbaum says he plans to fly to New York from his home in Melbourne, Australia soon. "I have a team of lawyers already in place to see what options are available," he said. Rosenbaum has made more than 100 trips to the United States to seek convictions for the killers.

An appeals court found last week that defendants Lemrick Nelson Jr. and Charles Price didn't get a fair trial because the judge in the case improperly allowed a potentially biased Jewish man onto the jury after the man said he didn't know if he could give a fair trial.

Nelson had been charged with Yankel Rosenbaum's murder and acquitted in a 1991 state trial.

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Tourism in Jerusalem a British legacy

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Feature

TORONTO — Israel can thank colonialist Britain for having helped develop the modern tourist industry in Jerusalem, an Israeli scholar claims.

During the British era in Palestine, Britain brought "new attitudes" to tourism and instituted procedures for preserving historical sites in the city and the country, said Kobi Cohen-Hattab.

Kobi Cohen-Hattab

Born and raised in Jerusalem, Cohen-Hattab recently completed a PhD in historical geography at the Hebrew University.

The title of his thesis is *The Development of Tourism Infrastructure in Jerusalem During British Rule, 1917-1948.*

He wrote it under the supervision of Yehoshua Ben-Arieh of the Hebrew University and Yossi Katz of Bar Ilan University.

Cohen-Hattab plans to publish it as a book.

Cohen-Hattab, 36, has been in Toronto for the past six months under the auspices of the Israeli Association of Canadian Studies, Bar Ilan University, York University and the University of Toronto.

He is here to write a comparative study of Toronto and Tel Aviv under the impact of globalization and modernization.

In August, he plans to return to Israel to take up an academic post at Bar Ilan University in Tel Aviv.

Cohen-Hattab, whose European parents settled in Palestine in the 1930s, argues that British Mandate administrators gave tourism a great impetus by ensuring that holy places in Jerusalem would be preserved against the ravages of time.

Britain established a department of antiquities and passed laws designed to preserve sites such as the Western Wall, the Temple Mount and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

Without these revolutionary measures, deteriorating holy sites may have fallen in a complete state of disrepair.

"The British had a tradition of preserving historical sites," he explained.

The previous Ottoman rulers had not been particularly interested in preservation, he added.

"They didn't really care."

During the mandate period, several major tourist attractions, including the Rockefeller Museum, the first archeological museum in Palestine, were unveiled.

Additional new attractions included The Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building and the Hebrew University campus on Mount Scopus, both of which nurtured tourism, a major component of Palestine's economy.

Cohen-Hattab says that new hotels and pensions were constructed to accommodate the increased flow of tourists.

And in line with their plans to boost tourism – and to beautify Jerusalem – the British built parks and gardens.

By 1942, 24 such parks and gardens were scattered throughout the city.

From the 1920s onward, tourism in Palestine developed at a rapid pace.

Fifty thousand travellers, one-third of whom were Jewish, visited in 1925.

Within a decade, the figure had almost doubled.

Most tourists were Europeans and Americans, but a substantial proportion were Arabs from neighbouring countries.

Aside from Jerusalem, Palestine's chief tourist draws were Tel Aviv, Haifa, Tiberias, Safed and Megiddo.

Cohen-Hattab, who is here with his wife Michal– a lawyer – and three children, wants to talk to Canadians who visited Palestine during the British Mandate.

He is interested in their reminiscences, photographs, letters, postcards, journals and diaries.

His phone number is 416-663-2120. His e-mail address is cohen-hattab@aol.com.

TJA OHR MENACHEM STUDENTS RECEIVE AWARD: After being chosen to compete with students from across North America, the Toronto Jewish Academy Ohr Menachem team worked with engineers and executives to design and build a Jet-Toy – a balloon-powered car – at the launch of the Canadian branch of the Society of Automotive Engineering (SAE). Part of the SAE mandate is to promote excellence in science education. Seen, from left, are: Jessica Lusthouse, Jasmine Filler and Shalom Perez.

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Article implied dual loyalty

I seldom comment on the coverage of Israel by other media outlets. There are simply too many other pressing subjects to which I prefer to devote this space. But there are occasional exceptions.

An article that appeared last week in the *Globe and Mail* was such an exception.

Offensive and insulting, it crossed the line. In my mind, it even raised questions about the motives of the *Globe*'s editors.

The article in question was headlined "Israeli-backed event draws top Liberals" and continued to another page under the headline "Israelis offered delegates free hotel accommodation."

Ostensibly, the story dealt with the attendance by six Jewish Canadian parliamentarians at a conference in Jerusalem for Jewish parliamentarians from around the world.

That the event should have warranted a story at all in the *Globe and Mail* is debatable. This was the sixth such annual gathering of Jewish parliamentarians; it was very similar to countless other such gatherings each year that bring Jews and others with common interests or backgrounds together in Jerusalem. Even if we concede for argument's sake that the story did have news value and was, therefore, legitimate, was placement of the story on page one warranted?

The placement, content and tone of the story were unquestionably problematic. They evoked in this reader, at least, great discomfort.

Implicit throughout the article was the suggestion that it was inherently inappropriate for these Jewish Canadian parliamentarians to attend the conference.

The lead paragraph set the tone. "An influential group of Canadian Liberal MPs led by Deputy Prime Minister Herb Gray, is *lending its support to Israel* (my emphasis) by attending a conference of Jewish politicians organized by the Israeli government."

And if they did "lend Israel support," was it wrong for them to do so? Is there any rule of morality or parliamentary obligation that prohibits them from supporting Israel?

"Ms. Caplan," the article continued, "said she sees no problem wearing 'two hats,' one as a Canadian minister and another as a supporter of Israel."

Why was this even an issue for the reporter?

Even if the reporter did not suggest the "two hats" terminology, and it came from Caplan herself, why was she put in the situation of having to defend her trip to Jerusalem? Whether the "two hats" terminology emanated from her or from the reporter, why was the concept even broached?

Like a bad odour that wafts across a clean, quiet ocean inlet, the implication in the lead of the story and in the quote from Caplan was unmistakable: these Jewish Canadian parliamentarians may have been in a conflict between their duties to Canada and their relationship to Israel.

To cast further doubt on the propriety of their behaviour, the story then attempted to raise concerns over the funding of the Canadians' participation: "The Israelis offered all participants five nights of free hotel accommodation during the conference... It was not clear in all cases... whether the Canadian MPs accepted that offer, or whether they are billing the Canadian government for other travel costs."

Either way, whether paid for by "the Israelis" or by the "Canadian government," the implication intended to jump out at the reader was again unmistakable: "the visiting politicians" were probably doing something wrong.

If the expenses were paid for by "the Israelis," the Canadians' integrity and independence were being compromised, as if "bought" by Israel. On the other hand, if the expenses were paid for by "the Canadian government," then Canadian taxpayers were being exploited.

But the story omitted to inform readers that the conference was the sixth of its kind, organized, arranged and sponsored by the Israeli Forum, a non-profit organization at arm's length from the Israeli government whose work strives to increase contacts between Israeli and Disapora Jews. It also omitted to inform readers that the government of Israel is only a marginal contributor to the funding of the forum; that the Canadians were there for valid public and private reasons; and that it was entirely appropriate for public or for private reasons that the Canadians attend the conference.

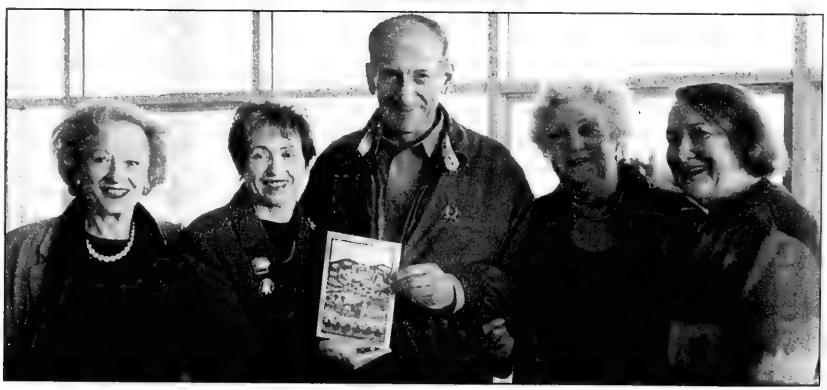
Given the presentation of the article, it was wholly reasonable to conclude that the *Globe* was whispering, if not openly proclaiming, dual loyalties on the part of the six parliamentarians.

The gratuitous and irrelevant reference to the conference in the following day's editorial about the 50 tons of intercepted PA-purchased armaments merely confirmed the reasonability of such a conclusion.

The article was an insult to the parliamentarians whose conduct was unfairly made the object of suspicion and scrutiny. It was also offensive to the vast majority of Canadians of all religious, ethnic and cultural affiliations who understand that the canard of dual loyalty is beneath contempt and a perniciously dangerous flag for the *Globe and Mail* to be raising in our free, tolerant, pluralistic, multicultural society.

—MBD

SeeJN



MISSION TO ISRAEL: Canadian Hadassah-WIZO members took part in a recent solidarity mission to Israel. Seen meeting with Ehud Olmert, mayor of Jerusalem, are, from left: Cecily Peters, honorary national president; Marion Mayman, national president; Olmert; Lily Frank, national executive vice-president; Gail Hock, national officer.

New executive director sees United Synagogue as a family

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Denise Gold, the new executive director of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian region, considered the modern Orthodox synagogue of her childhood in Capetown, South Africa, a second home.

Her affiliation with the Conservative movement, however, is longstanding. A longtime member of Mercaz – which supports the Masorti movement, Conservative Judaism's Israeli arm – Gold felt an immediate affinity the first time she attended a Conservative service as a guest.

"What I liked was seeing the family sitting together as a family unit," she said in a recent interview at the office she shares with a staff of six. "I found that to be a warm, embracing atmosphere, and very conducive to praying together."

Gold is keeping that initial impression in mind as she settles into the position she took last November, replacing Shirley Gossack. (Gossack also served as youth director; Tamara Kochberg has assumed that role.)

"We're trying very hard to make that first impression of mine – as a family together – reality right now," said Gold, a mother of four and grandmother of nine.

"I look at all of us as being part of a huge family," she added. "I think that's the Jewish mother thing."

A high school English teacher by training, Gold has worked in the Jewish community since she immigrated in 1978. She has headed Israel Bonds Women's Division, worked in public relations and communication for B'nai Brith Canada, spent eight years at the Canadian Zionist Federation and most recently was with Canadian Friends of Boys Town.

Aside from her family, Gold's passion is Israel and all things Jewish, she said.

In her new position, Gold has already made a point of visiting and speaking with the rabbi of every congregation in her purview, which includes Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes. (Canadian congregations west of Ontario tend to affiliate with geographically closer American regions.)

"We in this community are blessed with really good clergy," she said. Unfortunately, she noted, in terms of salary, particularly with the low value of the Canadian dollar relative to the American one, Canadian positions are less attractive from a financial point of view.

Gold's job entails working closely with member synagogues to provide programming and educational materials, and being the "conduit" for collaborative programs, she said.

Denise Gold

She said she is looking forward to meeting with the congregations and making a difference in terms of their programming.

United Synagogue's international office in New York has a cadre of professionals to help congregations with issues such as fund-raising, volunteer development and membership retention, she noted.

"I want to make United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism more relevant to our member congregations," she said, referring particularly to youth groups such as United Synagogue Youth (USY), and to smaller synagogues.

USY, which recently held its international convention in Washington, D.C. (attended by 28 youngsters from the Canadian region) is "a wonderful place for the young people to be able to mix in the milieu of a larger group than their own synagogue," Gold said. "I think that the whole experience of being part of synagogue youth is so positive because out of this come your future leaders."

When asked about a decline in certain USY chapters, Gold lauded Tamara Kochberg's recent youth work and said she expects "a significant change in the next year or so."

Other projects include finding new office premises before the current lease expires at the end of March.

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JUNCTION SHUL ANNIVERSARY: A mural, which represents Israel, was hand painted in the 1920s and adorns the wall behind the Aron Kodesh at Congregation Knesseth Israel, also known as the Junction Shul, which recently celebrated its 90th anniversary. Inset, from left, are Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, Jules Kronis, Edwin Goldstein, Ronald Appleby and Joey Tanenbaum, who were at the celebration.

Handler helps promote social justice

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Mary Anne Handler, executive assistant at New Israel Fund (NIF), says it was fate that led her to her job.

When she was interviewed for the position about 1½ years ago, she discovered that she knew NIF's executive director, Minda Davis, from Congregation Darchei Noam where they both belong.

"There was an immediate connection," she says.

Spotlight

Handler, who had worked at Darchei Noam for three years before working for Israel's former trade commissioner in Toronto, says the synagogue was her "gateway" to the Jewish community.

She had been brought up Catholic, but converted to Judaism when she married her husband Willie, with whom she now has a teenage daughter.

Growing up, her parents – her father is Frank Bonello, director of central scouting for the National Hockey League and former coach and manager of the Toronto Marlboros – "taught her to respect everyone.

"My husband's parents are Holocaust survivors, and it was important to all of us that we bring up our children with one religion.

"When I began working at the synagogue, they welcomed me into the community. I really felt like I belonged. I never felt like I had to qualify my being Jewish," she says.

The New Israel Fund, which promotes equality and social justice for all Israelis, fosters values similar to her own, she says.

Mary Anne Handler

Her duties at the two-person office include donor communication, keeping track of donor records, and planning events such as the organization's annual Women's Voices evening.

"Last year we sponsored a photographic display – the photographer had been a survivor of the 1915 Armenian massacre – at the Koffler Centre featuring pictures of 1920s Jerusalem. Minda had met the photographer's son while visiting his photography shop in Israel, and arranged for the photographer's grandson to come and display part of the photos."

Since NIF's inception in 1979, it has granted more than $100 million to more than 600 non-profit organizations.

"We focus on populations that have been traditionally at a disadvantage – women, children, Arab citizens, Jews from Africa, new immigrants and non-Orthodox Jews.

"The nature of my job means that I am the first person donors speak to when they call the office. I get a lot of satisfaction from that."

What the organization does, she says, "is underscored by our events. People from the organization and from organizations that receive grants come and speak on behalf of NIF. People learn first-hand what we are all about."

A recent Women's Voices speaker was a Bedouin woman who spoke on the situation of Bedouin women in Israel.

"The donors are special people who care about the work of NIF. When I meet them face-to-face, I get a sense of accomplishment."

She says it is important to her to work in the Jewish community because it makes her feel more comfortable within the religion. "It is fate that brought me here and I feel I belong."

She and her husband are also actively involved with Darchei Noam where they have belonged for about seven years, and with their 16-year-old daughter's hockey team, which Handler manages and her husband coaches.

Visiting Israel has been on her "wish list" for a number of years, she says. "That is a high priority for our family."

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Dry Bones

Caring and response: peoplehood's hallmarks

Over the past few weeks we have watched and read the news from Argentina with increasing alarm and deep worry. When banks refused depositors access to their own monies and rumours abounded of possible bank collapses, the thin veneer of civilization was easily scraped aside and the streets roiled with calamity and violence. The scenes were as frightening as they were ugly.

It is too early to tell whether the new government of Argentina has set a course that will extricate its people from the economic crisis and teetering social anarchy that exist there now. Many western observers, skeptical of the long-term soundness of the policy initiatives adopted by Argentina's president, Eduardo Duhalde, believe not.

That remains still to be seen.

We fervently hope however that a sufficiently long period of immediate calm will settle over Argentina to enable its people to step back from the brink and devise an appropriate plan back to economic and social stability.

Out of the dangerous tumult and dire times in Argentina, however, we have witnessed, again, an inspiring testament to the metaphysical bond of Jewish peoplehood. Throughout the Jewish world, Jewish communal organizations, relief agencies and advocacy groups are rallying to aid our fellow Jews in Argentina.

Peoplehood abjures indifference. Caring and response are peoplehood's hallmarks. And the sense of Jewish peoplehood, of the actual day-to-day, living manifestation of the millennial axiom *kol Yisrael arevim zeh lazeh*, all Israel bears a measure of responsibility one for the other, is a breathtakingly beautiful thing to behold. More importantly, it is a breathtakingly beautiful and moving thing in which to take part.

As reported in *The CJN* last week, the United Jewish Communities, essentially the network of Jewish federations of North America, has been active in Argentina for some time, helping where it could with subsidies and other assistance. So too have a myriad of other Jewish welfare and relief organizations in North America, Europe and Israel.

But the key "instrument of aid," for our co-religionists in Argentina is the State of Israel itself. For Jews around the world who feel vulnerable and set upon by dark and hostile forces, Israel is now a sanctuary and a haven for them, which, albeit not itself free from danger, will always seek to protect its citizens from any and all attempts to harm them. The Jewish Agency for Israel expects as many as 3,000 Jews from Argentina will settle in Israel this year. True to its mandate, it will assist them to do so.

By involvement in our own respective federations and other communal organizations, we can help the Jewish Agency and Israel provide that sanctuary to our Argentinian brethren. In years past, that idea of a sanctuary, always a fervent hope, was only a dream. Today, thank God, it is no mere dream; it is a promise.

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IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Faramarz Kashi, Ramin Netmati, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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Reader should learn history

I highly recommend that Andrea Kwavnick (Letters to the editor, *CJN*, Dec.13, 2001) read the book *From Time Immemorial* by Joan Peters. In it, she will discover that, contrary to the myth that "Palestinians had lived there [in Palestine] for centuries," there was actually a huge Arab migration into Israel after the Jews started cultivating and building there. That is why the United Nations found it necessary to define Arab refugees differently from any other refugees in the world. As opposed to other refugees, defined as people who are forced to leave "permanent" or "habitual" homes, in the case of Arab refugees, the definition included any persons who had been in "Palestine" for only two years (!) before 1948.

Knowledge of our history in Israel, including knowledge and acknowlegement of the Palestinian Jewish refugees as well as the Jewish refugees expelled from Arab lands, is crucial in order to obtain a truly just settlement in the Middle East.

Judy Shier
Toronto

* * *

Nothing should stop visits to Israel

Despite "the situation," we should not be deterred from visiting Israel. We should continue to be strong, support Israel and show solidarity. We should continue to organize peace rallies and sponsor trips such as the ever popular Birthright Israel. Nothing should stop us from travelling to the Jewish State and showing our pride in being Jewish. *Am Yisrael Chai*.

Akiva Gitelman
Cote St. Luc, Que.

* * *

Objects to *CJN's* JDL coverage

I find it quite astounding that your account of the Los Angeles Jewish Defence League (JDL) plot to bomb a local mosque is buried in the Dec. 20 edition. Moreover, the article features an interview with a Canadian JDL leader who proposes that the entire incident was a (presumably Muslim) plot to distract attention from Muslim terrorism. I suppose that the cache of weapons found at the home of one of the JDL leaders was planted by Al Qaeda.

Just imagine if the shoe were on the other foot and a couple of Muslim militants were arrested for planning to bomb an Los Angeles synagogue. Where would that article appear? And would you feature an interview with a Canadian affiliate of these self-same Muslims eager to exonerate them by blaming the Jews for the synagogue bomb plot?

As a Canadian Jew, I am embarrassed that the newspaper that supposedly represents my community does so in such an outrageously biased fashion.

C. Peter Herman
Toronto

* * *

Criticizes government

While the State of Israel is afire from terrorist attacks, our government continues to endorse anti-Israel condemnations with regular frequency.

Religious fanatics of different sects – inflamed by hate-mongering Islamic clerics and by anti-Semitic radio and television broadcasts throughout the entire Arab world – carry out horrifying terrorist attacks against innocent Israeli civilians. The Arab world and its supporters endorse Palestinian violence as non-terrorist acts by freedom fighters and martyrs.

Western governments are wooing Arab countries for the anti-terrorism coalition, at the cost of Israel's security. When the Israeli army retaliates against Palestinian military installations, the soldiers are called terrorists.

Albert L. Stal
Toronto

* * *

Adding to the Kohl story

I was pleased to read the laudatory article by Eli Shupak in *The CJN* (Dec. 20, 2001) about my cousin, Sen. Herb Kohl. Your readers should be apprised of some additional information about Herb's Toronto connections and a small correction should be noted.

Herb and I did not grow up together in Milwaukee. I was raised in Chicago by my mother, Rachel Horowitz.

There are many other Kohl relatives in Toronto, such as Yetta Schatten, Nathan Arback, the late Manny Swadron and the late Abraham Kohl. Most of their children and grandchildren still live in Toronto and I was pleased to join the Canadian section of the Kohl family when my family and I came here. There is also a strong Israeli contingent of the family. We are always searching for more family members.

We are all proud of the achievements of Herb and his three siblings Sidney, Dolores and Allen. While their father, Max, did not live to see Herb become a respected political figure, his wife, Mary, was privileged to witness her son sworn in as a U.S. senator. At her funeral, one year ago, Herb offered a tribute to his parents, saying that they lived the (North) American dream. They came with few resources and built a successful business through hard work, good judgement and much mazal. They brought up their children to be good citizens, appreciative of the opportunities their country offered them, and guided by the Jewish ideals of care and justice for others. Being moral and modest was their creed.

Herb is privileged to carry it on in a public arena, but the entire family is committed to these principles.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The messiah controversy

By MARTIN LOCKSHIN

"Our long-awaited messiah and redeemer arrived! Most Jews failed to recognize that he was the messiah, but we, his disciples, did. Tragically, he died before completing the redemptive process. But he will soon be resurrected and will continue and complete his messianic tasks."

Until just eight years ago, this profession of faith was easily recognizable. It was the distinctive formulation of the Christian credo. In an amazing development, a significant number of pious, Sabbath-observant, religious Jews – ostensibly "Orthodox" Jews – have now adopted this worldview and attempted to declare it kosher.

The death of one of the greatest rabbis of the 20th century, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn, the last Lubavitcher Rebbe, left the Lubavitch movement without any central, recognized authority. Rabbi Schneersohn had been an inspired and inspiring leader, who made Lubavitch, which used to be a small chassidic group, into a major player in the Jewish world. In the last years of his life, and especially after he suffered a stroke, many of his followers insisted that he was the long-awaited messiah, and that all Jews were obligated to recognize him in that role.

The rebbe groomed no successor. After his death in 1993, Jews all over the world, both friendly to Lubavitch and otherwise, wondered how the movement would cope. The movement has *not* had one unified reaction. No one in Lubavitch is openly looking for a new rebbe. "*The* rebbe" – Rabbi Schneersohn – is still the rebbe.

Judaism has known of movements centred around a dead rebbe. The Bratslever chassidic movement found no replacement for Rabbi Nachman after his death in the 19th century. That movement still flourishes (and its adherents are often called the *toyte* [dead] *Chassidim*). Messianic fervour about a *living* chassidic rebbe also has a few precedents in the last three centuries. But there is absolutely no precedent for Jews to continue to consider a person the messiah after his death. Before 1993, no Jew, other than a Jew for Jesus, affirmed that a specific individual who had initiated a messianic mission and then died in an unredeemed world was actually the messiah.

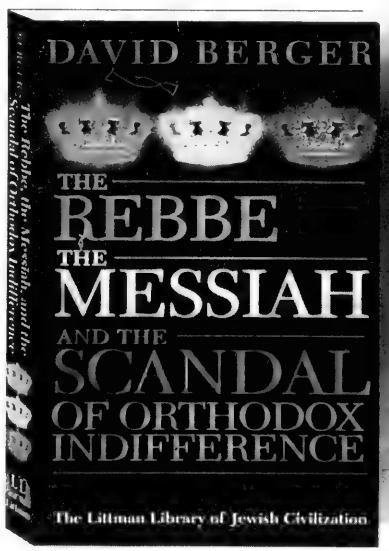
It is hard to know how many Lubavitchers actually believe that their dead rebbe is really the Messiah. But the number is significant. It includes a few of the more important rabbis in the Lubavitch movement in Canada.

A few years after the rebbe's death, a letter containing a *psak halachah* [religious ruling] appeared as a paid advertisement in many Jewish newspapers. Signed by a large number of rabbis associated with the Lubavitch movement, the letter stated that according to Halachah [Jewish law], *all* Jews were required to profess the belief that the late Rabbi Schneersohn was actually the Messiah.

The rebbe, it was claimed, was without doubt a prophet. The rebbe himself had confirmed (according to the letter) that he was the messiah. Since Halachah obligates Jews to believe the words of a prophet, every Jew was required to profess the belief that the rebbe was and still is the messiah.

Should the issue of the beliefs of a number of leaders (and an indeterminate number of followers) of the Lubavitch movement be of interest to those of us who are not Lubavitchers? According to David Berger, the answer is an unambiguous yes.

Berger is an Orthodox rabbi who is a professor of Jewish history at Brooklyn College in New York. He recently completed a term as president of the Association for Jewish Studies, one of the first Orthodox Jews ever to serve in that prestigious position. He is meticulously observant of Halachah, and is recognized around the world as a first-rate scholar. His area of specialization is the history of debates and polemics between Jews and Christians.


DAVID BERGER
THE REBBE THE MESSIAH AND THE SCANDAL OF ORTHODOX INDIFFERENCE
The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization

For the last few years, Berger has been on a tireless, and generally lonely, campaign against the legitimization of the Jewish belief in a dead messiah. He has been trying, with very limited success, to get leading Orthodox rabbis to speak out against this belief. He did have one impressive success in 1996 at the convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, the body to which virtually all modern Orthodox or centrist Orthodox rabbis belong. By an overwhelming majority, the rabbis at that convention passed a resolution reading: "In light of disturbing developments which have arisen in the Jewish community, the Rabbinical Council of America in convention assembled declares that there is not and has never been a place in Judaism for the belief that Mashiach ben David [the Messiah, son of David] will begin his messianic mission only to experience death, burial and resurrection before completing it."

Berger did not expect to sway Lubavitch opinion. He knew that he would be the object of a vilification campaign; his only surprise was the ferocity of the rhetoric about him in Lubavitch circles and publications.

But Berger did expect to have some success in isolating messianist Lubavitchers, or, at least, in convincing centrist Orthodox Jews that the messianist Lubavitch world view was a serious problem. This has not happened. Most Orthodox and non-Orthodox Jews smile condescendingly about this new messianism and don't get worked up about it. Berger feels that they should react more forcefully.

In September, he published an article in *Commentary* magazine in which he outlined his concerns, as a rabbi and as a scholar, about Lubavitch messianism. An expanded version of the article has just appeared as a book entitled *The Messiah, the Rebbe and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference* (The Littman Library of Jewish Civilization, 2001). The book has caused quite a stir. Sales have been surprisingly high.

In his book, Berger presents two different but related arguments as to why Lubavitch messianism is dangerous. First of all, he says, it undermines the traditional Jewish argument that the belief in a dead messiah is a Christian, not a Jewish, one. Jews have always deflected Christian claims by offering that distinction. Today, evangelical Christians trying to convert Jews have started arguing that if kosher Jews can believe that the dead Rabbi Schneersohn is still the Messiah, why don't they give more credence to the claim that another Jew, who died around 2,000 years ago, is the real Messiah?

Berger's second argument is more complex and controversial. He argues (to my mind, convincingly) that the belief in a messiah who is dead and is about to be resurrected to finish his job carries the potential of blurring the distinction between humans and God to such an extent that it can lead to *avodah zarah*, that is, "foreign or non-monotheistic worhip." Berger cites some troubling statements in Lubavitch publications that lead us to believe that his concern is real, not, to be sure, about all Lubavitchers, and perhaps not about most. But, Berger argues, key Lubavitch educators in important positions have made statements that cannot be tolerated in a monotheistic religion.

How are we to relate to the claim that because the Rebbe is actually "the essence and being [of God] placed [*areingeshtelt*] into a body," he is without limits, capable of effecting anything, all-knowing and a proper object of worshipful prostration?

Berger's arguments are sufficiently complex that a one-page newspaper essay cannot do them justice. But I think that they are worthy of careful reading by all Jews, particularly here in Canada.

While most of the Lubavitch signatories on the *psak halachah* obligating Jews to profess the belief in the rebbe's messianism came from Israel and the former Soviet Union, there were also a number of Canadian rabbis, two of whom occupy influential and important positions in the wider Jewish communities of Toronto and Montreal.

Berger has issued a challenge to all non-Lubavitch Jews to re-examine – indeed, to oppose – the exercise of broad communal authority by anyone who was a signatory on the *psak*. He even suggests that non-Lubavitch Jews withhold their suppport from the specific institutions where the signatories occupy positions of authority.

Canadian Jews should give Berger's arguments a fair hearing and take them seriously. I have admired Berger for 27 years, ever since I was a student in two of his undergraduate Jewish history courses, one on messianism and one on Jewish-Christian polemics. He is a pious and committed Jew and a great scholar. Before 1993, I never heard him take an anti-Lubavitch or anti-chassidic position. In fact, he has always shown tolerance for all and a great respect for rabbis who are Torah scholars, even for those whose worldviews are not his. But he is also eager to preserve Jewish monotheism and Jewish identity by fighting against any blurring of the boundary between Judaism and Christianity.

Berger's campaign is not a quixotic crusade. It is a serious attempt to ask Jews of all denominations to think seriously about Jewish theology. Right here in Canada, Berger would say, serious changes have taken place in Judaism in the last eight years. How are we going to react?

Martin Lockshin is director of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University in Toronto.

OMISSION

In the essay that appeared on this page last week, we inadvertently omitted the byline which should have read By Paul Merkley. We apologize.

—The editor

Listening to Ruth Wisse

It was recently my privilege to listen to a lecture by Ruth Wisse, renowned historical analyst and professor at Harvard University.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Wisse described in detail the way in which Jews living in the Diaspora for 2,000 years were able to achieve a livable existence. We discovered the secret of adaptation and, according to the lecturer, this was – in varying shades and degrees – the common characteristic of our existence. We lived, after all, in other people's lands, and our security was dependent on their willingness to tolerate us and give us living space. Consequently, we developed an elaborate and effective system of adapting our needs to theirs, and in this compromise we managed to live in various lands under different rulers and conditions.

Ms. Wisse took us through a variety of centuries, illustrating her thesis with notable examples. After that, she turned to her main objective: an analysis of whether this historic strategy can apply today to the existence of the Jewish State.

We know, Ms. Wisse said, that the Diaspora strategy of adaptation cannot work, for the obvious reason that many Arabs who live in Israel as well as the neighbouring nations are not prepared to tolerate us and therefore make adaptation useless.

Translating this analysis into contemporary terms, Ms. Wisse proceeded to ask: what, then, is it that Israel must do? Her answer was as clear as it was simple: surrounded by nations who do not accept it and who find its existence illegitimate, adaptation is out of the question. Instead, Israel has learned that only its own strength and a strategy of self-defence will make its existence possible.

Is peace then out of the question? Israelis and Palestinians came close to it several years ago, when Ehud Barak and Yasser Arafat negotiated at Camp David. Even the question of the return of refugees appeared to yield a mutually acceptable answer. But, for various reasons no treaty was signed; and at present, peace seems as far away as ever, especially since virulent anti-Judaism has raised its ugly head.

All of this makes the Jewish existence in the land of Israel different from Jewish existence in the historical Diaspora. Self-defence and strength now take the place of adaptation and accommodation and, unfortunately, this will have to be the strategy that Israel pursues as long as its neighbours and too many Palestinians deny the legitimacy of its existence.

Ruth Wisse mesmerized the large audience, and I – having heard her on various occasions – was spellbound by her clarity of thought and the cogency of her argument.

Bringing out the best in winter

Who can believe that it is already January? With the events that have occurred in the past few months, it is hard to believe how quickly time has passed. Since Sept. 11, we have all tried to move on and regain the momentum that was abruptly interrupted a few short months ago. By doing this, we have allowed ourselves to go about our daily lives in the most ordinary fashion possible.

Daccie Richler in Halifax

The winter break gives university students a time to relax for a short while and recharge ourselves for the upcoming semester. The unfortunate part is that we grow accustomed to this lovely time and forget that in the real world, one does not get a few weeks off after working very hard for four months. Getting back into the schedule is a challenge. After not seeing 7:30 a.m. for awhile, I am not looking forward to the Monday morning when the awful noise of an alarm clock will invade my sleep. On the other hand, January gets us closer to an exciting time for Jewish university students and young people in the Atlantic region.

Through the Atlantic Provinces Jewish Student's Federation (APJSF), university students will have the opportunity to go on their annual weekend retreat, from Feb. 1 to 3. Attendees will be able to discuss pertinent world issues, network with other students and ski to their hearts' content. Especially entertaining for students are the change of scenery and large quantities of food. The informal weekend leaves the participants with a warm, fuzzy feeling.

The youth of the Atlantic region will again have a chance to bond together as they embark on their annual Shabbaton ski trip, Feb. 8 to 10, at a resort in Wolfville, N.S. Last year's trip had more than 60 participants and it is expected that the number will increase this year. The success of the trip depends on the people involved. While I cannot form opinions on other youth groups, I have to say that the kids active in the Atlantic region are a fantastic bunch. They are innovative and bright and make this kind of weekend memorable.

Shabbatons like this enable youths from small communities to get together and take part in a variety of programs. For some kids, this is the only contact they have with other Jewish youth during the year; for others, it is a reunion from their summers at Camp Kadimah. Things like having a large group for an oneg Shabbat are perhaps taken for granted in larger Jewish centres, but at our Shabbaton, we appreciate them that much more. We also make sure to have the right mixture of programming, with plenty of time to go swimming and skiing and to eat (the marathon goes on all weekend).

While the post-Shabbat skiing might be a draw for the weekend, participants spend much of their time discussing Israeli politics and Jewish philosophy, and of course, just hanging out and making memories. As an Atlantic Jewish Council staff member assigned to the trip last year, I enjoyed seeing how well everyone worked together.

This year's Shabbaton will centre on the theme of humanitarianism. We are working on a program with Ve'ahavta to discuss and learn about how to give back to our communities. No doubt the weekend will provide stimulating conversation and activity. As well, I am sure that the participants will stay up late (much later than they should!) to catch up on what's going on in their lives and have a fantastic time.

Thankfully, the Atlantic Jewish Council takes a strong stance in ensuring that the youth and students are provided with such programs and it pays off. With times being a little more fragile, it gives young people a chance to relax but also to communicate for a few days. For information about APJSF, please contact apjsf@hotmail.com and for youth programming, ajcyouth programs@hotmail.com.

Israel's passive war

When we think of war in Israel we recall the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War, or the War of Independence. There is one war however that many people don't associate with Israel, a war where the IDF was on guard, but not fighting. Calling it a passive war could be an appropriate description. But everyone however knows this war by its more common name: the Gulf War.

Bryan Borzykowski in Winnipeg

Jan. 17 marks the first day that America dropped bombs on Iraq in 1991 and the beginning of fear in the land of Israel. If anyone is unfamiliar with Israel's involvement in the Gulf War, the story goes like this: Iraq sent Scud missiles into Israel, and America told Israel not to retaliate, so it didn't. While Iraq rained bombs on the Holy Land, Israel sat idly by wondering what would happen next as the United States fought its war against Iraq.

One of teachers at Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate (JWC), the Jewish high school in Winnipeg, was in the IDF during the Gulf War. Talking to her about the war was fascinating. Like so many others, I didn't realize the impact the Gulf War had on Israel. After talking to her, I have gained a very fresh perspective on the conflict.

If you were to sum up in one word what many Israelis felt during the war it would be fear. The fear of the unknown, the fear of being killed by a missile, a fear of life never being able to go on. Israelis did not know where or when the next siren would blast, which caused panic and stress. This teacher recalled a time when three sirens went off during one night. After people realized the first attack was over, they would try and go back to bed, only to be awakened by another siren, and so on.

While destruction from missiles was a fear for Israelis, the fact that these Scuds could have been filled with chemicals shocked people.

The JWC teacher was one of the people in the IDF who had to teach people how to use the "kits," as they called them, used to protect against potential chemical-weapons attacks. She had to show the parts of a gas mask, how to put it on and to make sure people used it correctly.

Many Israelis had never seen one of these haunting and intimidating masks before or at least have never thought they would ever need to wear one. Imagine a siren blasting and being forced to run into a room you had sealed off and then putting a black alien-looking gas mask on your child. This was the psychological trauma facing many Israelis at the time.

To top it off, Israelis could not fight back. Israel is proud of its army and its victories. Having to wait in peril, trusting another country to fight its battles was very difficult for many Israelis to accept.

But with all the fear and anxiety came miracles. The Gulf War reminds me of stories from the Bible. Stories where the Jews were being persecuted and somehow the Red Sea parted or the sun stood still. While entire neighbourhoods were wiped out by missiles, only two people were directly killed by missile attacks. The war could have had devastating casualties, but for some unexplainable reason, there were only a small number of deaths.

Many people may not be aware of this, but – and this too makes me scratch my head in amazement – the festival of Purim fell the day after the Gulf War ended. People all over Israel traded in their gas masks for their Purim masks and danced all night in the streets celebrating the day Jews stopped being the target of annihilation.

Before I spoke with this teacher I would have never considered the Gulf War to be an Israeli war, but now I realize that this passive war had a profound impact on the people of Israel and helped shape the country we know today.

E-mail me at cjnbryan@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Jews navigate Brazil's multiracial society

Jews have prospered in Brazil, a nation that has successfully integrated immigrants from all corners of the world into its rainbow-hued multiracial society.

As Marcelo Kozmhinsky, the administrative director of Recife's only Jewish day school, the Colegio Israelita Moyses Chvarts, put it: "Brazil is an assimilationist society, welcoming all groups."

Sheldon Kirshner in Brazil

Henry Sobel, the senior rabbi of Sao Paulo's Congregacao Israeli Paulista, agrees. "There is more tolerance and respect for differences in Brazil than in any other country in Latin America."

Anti-Semitism, to be sure, exists. But is is latent, an extremely minor factor in everyday life, and the Brazilian constitution imposes a mandatory prison sentence, with no possibility of bail, on public expressions of religious or racial prejudice.

Brazil's multiracialism is not merely a slogan. Interracial mingling has marked, and continues to mark, this immense country, which, with a population of 175 million, is only slightly smaller than the United States.

As a result, the Jewish intermarriage rate is high, having reached at least 60 percent.

Silvio Santos – the owner of Brazil's second largest television station, SBT, and one of the most prominent members of the Jewish community – typifies, in some respects, what is happening in Brazil today. Having married out of the faith, he has raised his children as Catholics, while contributing generously to Jewish causes.

Rabbi Henry Sobel

Boris Berenstein, an amiable 51-year-old radiologist from Recife, is another exemplar of the easy-going, laissez-faire attitude of many Jews toward intermarriage. The president of the Jewish state federation, the Federacao Israelita de Pernambuco, he has been married twice, in both instances to non-Jews. His current wife, a Catholic with whom he has had two children, has not converted to Judaism. Nor does she plan to convert after 15 years of marriage. But unlike Santos, Berenstein, whose east European parents settled in Brazil after World War II, has brought up his children as Jews.

To the probable chagrin of Recife's only rabbi, Alex Mizrachi, a 27-year-old Chabadnik who looks totally out of place here, Berenstein identifies with Jewishness through Zionism rather than religion.

In a country like Brazil, where the melting pot philosophy is strong and alluring, Berenstein is hardly alone. Anete Hulak, who at 98 is supposedly Recife's oldest living Jewish person, a Romanian immigrant who has lived in Brazil since the late 1920s, acknowledged that her grandchildren celebrate Jewish and Christian holidays. Her sons are married to Catholic women who did not convert to Judaism.

Itiel Genes, Hulak's 73-year-old relative, a man who was born in Natal of Bessarabian parents, tells a similar story. His daughters wed Catholics, and he does not expect his grandchildren to marry Jews. "It's not practical," he said, referring to the scarcity of Jewish marriage partners in Recife's small Jewish community of 450 families.

To Eitan Surkis, Israel's consul general in Rio, assimilation is the Jewish community's primary challenge. The Israeli government, through specially designed trips to Israel, tries to bolster the Jewish identity of Brazilian Jewish teenagers. "But costs are a problem," he admitted.

Sheldon Kirshner Photos

Rabbi Sergio Margulis

Rabbi Sobel, whose congregation is Brazil's largest, said that assimilation, rather than anti-Semitism, is "the most serious threat" facing the community. "My goal," he explained, "is to make Jews more Jewish and to raise the level of Jewish consciousness."

There are two distinct trends in the community, he noted.

"There is a small but significant core of Brazilian Jews who are becoming more religious, more aware of their Jewishness. This core spans the entire spectrum of Jewish movements: Liberal and Orthodox and Reform and Chabad. On the periphery, however, is an equally significant number of Jews who are abandoning their religion, leaving themselves and their children without Jewish identity. We are like a large corporation with two divisions: one prosperous, vibrant and dynamic; the other on the verge of bankruptcy and threatening to sink the entire enterprise."

Partly because of such developments, the community has remained stagnant demographically. When Rabbi Sobel immigrated to Brazil from New York City in 1970, the size of the community was the same as it is today: approximately 130,000.

Marcelo Kozmhinsky

"Jews do not want to flock to Brazil," he observed, saying that Soviet Jewish immigrants have all but avoided the country. "Latin America is not a stable continent, politically and economically."

And, as Surkis pointed out, 250 to 300 Jews, on average, make aliyah every year. Still others have resettled in Miami, said Rabbi Nilton Bonder of Congregacao Judaica Do Brasil, a Conservative synagogue in the upscale Rio suburb of Barra da Tijuca.

Frequent though intermarriages may be, it is debatable whether they are really gutting the community irretrievably: The non-Jewish partner often converts in such unions. Rabbi Sergio Margulis of Temple Ari, a liberal shul founded 60 years ago by German immigrants, performs some conversions in the Atlantic Ocean. "It's a blessing we have in Rio," said the 39-year-old rabbi, whose parents hail from Poland.

Even when the non-Jewish spouse refrains from converting to Judaism, all is not lost. Take, for example, the case of Fabio Oliveira. A single 31-year-old marketing manager from Porto de Galinhas, a charming seaside resort one hour by car from Recife, Oliveira is half-Jewish, but halachically non-Jewish.

Nonetheless, he considers himself Jewish. "I respect the concepts and ideas in Judaism," he said. Oliveira wears a ring with an embossed Magen David and keeps a laminated Hebrew prayer book in his pocket.

As Surkis suggested, the impoverishment of middle-class Jews – a fairly recent phenomenon in Brazil triggered by a sluggish economy and a lagging currency – may be causing as much alienation from the organized Jewish community as intermarriage.

"More and more of our congregants need financial assistance to pay their dues," disclosed Rabbi Sobel. "We are investing more money in social action programs."

Avraham Shamir, a Jewish Agency representative posted to Rio's Bar-Ilan School, an Orthodox institution, said that more than half its students depend on scholarships.

"More Jews are in need of social assistance and food," said Jackson Grossman of Rio's Jewish federation.

"Inflation, in recent years, has wiped out some Jewish wealth," noted Rabbi Bonder, a graduate of the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. "We've had situations in which bar mitzvahs and synagogue memberships have been cancelled."

Despite such problems, Brazil's Jewish community remains vibrant. "Jewish history has proven over and over again that our survival instinct is powerful and capable of defeating all odds," said Rabbi Sobel. "Which is why I trust that, in 25 years from now, we will have not only survived, but will have undergone a surprising renaissance."

Israel-Brazil relations

Israel's bilateral relationship with Brazil is on an even keel, despite the lashing Israel has absorbed in the Brazilian media since the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising in September 2000. "In general, our relations are very good, though there is always room for improvement," said Israel's consul general in Rio de Janeiro, Eitan Surkis.

Israel, with an embassy in Brasilia and another consulate in Sao Paulo, has maintained diplomatic relations with Brazil since 1949. Brazil voted for the 1947 United Nations Palestine partition plan.

The annual volume of Israeli-Brazilian trade is about $300 million (US), with machinery, chemicals, coffee and meat being the main export/import items. There are also lively cultural ties. The Israel Philharmonic was here on a tour recently. Israel has a military attache in Brasilia, but Surkis disclaimed knowledge of Israeli arms sales to Brazil.

Though officially neutral in the Arab-Israeli dispute, Brazil usually supports UN resolutions calling for Israel's withdrawal from the territories. In 1975, when Brazil was dependent on Arab oil, it supported the UN Zionism-is-racism resolution.

Thousands of Brazilian Jews have made aliyah since 1948, and Kibbutz Givat Oz was settled by Brazilians.

The Committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation, the Kulturgezelshaft, and the Friends of Yiddish express their deep sorrow at the sudden passing of their friend and colleague, the talented and tireless Yiddishist

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Jewish Life

Goldwin Smith, historical puzzle

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

A historical puzzle: Why did Goldwin Smith, the foremost literary personality of 19th-century English Canada and a staunch anti-Semite, attend the opening of Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple on Bond Street in 1897? And why, despite his outspoken enmity towards the Jews, did he contribute to Holy Blossom's building fund, as congregational records show?

Roots & Remembrance

If Smith's achievements as a pre-eminent man of letters are beyond question, so, too, are his credentials as a Jew-hater. Born in Britain in 1823, he received an impeccable Victorian education that included Greek and Latin. As an Oxford professor in the 1850s, he won acclaim for championing major university reforms and thereafter participated fully in the country's political and literary life. In Toronto in 1875, he married the widow Harriet Boulton and moved into the Grange, the city's most venerable address, where he lived until his death in 1910.

Nicknamed the "sage of the Grange," Smith wrote on many public issues for many local newspapers and journals; his byline was equally well known in New York and London. He was "the dominant intellectual force in the city for 40 years," writes Greg Gatenby in *Toronto: A Literary Guide*.

Smith's numerous articles on "the Jewish question" include an essay by that title that appeared in the *North American Review* in August 1881, as a wave of anti-Jewish violence swept across Russia.

Smith described the pogroms as both justified and inevitable. He presented himself as a tolerant liberal who felt compelled to condemn a singularly objectionable and "parasitic" race. He wrote as if everything he knew about the Jews had come from *The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*.

Without paying more attention to his odious opinions than they merit, we must still be grateful to him for inspiring the powerful and thoughtful response, by one Isaac Besht Bendavid, that appeared in the *North American Review* in September 1881.

The pseudonymous Bendavid wielded his pen like a skilled swordsman. He refuted each of Smith's main points so adeptly that he must have left readers wondering, "Who is this masked man?" even as he receded like an elegant Jewish Zorro into the mists of history.

Smith's animosity towards the Jews was likely inflamed by a deeply-felt literary jibe he had received from Benjamin Disraeli, Britain's distinguished novel-writing prime minister.

Disraeli, who had been born Jewish but had converted, had ridiculed Smith in *Lothair*, his roman-a-clef novel of 1871. *Lothair* presented a fictitious, ridiculous Oxford professor, described as a "wild man of the cloisters" and a "social parasite"; the identification with Smith was widespread. Smith retained a lifelong grudge against Disraeli, and apparently railed often and bitterly against him, even long after his death.

No matter how nicely expressed, Smith's opinions on many subjects – for instance, his support for the annexation of Canada to the United States – were often contentious. Like many people in that era, he seemed to view history as a series of defining contests between races; he was convinced that the political union of "the two English-speaking races" of North America was both mutually advantageous and inevitable.

Outwardly cold, he was often characterized as a lonely and angry man, all brain and no heart. Yet his servants adored him and observed that he would cheerfully take a hard seat rather than disturb a kitten asleep on his favourite armchair. He also marched under Protestant banners in Orange Day parades and was plainly prejudiced against Catholics but supported the St. St. Vincent de Paul Society, a Catholic charity. Clearly, he was a man of contradictions.

Talking with Wiesel

***Conversations with Elie Wiesel*, by Elie Wiesel and Richard D. Heffner, Shocken Books, $33.**

Elie Wiesel's arm bears the concentration camp number A7713. At 73, he sees himself not as an essayist or novelist in the accepted contemporary vein, but as a vehicle, a conduit, a messenger.

Books
Bernard Baskin

But this was not always the case. When he was liberated from Buchenwald as a young man, he vowed that he would not speak or write of his experiences for at least 10 years.

Working in Paris as a journalist for an Israeli newspaper, Wiesel interviewed author François Mauriac, a devout Christian and Nobel Prize winner. Mauriac spoke about Jesus and Wiesel said to him, "Ten years ago, I knew hundreds of Jewish children who suffered more than Jesus did and no one talks about it."

Mauriac wept and said, "You should talk about it."

That moved Wiesel more than anything else and opened an eloquent channel of communication about the once incommunicable.

Yet, speaking of the 30 or more books he has written, Wiesel confesses that, in his opinion, every one has been a failure. He feels a sense of inadequacy but a compulsion to write. He says he owes it to the dead as well as to the living.

The book under review is a far-ranging, open and lively dialogue with Wiesel on some of the major issues of our time. The probing questions are posed by Richard Heffner, a noted television moderator and university professor. Wiesel's responses to the questions are, not unexpectedly, forthright, honest and stimulating.

On being asked about the return of Palestinian refugees to Israel, Wiesel wonders, "Why shouldn't we mention, then, the three million Germans who were expelled from the Czech Republic in 1945? How can anyone suggest that they all go back to the Sudeten? It's impossible. How about Pakistan and India? Would anyone mention bringing those people back? It would be a tragedy. I don't like to compare sufferings, but what about the Jews who were expelled from Arab countries? Once you start comparing tragedies, it's a problem."

What form of religion is desirable? For Wiesel, it must be a humanizing experience. "Unfortunately, fanaticism and religion have gone hand in hand for too long. I'm afraid of that. Once you believe that whatever you do you do in the name of a higher power, that you do it for the sake of God, it's dangerous."

In discussing the astonishing advances in modern communication, Wiesel points out that Plato, Buddha, Jeremiah and Lao-Tze were near contemporaries but did not know about one another. "So imagine if you could bring them together before a television camera. If we had such a program, what it would do for humankind! Now we can do that. You can bring together scholars, poets and scientists from all the horizons, all the spheres, and establish an exchange, a dialogue, a multi-dialogue. It's possible and beneficial."

Wiesel also touches on many other subjects, including the role of the state in our lives, the anatomy of hate, the threat of technology, the danger of nationalism and the need for compassion and mercy.

When he received the Nobel Prize for Peace, Wiesel suggested that one person of integrity – a Raoul Wallenberg, an Albert Schweitzer, a Martin Luther King – can make the difference between life and death. For many of his admirers, Elie Wiesel is just such an individual.

Jewish Life

Bar/bat mitzvahs on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It's the biggest day in a young Jewish girl or boy's life: the day when they become responsible for their actions and inch a bit closer toward adulthood. The whole event can be quite nerve-racking, but there's a great deal of marvelous advice on the Internet for the bar and bat mitzvah – and their parents. Today, as one of Web site so eloquently puts it, a look at the "Sites of Passage" **[http://www.jewishjournal.com/archive/08.11.00/]**.

There is no direct commandment in the Torah to celebrate a bar mitzvah. However, Genesis 21:8 does mention that Abraham made a great party for Isaac on the day that he was weaned **[http://bible.ort.org/books/torahd4.asp?action=displaypage&book=1&chapter=21&verse=8&portion=4]**. One commentator suggests that Isaac was 13 **[http://www.milknhoney.co.il/torah/barmit_history.html]**. In Pirkei Avot 5:21 (the Ethics of our Fathers), we are instructed that 13 is the proper age for the fulfillment of the Commandments, 18 for marriage and 20 for earning a livelihood **[http://www.ou.org/pdf/lalavot4.pdf]**. The age of 13 does not make a child into a full adult, but by that age a child is responsible for his or her actions **[http://www.ahavat-israel.com/ahavat/torat/barmitzva.asp]**.

The Judaism 101 site gives a good primer to the celebration and its history. It points out that in Orthodox practice, girls and women are not called up to the Torah, while in other movements of Judaism, the girls do exactly the same thing as the boys. It also explains that you don't really have to *do* anything to become a bat or bar mitzvah, that it happens automatically when you turn 12 or 13 **[http://www.jewfaq.org/barmitz.htm]**.

The bar mitzvah ceremony is associated with many traditions that we now take for granted. The Milk'n'honey Web site explains the origins of being called up to the Torah, having a great feast and making a speech. The site also makes it clear that our traditions are not universal and that other Jewish communities have done things differently:

"The Syrian community has a custom that on the day of the bar mitzvah [before he is thirteen] when the boy puts on his Tefillin all of the close relatives, rabbis and friends each wrap the Tefillin once around the arm" **[http://www.milknhoney.co.il/torah/bar mit_history.html]**.

Lubavitchers also have some unique traditions that you can see at their Web site. It also has a wonderful guide to the laying of Tefillin **[http://www.sichosinenglish.org/books/bar-mitzvah/]**.

It is beyond the scope of this article to survey the many varieties of bar and bat mitzvah planning software, preparation tools, learning aids and commercial services that can be purchased through the Internet. The best way to find these is to go to a search engine like Google and type in the words "bar mitzvah" **[http://www.google.com]**. Another excellent resource is the Maven Search web directory **[http://maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=116]**.

There are many thoughtful sites that are geared toward the decisions faced by parents as the big day nears such as choosing the proper invitation. When Anita Diamant began planning her daughter's bat mitzvah, she became an amateur social anthropologist.

"Every invitation contains clues about the nature of each and every family – not just evidence of divorces and income levels, but hints about values, beliefs, and even child-rearing styles," Diamant says. "Extra-thick card stock and the words 'black tie optional' certainly advertise robust financial health... The complete absence of Hebrew or Jewish words or images [hearts instead of six-pointed stars] hints at distance from, or at least ambivalence toward, Jewish tradition." Check out the article to see what the Diamant family decided on **[http://www.jflmail.com/oldarticles/1474.html]**.

Next week, more bnei mitzvah sites.

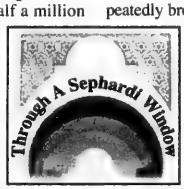
* * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

The sin of naivete

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

On display were row upon row of weaponry: machine guns, mines, mortars, Katyusha rockets, grenades, AK-47 rifles, as well as half a million rounds of ammunition for various guns, all confiscated by Israel in the open seas as they made their way to the Palestinian Authority (PA). In all, 50 tons of raw military hardware were on this "ship of terror," worth some $160 million – weapons in whose lethal range would be every life on every inch of Israeli territory.



Quickly, that bastion of honesty and integrity, Mr. Yasser Arafat, professed his innocence and distanced himself and the PA by saying it "condemns this operation and condemns the Israeli attempt to accuse the Palestinian Authority of being involved in this."

Apparently, every time one thinks Arafat's capacity for duplicity has reached its zenith, he manages to show us how wrong we are; he is still capable of new heights.

Of course, this all is very old news. This is, after all, the same man who repeatedly broke every agreement and understanding between himself and his benefactors. First, when he was hosted in Jordan, then in Lebanon and then in Tunis, only to get himself and his cohorts unceremoniously expelled from each country. This is the same man who betrayed Saudi Arabia by siding with Iraq after having been lavishly supported by Saudis. This is the very man who implores the world for help, calling on them to stop Israeli aggression and begging for his impoverished people while cynically spending fortunes of their money for his own arsenal of terror.

As gratifying as it was to hear Prime Minister Ariel Sharon graduating Arafat from "irrelevant" to "our bitter enemy," it is painful to see that delusion and naivete are still plaguing others.

We read as well the words of a former Israeli cabinet minister, Yosi Sarid: "This ship could sink everything. The peace camp in Israel is always asked whether it has a partner on the Palestinian side. Mr. Arafat's trustworthiness is in question and must now be proven."

Evidently, someone like Mr. Sarid still has questions and harbours misgivings, indeed to the point of extending to Arafat the benefit of the doubt with the request that he – Arafat – prove his own trustworthiness.

Righteousness or goodness should never be confused with being naïve. Wisdom is the guide of the righteous; foolishness is the creed of the naïve. One seriously wonders what virtue some may see in Arafat to prompt them to accord him this courtesy. Arafat's actions make him what he is. Not his words.

It is the epitome of naivete (read irresponsibility) to rely on the word of someone like him when considering the safety of the people of Israel in the land of Israel.

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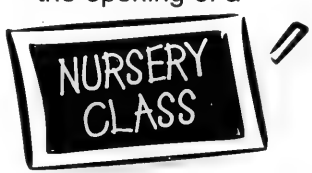

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Mekorot Institute gets ready for winter session

Women increasingly participating in advanced Torah study

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women, a text-based program of serious Jewish learning, will begin its winter semester on Feb. 4. The term will end on May 30, with a break for Pesach.

Full-time courses include Joseph's Rise to Power and his Reunification with His Brothers taught by educator, lecturer and writer Shoshana Zolty; and The Book of Joshua: Challenges, Leadership and Conquest taught by Rabbi Moshe Shulman, spiritual leader of Shaarei Shomayim Congregation.

Zolty's course will be offered on Tuesday evenings at Beth Jacob v'Anshei Drildz Congregation, and on Wednesday mornings at Shaarei Shomayim. Rabbi Shulman's course will be on Thursday mornings at Chabad Lubavitch @ Flamingo.

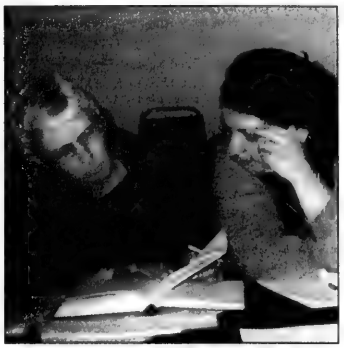
A course in basic Talmud will be taught at Clanton Park Synagogue on Monday mornings.

There are also a number of three- or four-week mini-courses. Zolty will present a course on the origin and significance of Midrash, and Eric Lawee, a professor at York University and author of a soon-to-be published book *Isaac Abarbanel's Stance Towards Tradition: Defence, Dissent and Dialogue*, will teach *Lo Bashamayim*: authority and innovation in Jewish Law, Sundays in February at Yeshivat Or Chaim.

Lawee's course is open to both men and women.

A new learning opportunity is being called Mekorot Downtown Brownbag Seminar, and will be held on Feb. 6, 13 and 20 at the offices of Heenan Blaikie, at the Royal Bank Plaza at Bay and Front. The topic will be Esther: the Scroll and Exile and the Dawn of Redemption, taught by Hilda Weil.

Janice Rotman-Goldstein, secretary and a founder of Mekorot, said that it was founded in May 1999 by a group of women who had previously attended programs in Israel such as Nishmat Matan or Midreshet Lindenbaum, Drisha in New York, or Mayaan in Boston.



Chevruta learning at Mekorot.

The idea was to do text-based learning which involves studying and discussing the original texts rather than discussing commentaries on them.

"It's like a conversation over the millennia between you and the Rambam or the Sfas Emes."

This is how men have studied for centuries, she said. She compared non- text-based studying to learning Shakespeare through Coles notes, without ever seeing a live performance of one of his plays.

Women are increasingly becoming involved with advanced Torah study, Rotman-Goldstein said, and also "want to struggle with the text and deal with it."

She studied at Matan, a similar type of program in Jerusalem. The experience was "electric," she said. "You are sitting with women from across the spectrum of age, religious practice and educational background."

Torah becomes personal, she said. "It's how you are supposed to absorb Torah."

Rotman-Goldstein is passionate not only about Mekorot, but about serious study for women in general. It is women who will ensure the continuity of Judaism, she said.

Mekorot enrollment has almost doubled since the first semester, she said, and includes students of three generations, from those wearing sheitls to those in pants, and from Reform to Orthodox, she said. Besides classes, students have the option of *chevrutah* (paired) learning.

Mekorot also brings in eminent women scholars to lecture, Rotman-Goldstein said. "There are brilliant women Torah scholars, and we want to bring [established ones] from outside the city, and also encourage those coming up."

The program is funded partly by student fees, and partly by sponsors.

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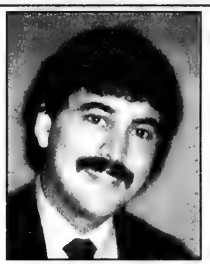
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'Mr. Borochov' dies at 82

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — David Newman, well known in the Jewish community as Mr. Borochov, died recently at age 82.

Obituary

Newman, who was born in Chmelnik, Poland, joined the Borochov Centre shortly after immigrating to Canada with his wife Anna in 1951, and was one of the founders of Kol Yisrael Synagogue, located in the centre.

He served as synagogue president and chazzan, and led services right up until his recent illness.

"Next to my mother, his first love was Yiddish," said daughter Gloria Block.

She told the 800 people who attended the funeral service that when his family moved to Lodz in 1935 after his mother died, they lived with a family who set up a table in their two-room home so he could earn a living teaching Yiddish culture and Jewish history.

He saw his father and three sisters for the last time in 1942 when they were sent to different concentration camps.

"It was in Buchenwald that my father risked his life teaching Yiddish to children," Block said.

In the 1950s he appeared in the Yiddish Vaudeville Theatre on Spadina Avenue and over the years worked as a Polish and Yiddish translator for the court system, she said.

Her father often spoke to students, both Jewish and non-Jewish about the Holocaust because he wanted them to know what it was really about, said Block.

"It was important to him to share his experiences and to make sure they know it is not just a story."

He also taught Yiddish classes and because of his "deep commitment to Israel" spent a lot of time fund-raising for State of Israel Bonds and UJA Federation.

He was chair of the Labour Zionist Alliance, and a longtime member of the Yiddish Cultural Council where he served as chair for the past nine or 10 years.

Newman's grandson, Eli Newman, said his grandfather's Yiddish classes meant a lot to him, and he was determined to finish the recent term. "At his classes, he told Yiddish jokes and anecdotes and talked about his family. People took his classes for years, but learning Yiddish was secondary. They went to see Zaide."

Newman also remembered his grandfather for his jokes, he said. "He would tell me he had to get a haircut, but he did not know which one to cut."

David Newman

Simcha Simchovitch, a friend for about 40 years and a fellow member of the Yiddish Cultural Council said he saw Newman the week before he died and his friend remained cheerful, optimistic and young looking. "He was loved by a lot of people."

People often turned to her father to speak at weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs or funerals, Block said. "Some approached him when they became ill and asked him to deliver the eulogy at their funeral.

"Even in the worst of times, his upbeat personality was a comfort to those around him. He found only the good in people," she said.

In addition to Anna to whom he was married for 56 years, Gloria and Eli, Newman leaves a son Jack, and four other grandchildren, Lauren, Kate, Jodi and Carly.

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Restaurateur's hallmarks were smile, friendly greetings

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Herman Ladovsky, restaurateur par excellence, whose hallmark smile and friendly greetings to patrons at United Bakers, many of whom became friends and part of his extended family, died Jan. 6. He was 89.

Obituary

Now in its third generation, United Bakers Dairy Restaurant has been an important landmark in the history and growth of the Jewish community in Toronto. Ladovsky's heimishe hospitality, friendly shmoozing with customers and zest for life have left an indelible imprint on the family restaurant.

Ladovsky and his twin brother Sam were born Sept. 23, 1912, the year their parents Aaron and Sara Ladovsky, immigrants from Kielce, Poland, and opened their first bakery and cafe at Agnes and Teraulay Streets, now Dundas and Bay Streets.

They moved to 338 Spadina Ave., just north of Dundas, once the centre of Jewish life in Toronto, and from 1920 on, the dairy restaurant provided a social, business, cultural and political forum for people from all walks of life, and a meeting place for people from all parts of the globe.

Ladovsky grew up working in the business and lived with his family above the store. After a stint overseas during World War II, he returned to the business. He became the owner-operator when his father retired in 1955. In the Ladovsky tradition, his children, Philip and Ruthie, were beside him growing into the business.

When the Spadina restaurant closed in 1986 and relocated in Lawrence Plaza, Ladovsky turned the operating tasks over to them.

But almost every day, Ladovsky, who became the ambassador of goodwill, could be seen at United Bakers, stopping to chat and spread his warmth and friendship.

In his eulogy to his father, Philip Ladovsky said, "He lived his life filled with love and compassion, which he gave naturally and abundantly to all of us, and he died in the arms of his family, giving him back just what he had always given to us."

Ladovsky is survived by his wife and best friend Dora; children Simmy, Ruthie and Moe, Philip and Caryn; and grandchildren Rhonda and Rob, Brian, Nathan, Jacob and Adam.

Herman Ladovsky

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Israel Week just around the corner

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — With Israel Week around the corner, Nikki Greenspan, president of JSF, the Centre for Jewish Campus Life at York University, is happy to report that "things have settled down" on her campus.

In late November, Greenspan told *The CJN* that Jewish students had been subjected to anti-Semitic and anti-Israel comments by non-Jewish students, and that there was anti-Semitic graffiti in an elevator. She also said that some students didn't feel comfortable wearing a Magen David or a kippah.

"People seem to be working together," Greenspan said. As an example, she noted that when Israel Week was announced at York's recent Interfaith Council meeting, reaction was very positive. She is the JSF's representative to the council. The Muslim student association had two representatives at the meeting, she said.

The council is working on a joint project, she said.

Israel Week, an annual event, is being held next week at York University and the University of Toronto concurrently.

"We're trying to stay away from anything political," said Jaime Walman, JSF's program director at York.

She noted that the "intent in bringing [speakers Itamar Marcus of Palestinian Media Watch and aliyah shaliach Gadi Anavi] was not political. They are coming to bring us information and give us an update."

An Israel display is being organized at the campus' Bear Pit (Central Square) all week, along with a falafel stand. The food will be provided by York's new kosher restaurant, Joe Schmoe's, which opened in November.

Displays will depict cultural, geographical, travel, social and historical aspects of Israel, said Walman.

A live song and dance performance will be held Monday at 4:30, and Tuesday evening will include Hebrew slang and Jewish history lessons.

The University of Toronto's Israel Week also includes a talk by Marcus, along with talks on Israel's water crisis and the UN-sponsored conference on racism held last summer in Durban. There will also be an Israel Day display at the Sidney Smith building Jan. 21.

For further information, go to www.yorku.ca/jsf or http://jsu.sa.utoronto.ca.

Students raising funds for project in El Salvador

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ryann Miller and 19 other local students plan to head south for Reading Week next month, but instead of languishing on a beach, they'll be building houses in El Salvador.

The project is the first of its kind under the auspices of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto, in partnership with the Jewish humanitarian organization, Ve'ahavta. It is actually organized by American Jewish World Service (AJWS), a New York-based, non-profit organization, which is returning to the central American country for the third year as an Alternative Spring Break program.

Last summer, Michelle Lackie, director of the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto, led an AJWS trip to Honduras and Israel, which inspired her to organize this trip out of Toronto. University of Toronto students will join counterparts from Brandeis University from Feb. 18 to 25. Students from York University will be in El Salvador the preceding week, because the two universities have different reading weeks.

Students will stay in newly built dormitories and work alongside Salvadorans. Some of the homes they will be working on may be replacements for houses destroyed by earthquakes or Hurricane Mitch, said an AJWS representative. Local families will provide vegetarian meals.

Lackie will be with the students in the town of Ciudad Romero, in southeastern El Salvador, over both weeks. Jaime Walman, program director at the JSF, the centre for Jewish Campus Life at York University, will accompany the York contingent.

The cost per student totals $900. Fundraising efforts include a Feb. 7 event at Goldie Foxx, a downtown Toronto bar where a number of bands will play.

"It's a very intense trip, with learning and discussion every day," said Lackie. Students can expect to address issues such as Judaism's directives on helping others and what it means to be a Jewish Canadian.

Miller, a religious studies student, said she hopes to return from El Salvador with more knowledge about the country, its people and its culture, as well as a better understanding of herself in relation to Judaism and the modern world.

Her motivation is humanitarian rather than religious, but she hopes to learn about the Jewish aspect, she said. "It's a unique opportunity. I'm really looking forward to it."

CJ Food

Cookies and bars made easy

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

The following recipes are a mixture of drop cookies and bar cookies, and perfect for the times when you just don't have time to mix and measure but want to serve home-made goodies.

BASIC CAKE MIX COOKIES

1 pkg. cake mix (any flavour)
⅓ cup vegetable oil
2 eggs
1 cup of any additional ingredients such as nuts, raisins, chocolate chips, butterscotch chips

Preheat oven to 350. In a bowl combine the cake mix, oil and eggs. Mix well. Add extra ingredients (1 cup total). Drop by teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto cookie sheets that have been coated with nonstick baking spray. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes, or until the cookies are firm. Remove the cookies to a wire rack to cool for about 10 minutes. Makes 3 to 3½ dozen cookies.

CAKE MIX LEMON COOKIES

1 pkg. lemon cake mix
½ cup vegetable oil
2 eggs
1 tbsp. lemon zest
1 tub lemon ready-to-spread frosting

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a cookie sheet. Mix dry cake mix, lemon zest, oil and eggs in a large bowl with spoon until dough forms. Drop dough by teaspoonfuls onto cookie sheet. Bake about 8 minutes or until set. Remove from cookie sheet to wire rack to cool completely before frosting. Makes about 4 dozen.

CAKE MIX ROCKY ROAD BARS

1 pkg. milk chocolate cake mix
½ cup unsalted butter, melted
¼ cup packed brown sugar
⅓ cup water
2 eggs
1 cup chopped nuts
3 cups kosher miniature marshmallows
⅓ cup chocolate ready-to-spread frosting

Preheat oven to 350. Grease and flour rectangular pan, 13 x 9 inches. Mix half the dry cake mix, butter, brown sugar, water and eggs in a large bowl with a spoon until the batter is smooth. Stir in the remaining cake mix and the nuts. Spread the batter in the pan. Bake 20 minutes; sprinkle with marshmallows. Bake 10-15 minutes or until marshmallows are puffed and golden. Microwave frosting in microwaveable bowl uncovered on high 15 seconds. Drizzle the frosting over the bars. Cool completely. For easier cutting, use plastic knife dipped in hot water. Cut into 6 rows by 4 rows. Makes 24 bars.

CAKE MIX PEANUT BUTTER BRICKLE BARS

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
1 cup crunchy peanut butter
⅓ cup water
2 eggs
2 pkgs. (6 oz. each) almond brickle chips or toffee chips with chocolate
1 pkg. (12 oz.) semisweet chocolate chips (2 cups)

Heat oven to 350. Grease and flour jellyroll pan, 15½ x 10½ x 1 inch. In a bowl mix the dry cake mix, peanut butter, water and eggs with spoon. Mix until combined and then stir in brickle or toffee chips. Spread evenly in pan. Bake 20-25 minutes or until golden brown. Immediately sprinkle chocolate chips over hot bars. Let stand 5 minutes or until chips are melted; spread evenly. Cool completely. Cut into 10 rows by 6 rows. Makes 60 bars.

DUMP IN BARS

½ cup margarine, melted
1 pkg. yellow cake mix
3 eggs
1 8-oz pkg. cream cheese, soft
1 lb. powdered sugar
½ cup flaked coconut
½ cup chopped walnuts or pecans

In a bowl combine the margarine, cake mix and one egg. Stir together until dry ingredients are moistened. Pat mixture into bottom of well-greased 15 x 10-inch jellyroll pan. Bake for 10 minutes at 325. Remove from oven and let cool. In another bowl beat the remaining two eggs lightly and then beat in the cream cheese and powdered sugar. Stir in the coconut and nuts. Pour the cream cheese mixture over the crust in the jellyroll pan. Bake at 325 for 35 to 40 minutes or until golden brown. Cool to room temperature before cutting into squares. Makes 24.

CAKE MIX BROWNIES DELUXE

1 pkg. brownie mix
1 cup sour cream
1 16-oz. container coconut pecan frosting
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
1 cup chopped pecans

Preheat oven to 350. Grease one 9 x 9-inch baking pan. In a bowl mix the brownie mix according to box directions, omitting half of the oil asked for. Add the sour cream and coconut pecan frosting mix to the batter and after mixing well, spread the batter in the prepared pan. Bake at 350 for 20 to 30 minutes. Be careful not to overbake or it will harden and be impossible to eat! About 5 minutes before it is done take it from the oven and sprinkle semi sweet chocolate chips all over the top along with chopped pecans. Place back in the oven for 5 minutes, take out and use a spatula to spread the chocolate chips around to frost the brownies. Makes 36 brownies.

CAKE MIX CHOCO CARMEL COOKIE BARS

1 pkg. yellow cake mix
½ cup chopped nuts
⅔ cup evaporated milk
¼ cup butter, melted
36 chocolate-covered caramels

Preheat oven to 350. Grease one 9 x 13-inch baking pan. In a bowl combine the cake mix and nuts. Stir in the evaporated milk and melted butter. Mix well. Spread half the cake mix mixture into the prepared pan. Bake at 350 for 15 minutes. Remove from oven and immediately place chocolate-covered caramels over the hot crust. Drop remaining cake mix mixture by teaspoonfuls over the candy pieces. Return to oven and bake for 25 to 30 minutes or until lightly browned. Cool slightly and cut into squares to serve. Makes 2 to 3 dozen.

CAKE MIX CHOCOLATE TOFFEE COOKIES

These are so easy to make, it is almost sinful. So rich and full of chocolate.

1 pkg. devil's food cake mix
⅓ cup vegetable oil
2 eggs
¼ cup coarsely chopped chocolate-covered toffee candy bars

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, combine the cake mix, oil and eggs. Beat with an electric beater for 3 to 4 minutes until well blended. With a spoon, stir in the chopped candy. Drop by teaspoonfuls 2 inches apart onto cookie sheets that have been coated with nonstick baking spray. Bake for 9 to 11 minutes, or until the cookies are firm. Remove the cookies to a wire rack to cool completely. Makes 2 dozen.

OMISSION

In the article titled "Vegetarians can enjoy pareve recipes too" (*CJN*, Jan. 19) three ingredients were left out of the Wild Rice Soup recipe. The list of ingredients should have included 1 cup pearl barley, 1 cup wild rice and 2 chopped onions. *The CJN* regrets the omissions.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Jan. 21, is deadline for the Jan. 31 issue and Monday, Jan. 28, is deadline for Feb. 7. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Saturday, Jan. 19

ABOUT DURBAN

Ambassador Alan Baker addresses the topic, Durban, Destruction and Diplomacy, from the pulpit at Beth Tzedec Congregation at services 8:45 a.m. Baker serves as legal advisor to Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Co-sponsored by Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre.

MONEY & MORALITY

Rabbi Asher Meir, of the Jerusalem College of Technology's Centre of Business Ethics, and **Rabbi David Lapin**, of Strategic Business Ethics Inc. in Los Angeles, are keynote speakers at a symposium on Jewish Business Ethics, 8 p.m. at Beth Jacob Congregation, 147 Overbrook Place. 416-633-5770.

L'DOR VA'DOR

Multi-generational Learning Service, for all ages and backgrounds, bar/bat mitzvah celebrants, singles, families, 10 a.m. to noon, Lerman Chapel, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153.

HOW TO BE HAPPY

How to Be Completely Happy and Satisfied with Relationships, Parenting and Life! with **Judge Daniel Butler**, family court judge, 8 p.m. at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-785-1107.

Sunday, Jan. 20

ISRAEL UPDATE

With **David Goldberg** of the Canada-Israel Committee, presented by Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood. 9:15 a.m. Breakfast served. 416-633-5500.

SOVIET YIDDISH WRITERS

Friends of Yiddish series, Soviet Yiddish Literature and Culture, continues with Beginning of Socialist Realism in Soviet Literature with **Anna Shternshis**, professor of Yiddish, University of Toronto, breakfast 9:45-10:15 a.m., lecture 10:30, at Antibes Community Centre, 140 Antibes.

SINGLES BRUNCH

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel and the Intersynagogue Singles brunch (for singles 35+) with guitarist/singer **Mickey Lewin**, 11:30 a.m. at the synagogue. 416-635-5340.

MODERN JEWISH HISTORY

The Rabbi Stuart and Hadassa Rosenberg Annual Memorial Lecture Series presents **Gershon Hundert**, department of Jewish studies, McGill University, speaking on Where and When Did Modern Jewish History Begin?, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation.

A MYSTICAL APPROACH

Temple Kol Ami features **Rabbi Lawrence Englander** of Solel Congregation speaking on A Mystical Approach to Mitzvah, 8 p.m. at Indigo Book Store, Yonge St./Hwy. 7.

JEWISH FILM SERIES

Beth Tikvah Synagogue's Jewish Film Series screens *Gentleman's Agreement* with **Gregory Peck** and **Dorothy McGuire**, 8 p.m. Guest commentator is **Larry Anklewicz** of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

EMBRACING JUDAISM

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda series Introduction to Judaism, based on the text *Embracing Judaism* by **Simcha Kling**, continues with Modern History and the State of Israel, 9:30-10:45 a.m. Instructors **Rabbi Howard Morrison** and **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**. 416-633-3838.

Monday, Jan. 21

CHUG HATANACH

Chug Hatanach meets 8 p.m. at

Continued on page 21

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For tickets or further information call the ROM Programs Department at 416-586-5797.

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What's New

Continued from page 20

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 2 and 3. Led by **Rabbi Wayne Allen.**

NAGILLAH CHAPTER, JWI

Nagillah Chapter, Jewish Women International (50+ singles) general meeting, 7:30 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue. Program by **Ellen Chin**, authentic belly dancing. Meeting follows. **Norma** 416-657-8763 or **Helen** 416-638-4326.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

VOLUNTEER INFO SESSION

Find out what civilian volunteers are doing on Israeli army bases, 7:30 p.m. RSVP Canadian Volunteers for Israel, 416-781-6089.

HUMOUR GROUP

Jewish Jokers and Humour Group monthly meeting, all ages. **Irv Helpert** 416-661-2541.

PROSTATE CANCER

Man to Man and Side by Side Prostate Cancer Awareness meeting, 7:30-9:30 p.m., Civic Garden Centre, 777 Lawrence Ave. W. Topic: So I Have Prostate Cancer, What Should I Know? with **Dr. Michael Jewett**, Princess Margaret Hospital. 416-931-8820.

Thursday, Jan. 24

SIX WAYS TO ASK GOD

Toronto Jewish Healing Project series, Six Rabbis: Six Ways to Ask God, continues with The Efficacy of Prayer: Does Prayer Work? with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** of Kolel. 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**, coordinator, 416-944-3359.

PIZZA AND FILM REVIEW

Rabbi Michal Shekel reviews the Tibetan film *The Cup*, 6:30 p.m. Temple Har Zion. RSVP to temple office, 905-889-2252, by Jan. 22.

And What Else Is New

MONTREAL REUNION

Correct phone number regarding the Northmount High School reunion in Montreal in August is **Susan** 416-736-6621.

JRCC TORAH STUDY

Jewish Russian Community Centre's Women's Institute of Torah Study (JRCC's WITS) winter semester events, 18 Rockford Rd.. For information or to register, call **Chana Weisberg**, dean of WITS, 416-222-7105.

Sunday, Jan. 27 **Rabbi J. I. Schochet** lectures on Reincarnation: What is the Jewish View? What secrets does Kabbalah reveal about this deeply shrouded mystery? 8 p.m.

Monday, Jan. 28, launches a 5-week course on Feminine Voices Part 2, The Voice of Sara with **Chana Weisberg**, Mondays 7:45-8:30 p.m. Explore the lives of great Jewish women in biblical times. Course is followed by One-On-One Learning 8:45-9:30 p.m. Register.

SHABBAT SHIRA AT HBT

Celebrate Shabbat Shira at Holy Blossom Temple with **Danny Maseng** in his one-man musical show Wasting Time with Harry Davidowitz – The Musical Journey of a Jewish Soul, Saturday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m. Born in Israel to American parents, Maseng is a veteran of the stage and screen in the United States and abroad. For ticket information, 416-789-3291, ext. 224.

NCJW OPENING MEETING

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada-Toronto Section opening general meeting features speakers **Avrum Rosensweig**, executive vice-president, Ve'ahavta, and **Karen Mock**, executive director, Canadian Human Rights Foundation. Theme: We Are the Caregivers of Our Community, Tikun Olam. Monday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. RSVP 416-633-5100.

RABBI TO BE FETED

Tribute to **Rabbi Jacob Kirshenblatt**, news from Jerusalem, silent auction, prizes, food, drink, music, dancing, sponsored by Congregation Beth Haminyan and Beth Sholom Synagogue, Feb. 16, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Sholom. Proceeds to - Latner Institute's Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma at the Herzog Hospital, Jerusalem. For tickets, **Jan Babins**, director, Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital, 416-256-4222.

IT'S A FINE LIFE!

Hachnosas Kallah and Zareinu present the musical *It's a Fine Life!*, Sunday, Feb. 3, and Monday, Feb. 4, at 7:45 p.m. at Earl Haig Secondary School-Cringan Hall. 905-738-5542, ext. 317. Women only.

WOMEN & JUDAISM

Join My Women's Group Monday, Jan. 28 for a discussion on Jewish spirituality and how women celebrate Judaism, led by **Aviva Goldberg,** lay spiritual leader of Shir Libeynu Congregation, a liberal egalitarian congregation. Program includes dinner and begins at 6:30 p.m. Pre-paid reservation only. Call JWI/C at 416-630-9313.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

SHABBAT SHIRA PROGRAM

Beth Sholom Synagogue celebrates Shabbat Shira, the Sabbath of Song, Saturday, Jan. 26. Join **Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich, Cantor Eric Moses** and the Beth Sholom Professional Choir for services 8:45 a.m. Kiddush follows.

Motzei Shabbat: showtime 8 p.m. with the Emunah Klezmer Band featuring **Bogdan Jukic, Noam Miller** and **Brahm Goldhammer,** with jazz interludes by **Brett Higgins** and **Dave Austin**. MC is **Cantor Eric Moses**. For tickets 416-783-6103.

SUPER BOWL SUNDAY

Every year people wonder what to do on Super Bowl Sunday, so why not attend the Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital Super Bowl Party? Sunday, Feb. 3. Pregame show 5 p.m. Reserve. 416-256-4222.

KARAOKE NIGHT

Thornhill Lodge B'nai Brith Karaoke Night, Saturday, Jan. 26, Sandy's Bar and Grill, 7354 Woodbine Ave., Markham, 8 p.m. to midnight. 905-731-9531.

INTERMEDIATE HEBREW

Improve your reading and practice your conversational skills with instructor **Esther Benari-Altmann**, Tuesdays, Jan. 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, 26, at 7:30-9 p.m. at Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre. 416-924-6211.

J F & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. For information or to register, **Shawna Sidney,** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Successful Parenting of the ADHD Child, a 6-week group for parents and children who have been medically diagnosed with ADHD, begins Wednesday, Jan. 23, from 7-9:30 p.m., Lipa Green Building.

Parenting the Difficult Teen, for parents who are dealing with "over the top" teen issues, begins Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7:30-9 p.m., Lipa Green Building. 8 sessions.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday and Sunday night dances with tapes at the Earl Bales Community Centre, Saturdays Feb. 2, 23, Sundays Jan. 27, Feb. 10, 17; Casino Rama, Jan. 30; Casino Niagara, Feb. 14; Collingwood Feb. 28, Blue Mountain Pottery, Candy Factory. Membership open. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Jan. 17, bingo; Jan. 24, lecture with **Ely Shanhav**; Jan. 31, video concert with **Barbra Streisand.** For information, **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Join the **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Call the office for more information, 416-630-9444.

Young at Heart Seniors winter vacation at glatt kosher Saxony Hotel. Package deal, hotel, plane, shuttle, free breakfasts and more, 2 weeks and up, efficiency or with meals, single or double. **Helen** 416-635-6343.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Osteoporosis Group meets Tuesday, Jan. 22, 1:15-2:30 p.m. **Salima Ladak-Kachra**, nuclear medicine technologist and certified densitometrist, tells her Personal Story of Compression Fractures. **Joan Turner**, ext. 126.

Israeli Club Etrog, for Hebrew speaking persons, meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Jan. 22, concert; Jan. 29, Tu b'Shvat party. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Pay It Forward,* Sunday, Jan. 29, 2:30 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Lunch and Learn, presented by the Downtown Jewish Learning Council and the Michael Bernstein Chapel of the Nadal JCC, on Thursday, Jan. 17, noon to 1 p.m. **Prof. Stuart Schoenfeld** discusses Current Perspectives on Israeli-Palestinian Relations.

Seniors programs: Thursday, Jan. 17, 2 p.m., Traditional Chinese Medicine with **Hugo Ramiro**; Jan. 24, 2 p.m., The Return "Home," **Margaret Cohen-Teuter** discusses her life in Kaiserslautern, Germany, during World War II; Thursday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m., movie, a golden oldie.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Happenings at the Jewish Discovery Museum:

Jan. 27: 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tu b'Shvat event. ext. 456.

Sunday, Feb. 10 and 17, noon to 2:30 p.m., Purim workshop for 7-10-year-olds. Pre-register. ext 284.

Sunday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Purim event. ext. 456.

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Singles Events
is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*
Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.
For rates or to place an ad, please call (416) 391-1836
The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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SINGLE?
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Join Beth Tzedec & Intersynagogue Singles for an Oneg Shabbat Dinner, Fri., Jan. 25. *"Jews From Around the World"* with guest Rabbi Jordan Cohen of Koiel-Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, formerly the Liberal Rabbinical Representative for Asia. Services 5 pm. Dinner 6:15 pm. 1700 Bathurst St. $25 in advance by Tues., Jan. 22. Call 416-781-3514, ext. 34.

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel in conjunction with the Intersynagogue Singles invites you to
Put On Your Dancing Shoes & have brunch with Mickey Lewin Guitarist & Singer
At our Sunday Brunch for Singles 35+ at 11:30 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 20th. $10 if prepaid by noon on Fri. Jan. 18th - $15 at door. We accept cash, Visa and cheques. Dress code - Casually Elegant. Please call the Synagogue office at 416-635-5340 Adath Israel Congregation, 37 Southbourne Ave., Toronto.

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Coast to Coast

Vounteers needed in Hamilton

The Jewish Community Centre needs volunteers for the upcoming Purim Carnival on February 24th. Help is needed to pick up supplies, make phone calls, and help on the day of the event. Please call Michele Schneider 905-648-0605 ext. 310.

***

Beth Tikvah Residence, the six-bedroom home serving the needs of developmentally challenged adults, needs all kinds of help including assisting residents, housework, repairs and snow-clearing. Contact executive director Raveen Harakh 905-523-0411.

***

The UJA Federation of Hamilton is looking for volunteers to help with fundraising, as well as to work on computers and answer the phone. Call Chris Nusca 905-648-0605 ext. 306.

Israel Bonds Office needs people to help in the office with typing, mailing and taking phone calls, as well as assisting with upcoming events. Call Nancy Somer 905-528-8639.

***

The Jewish National Fund is looking for volunteers to make home collections of Blue Boxes, and to help prepare for the Tu b'Shvat Telethon on January 20th. Canvassers are needed that day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., as well as help with subsequent follow-up calls. Contact Elizabeth or Sonia 905-527-5516.

***

Jewish Social Services needs volunteers to befriend clients at the JSS workshop – to chat, and play board-games. Clients learning English need help with conversational practice. Other volunteers are needed to solicit donations for the Kosher Food Bank, and a Hebrew-speaker is needed to help school children with their homework. Contact JSS director Carol Krames 905-648-0605 ext. 325.

***

Shalom Village senior's residence and nursing home needs all kinds of volunteers. Help is needed to bring residents (some in wheelchairs) to in-house programs. Companions are also needed to help feed clients at meal times. The kitchen would like help with meal preparation from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Volunteers are needed to befriend residents, especially those with few or no visitors. Companion helpers are needed on various outings, including taking clients to doctor's appointments by taxi or Darts bus. The reception desk is also looking for volunteers to answer the phones and help in the gift store. Contact Barbara Abraham 905-529-1613 ext. 236.

- Compiled by Julia Kollek

LIGHT OF HOPE: Students at Associated Hebrew Schools' middle school collected dozens of gift bags with hats, socks and other winter clothing to distribute to the homeless through Ve'Ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee. Pictured, from left, are: Sari Ronen, Lauren Arshoff and Rachel Frydman.

Carrying moments, images from Israel

By LEN RUDNER
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

It was Willa Cather, I think, who said that there are only a few distinct human experiences, but that they repeat themselves with such ferocity that it is as if they never happened before. That must be why people who visit Israel for the first time feel such a compulsion to share their experience. Perhaps that is why I feel such a need to write these words.

How is it that a man in his late 40s had never been to Israel? When I was a teenager, I had time, but no money. When I was in my twenties, I had money, but no time. And as a father of a teenager and proud owner of a mortgage and two car loans, I had neither time nor money! But for the opportunity to accompany the Canadian delegation to the World Jewish Congress for a seven-day trip in November, this situation would not have changed.

What are my memories of this all-too-brief visit? For that short period of time, my heart became a camera that stored images and moments. I carry them still.

I remember the magic of Jerusalem, and the way that the stone buildings seemed to glow no matter what time of day they were struck by the sun. I remember the magical way that the city seemed to expand and contract as I traveled by taxi from one location to another. How else to explain that a metered trip cost 15 shekels while an un-metered trip cost 25? It could only be the magic of the city.

I remember stealing away to visit Yad Vashem. The site was virtually empty, so for a few hours I followed the Avenue of the Righteous, took the ramp into the darkness that was the children's memorial and stood mute and wet-cheeked, the Kaddish caught like broken glass in my throat as I stood in the Hall of Names. I met a friend from Canada in the museum there. He pointed to one of the pictures on the wall, a picture I had seen many times before. He pointed to one face out of many and said, "look at her face." I looked and realized that I had never seen the faces, her face before. I felt ashamed.

I remember walking up the hill to the Western Wall. I remember feeling frightened. This was the anticipated moment. This was the moment that I was expected to feel. But what if I didn't? What if I approached the Wall and felt nothing? What if the moment was not right or the ruach was simply not there?

I need not have worried. I have no clear memory of crossing the plaza. I only remember touching the Wall, gripping it, feeling the warm, smooth stones as they filled the palms of my hands, the pressure of the rock against my forehead as I leaned heavily against those ancient stones. And all I could think was, "I made it. I'm here."

And as I wonderingly repeated those words, again and again, I thought of those generations in my family who only dreamt of such a moment, and those many more generations who could not even have dreamt of this moment. I thought of those who lived and died in expectation that someone, perhaps even someone like me, would one day have the opportunity to stand in this special place. Never have I felt so small, so insignificant and so fortunate.

I remember standing on the side of a road in Gilo, and looking off into the not-so-great distance to see the Beit Jala across the valley. I remember standing on a rooftop in the centre of Jerusalem, my arms extended to embrace the construction cranes of Efrat on one side and the Old City on the other. I remember thinking to myself, "How small. How close. How precarious." Later, in Toronto, I was asked by an Israeli how I enjoyed my trip. I said, "We have a beautiful country. I think we should keep it."

Len Rudner

I remember taking two late night walks. In Jerusalem I passed Sbarro's and marveled that it had been rebuilt and was bustling with life. In Tel Aviv, I passed the Dolphinarium, and stared at the silent shell and the small monument that bore the names of youth too soon extinguished.

The teenagers of Tel Aviv have constructed their own memorial to their friends. In front of the Dolphinarium there stands a sheet metal silhouette of a boy and girl holding hands. The inscription beneath reads, "They won't make us stop dancing." It is my last picture, and a fitting way to close my album. It is also a message that bears repeating: none of us should stop dancing, not so long as the music of our history pulses within us.

Len Rudner is director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario Region.

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גידי קורן וחברים

חתונה מאוחרת

ישראל של דצמבר 2001. מתח הקורה מתערבב עם מועקה כלכלית קשה. כעשרה אחוז מובטלים, ביניהם רבים צעירים ומשכילים שנפלטו מתעשיות עתירות ידע. אמצעי התקשורת מלאים סיפורים אישיים קשים. אנשים באמצע חדרך מתאבדים. ילדה בת עשר חצילה את חיי אימה שניסתה להתאבד. וכשכל העולם מתחיל לחבין את נבזותו של עראפת, מחליט שרון להפוך אותו לקדוש מעונה ונותן לו ללכת ברגל לבית לחם, כדי שכל צלם טלביזיה בעולם יוכל לחצות איש זקן, חולה פרקינסון הולך ברגל לחנוג חג של דת אחרת. אין מה להגיד, אם הטמטום היה מיתגרם לכסף, היו בידי שרון מיליארדי דולארים מיותרים.

בתוך כל המחומה הזו היה ממש כיף לחנוג חגיגה אמנותית קטנה, סרט ישראלי מדבר גרוזיני. "חתונה מאוחרת" נוצר על ידי במאי ממוצא גרוזיני ועוסק בנסיעותיה של משפחה גרוזינית למצוא שידוך לבן שמלאו לו שלושים ושתיים שנה ושעומד להשלים את לימודי הדוקטורט במדעי הרוח. לבחור יש אחובה שהיא, רחמנא לצלן, ממוצא מרוקאי שמבוגרת ממנו, וגרוע מכל-אם לילדה. העימות בין הבחור למשפחתו מסופר בצורה אמינה מאוד ונוגעת ללב. תוסיפו לכך תפקיה צרפתית והרי לפניכם סרט ברמה בינלאומית שיכול לחגיע רחוק. אבל שישאר בינינו.

Shipping News, Beautiful Mind וכל השאר

נישאר לרגע בסרטים. זוהי עונת טרום האוסקר, וכל האולפנים משחררים את מיטב סרטיהם. Beautiful Mind יזכה כנראה, ובצדק, בהרבה אוסקרים. זהו סיפורו של חתן פרס נובל במתימטיקה, שסובל שנים רבות ממחלת נפש קשה. זהו סיפור על התאהשות מנפילה קשת, על אשה תומכת וקהילה של חברים שעושה את כל החבדל. גם סרט חשוב וגם עושה טוב בלב. ראסל קרו בתפקיד כל כך שונה מ "גלאדיאטור", עשוי לזכות הפעם באוסקר בלי ללבוש טוגה.

אחת הבעיות של מחגירים כמוני זה חוסר היכולת להבין, אבל ממש להבין, את הרוח הקנדית". אז היום סרט שגם יעשה לכם טוב וחם בלב, וגם יקרב אתכם לחוויית החיים בכפר דיגים בניו פאונדלנד. ואלה שזה נשמע להם בלתי אפשרי- קחו את המילה שלי: Shipping News היא עלילה משעשע, סיפור אהבה יפיפה ונופים שרואים רק בקנדה. יעשה לכם ערב מדהים. ואולי יקרב אתכם טיפ טיפה נוספת למקום שבו בחרתם להעביר את שארית חייכם (אוך מאלה שחוזרים לישראל כשהילד בן השנתיים יסיים את הקולג').

תואר אוניברסיטאי מלאטביה

המחומה בטח כבר חגיעה לאוזניכם: ראש איגוד המורים בישראל קנה תואר אקדמאי באוניברסיטה בלאטביה. תואר אקדמאי, למותר לציין, מאפשר לזוכה בו לזכות בקידום מקצועי ובמשכורת משופרת. עכשיו מסתבר שאין הוא בודד, וכנראה שמדובר בקבוצה גדולה של אנשים שקנו את תואריהם עבור כסף. סיפור מהתפטרה. באירה כזו לא מפליא שחצי מתלמידי תיכון בישראל מאמינים שזה בסדר להעתיק בבחינות. שוב, מחזיר אותנו למיתוס המיתולוגי של הפלמ"ח שבו זוכרים את הפלמח'ניק דדו ש " איתנו סחב מן הלול". קשה , או ממש בלתי אפשרי לשנות ערכים כאלה כשמזכיר איגוד המורים סחב מן הלול תואר אקדמאי. אבל שישאר בינינו.

טרור

חיים ברור לכל מי שמתעניין, שאין פיתרון צבאי לטרור. עיין ערך צפון אירלנד. דווקא בעניין הזה, חזיק משבר בין לאדן לנושא

הישראלי. קמו האמריקאים ותקפו את בין לאדן וחשמידו את כוחותיו, כי הוא פעל כמו צבא לכל דבר, ולכן גם היתה להוחותיו כתובת מדוייקת. ראה שרון וקיבל לגיטימציה לתתקיף "עדים פלסטינאיים" אחרי כל פעולת טרור. אלא מה, כל חכיסוחים האלה לא ימנעו אפילו מנער תמאסניק אחד להתפוצץ בבוא הפקודה. אולי התיקון- יותר נערים רוצים להתפוצץ שם חיים על קידוש חשם ולתפארת מדינת ישראל. כמה שזה קשה ומתסכל, וכמה שברור שרוב חפלסטינאים, לו יכלו לבחור, היו מטבעים את ישראל בים, חייבים למצוא פתרון פוליטי. בלי פתרון כזה ימשיכו אנשים להתפוצץ , תחידות והחשקעות יהיו על חפנים, ואיכות חחיים של יחודים בישראל תהיה בלתי נסבלת.

Coast to Coast

Conservatory will promote Jewish performing arts

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Conservatory for Judaic Performing Arts, an educational program for the study and promotion of Jewish music, dance and narrative forms, will open in 2003, says its chair and founder Dr. Hy Goldman.

Goldman, a physician who also founded the popular Jewish music festival KlezKanada, sees the school as an outgrowth of the festival, which each year has awarded an increasing number of scholarships to promising young musicians who wish to learn klezmer and other types of Jewish music from professional musicians.

An inaugural gala concert in benefit of the conservatory, which was incorporated federally and provincially as a non-profit organization a year ago, will be held Jan. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at the historic 800-seat Outremont Theatre.

The program will showcase the range of Jewish musical expression. Performances will be given by the chamber orchestra I Musici de Montréal, under the direction of Yuli Turovsky and Les Frères Edery, an Andalusian ensemble.

Expects enrolment to be around 75 in the first year

Brave Old World, one of the world's leading klezmer bands, will be performing the world premiere of the *Suite for Klezmer Band and Chamber Orchestra*, arranged by Brave Old World musical director Alan Bern.

The piece will be a collaboration between Brave Old World, a group famous for its soulful lyricism, and I Musici de Montréal, which has earned international acclaim for its repertoire that ranges from Baroque to Russian classics.

In the opening number, I Musici will play a suite composed by Hankus Netsky of Boston's Klezmer Conservatory Band entitled *Chagall's Mandolins*, featuring soloist Eric Stein, a former KlezKanada scholarship recipient.

Les Frères Edery is dedicated to the interpretation of the music that originated in Moorish Spain and continued to flourish in Morocco after the expulsion of the Jews from Spain in 1492. North African Jews played an important role in the preservation and transmission of this music.

The ensemble includes violinist Charles Edery; Prosper Edery on oud, who is also principal voice; and Samy Sebag on darbuka and tar.

Goldman said the conservatory will draw its faculty and students from around the world, and will be open to people of all backgrounds and ages. In its first year, it will be limited to an intensive, four-week summer school.

The conservatory is aimed at those who have already reached a fairly high level of proficiency in their art form, Goldman said. Classes will be given at the intermediate and advanced levels. Narrative forms will include voice, theatre and storytelling.

He expects enrolment to be around 75 in the first year. He hopes to obtain a ratio of five students to one teacher, he said.

The conservatory also hopes to increase public appreciation for the Judaic performing arts, through such events as concerts and lectures.

But what is meant by the term "Judaic"?

While Goldman acknowledges that definitions of what is Jewish in the arts vary, he says one reason "Judaic" rather than "Jewish" was chosen for the conservatory's name is that it was felt "Judaic" is "more all-encompassing." (Its French name is L'École supérieure des arts judaïques de la scène.)

The general opinion among the conservatory's organizers, Goldman said, is that Jewish performing arts should be as inclusive as possible and extend beyond the folkloric.

"Jewish dance, for instance, is more than the horah," said Goldman.

The organizers also agreed that the conservatory should not only preserve traditional works, but encourage the creation of new ones.

But the location of the conservatory has yet to be determined, as well as its source of funding.

"We have not decided whether to be associated with the Jewish community or not," Goldman said. "We are looking for government support at all levels and contacting foundations in Canada and the United States."

The Jewish Community Foundation of Montreal is a sponsor of the concert, and the Bronfman Jewish Education Centre (BJEC) is serving as the conservatory's interim address.

A number of artists sit on the conservatory's board of directors, including synagogue musical director Stephen Glass, storyteller Oro Anahory-Librowicz, violinist Yaela Hertz Berkson, choreographer Edouard Lock and Turovsky. Its executive director is visual artist Devora Neumark.

"The conservatory will be unique in the world," Goldman said. "We really have no prototype to work with. We will start in a modest way, and go from there."

For concert tickets, call the BJEC at 345-2610.

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Gray responds to *Globe* story

Continued from page 1

Gray also rejected any inference that Canadian Jews, even politicians, should shrink from expressing support for Israel.

"People who are in public life in Canada, in our pluralistic and multicultural society, are very active and committed supporters of Canada," he said. "At the same time, they're entitled, whatever their origins, to be in touch with their heritage, whether it's ethnic or religious."

The Sixth International Conference of Jewish Ministers and Members of Parliament was sponsored by the Israeli Forum, a private, non-profit group that works to increase contacts between Israel and the Diaspora, not the Israeli government, as the *Globe* had reported.

Gray said the Israeli Forum "is something like the Conference Board of Canada," a non-profit think-tank in Ottawa.

In a telephone interview from Tel Aviv, conference co-chair Irit Dortal said the Israeli government underwrote only 10 percent of the meeting's costs. She added that the Knesset also paid for a lunch and a dinner it hosted for participants.

The rest of the expenses were picked up by corporate donors, as they have been for the five previous conferences, Dortal said.

The five-day gathering drew 60 legislators from 23 countries and had the support of Israel's foreign ministry and the Knesset.

"My attendance at this meeting is totally consistent with Canadian foreign policy," Gray said. "There's no doubt that Canada is a supporter of Israel and has been since 1948. Our prime minister, our foreign minister have said over and over again that we support an independent and free Israel behind secure and recognized borders."

'My attendance is totally consistent with Canadian foreign policy'

Gray noted that apart from attending the conference, he held one-on-one meetings with Israeli President Moshe Katsav, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres. As well, following Israel, he visited Jordan for a meeting with King Abdullah and the country's foreign minister.

Asked who paid his tab, Gray said: "Since I'm here on official business as part of the federal cabinet, I expect my expenses would be paid by the Canadian government, as is customary when a minister carries out official business abroad."

The *Globe* story, headlined "Israeli-backed event draws top Liberals," said "the Israelis" offered all participants five nights of free hotel accommodation, but added, "it was not clear in all cases whether the Canadian MPs accepted that offer, or whether they are billing the Canadian government for other travel costs."

The invitation to the conference, a copy of which was obtained by *The CJN*, states that the gathering was sponsored and organized by the Israeli Forum "in cooperation with" the ministry of foreign affairs, the Knesset and the Jewish Agency for Israel.

The invitation states that organizers would cover expenses, including accommodation, transport, touring and social programs.

Dortal said most participants "paid from their own pockets." The only delegates to have their expenses covered by the Israeli government, she said, were those from Argentina, which is undergoing a wrenching economic crisis.

The *Globe* story quoted an aide to Immigration Minister Elinor Caplan as saying that the Canadian government paid all her expenses, including hotel bills.

The article also noted that the airfare of Montreal MP Irwin Cotler was paid by the organizers of an academic meeting to which he spoke on the same trip.

An aide to rookie Winnipeg MP Anita Neville told *The CJN* that Neville attended only three days of the conference, and then left to accompany Caplan on her official trip to Egypt.

The other Canadians attending the conference were Quebec MP Raymonde Folco and senators Sheila Finestone and Jerry Grafstein.

Jacques Saada, the only Jewish Liberal MP who did not attend the conference, called the *Globe* article "ludicrous."

"Taking sides...what does that mean? Are we [MPs] free to agree or disagree?" Saada, a Quebec MP, said many countries host meetings for parliamentarians from the around the world, some all-expenses paid, "but that doesn't mean we endorse or don't endorse their policies."

In an editorial the next day (Jan. 9) on Israel's seizure of an arms-laden ship allegedly bound for the Palestinians and the importance of world public opinion in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the *Globe* stated that "Jewish politicians from the around the world are currently being feted by the Israeli government."

Contacted by *The CJN*, the *Globe*'s foreign editor, John Stackhouse, said there would be a "small" clarification printed. The issues raised in the article were "a little more complicated than I had imagined," Stackhouse conceded.

The clarification appeared this past Monday. It said the Jan. 8 article "should have read that a conference of Jewish politicians, including five Canadian MPs, held in Jerusalem this week (sic) was organized only in part by the Canadian government."

Joseph Wilder, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, said he can understand the newspaper reporting on the conference, "but this is not front-page news. The whole thing leaves a bad taste. It's unbecoming of the *Globe*."

Gray noted that he attended the same conference in 1996. He said he regards this visit as a "useful followup" to the two trips to Israel made last year by Foreign Affairs Minister John Manley.

While in Israel, Gray also held talks with Sari Nusseibeh, the head of Al-Quds University, and who was appointed last year by Palestinian Authority president Yasser Arafat as the PA's top politician in Jerusalem.

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Israel staged weapons ship affair: Iran

By AMIR OREN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Iranian Defence Minister Ali Shamkhani denied Sunday that Iran has any security ties with Palestinians and said that Israel had staged the "Karine A" weapons ship affair to damage his country's image.

"The racist regime in Israel staged the affair to hurt Iran's image," the minister was quoted as saying by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA). The minister also denied having any security ties with the Palestinian Authority (PA).

"No Iranian organization was involved in the transport of weapons to Palestinian territories," Shamkhani reiterated, and added that such claims were meant to influence the decisions of U.S. officials.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has had no military relations with [PA Chairman Yasser] Arafat and no steps have been taken by any Iranian organization for the shipment of arms to the mentioned lands," Shamkhani was quoted as saying.

"In its actions, Israel is endangering American interests, peace and stability in the region," he added.

Israel Defence Forces (IDF) Brigadier General Yossi Kuperwasser, who headed a contingent of Israeli security officials that briefed U.S. counterparts two weeks ago in Washington on Arafat's personal involvement in the affair, reports that the Americans no longer doubt that Arafat himself personally initiated contacts with Iran or that these contacts led to the acquisition of weapons and their being loaded aboard the ship.

A slightly abridged version of the information has been furnished to Egyptian officials (some details were excised, due to concerns about exposing sources). The intelligence information provided by Israeli security sources has also persuaded the Egyptians of the veracity of Israel's claims.

CIA head George Tenet and other senior figures in the U.S. intelligence-security establishment have decided that information supplied by Israel is credible and accurate.

Israel Radio reported Sunday that Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer has ordered the IDF to make the PA-Iran relationship a direct focus of its intelligence efforts, and that he also plans to raise Israel's fears about an emerging Iran-Hezbollah-PA triangle.

Israeli security sources say that the members of the contingent in Washington presented irrefutable evidence to the U.S. officials, proving that Arafat reached a decision in summer 2001 to change strategic directions, and work to establish a Palestinian-Iranian alliance.

This initiative started with contacts beween trusted emissaries representing Arafat and Iranian spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. At the end of these contacts, Khamenei decided to overlook his objections to Arafat's willingness to forge compromises with Israel in the Oslo peace process, and increase his country's influence in the PA.

The Iranian ruler decided to exploit an opportunity to change the focus of his country's anti-Israeli activity, moving away from the Lebanon context, and working instead in the Palestinian arena. The Arafat-Khamenei decision, Israeli security sources say, was reached before Sept. 11, and it was implemented despite U.S. peace envoy Anthony Zinni's visits to the region, Arafat's cease-fire speech on Dec. 16, and the "hudna" proposal for a cease-fire arrangement submitted to Israel's President Moshe Katsav.

Officials in Israel's security establishment believe that Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak has grasped that Arafat operated behind Cairo's back, exploiting the use of the Suez Canal, the harbour zone in Alexandria and Egyptian fishing boats; and that he also invited the Iranians (bitter rivals of Egypt on key policy issues) to step up their influence in traditional areas of Egyptian influence.

Israel rejected Saturday the PA's announcement that it had arrested those responsible for the weapons shipment on Karine A, the ship seized by Israeli commandos on Jan. 3 in the Red Sea.

In an announcement by the Prime Minister's Office and quoting a "senior security source," Jerusalem said that the man responsible for the funding in the affair, Fuad Shobaki, was in Ramallah "and is in no way under arrest," while the two other members of the Palestinian naval force, Adel Mughrabi and Fathi Razem, are not in PA territory.

Nabil Amr, a senior aide to Arafat, later altered the PA version and said that only one security official was detained.

"The president [Arafat] has ratified the warrants," Amr said. "We have detained and are questioning Fuad Shobaki while the other two, Fathi Razem and Adel Mughrabi, are not in town. The investigating committee will do all that is necessary to continue this probe."

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CIA concerned about Syrian nuclear plans

By AMIR OREN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

WASHINGTON — The CIA last week presented an annual report to the U.S. Senate in which the American intelligence agency said it "remains concerned about Syria's intentions regarding nuclear weapons."

The report, published as a declassified summary, says, "Syria maintains a ballistic missile and rocket force of hundreds of FROG rockets, Scuds, and SS-21 SRBMs. With considerable foreign assistance, Syria progressed to Scud production using primarily locally manufactured parts. Syrian regional concerns may lead Damascus to seek a longer range ballistic missile capability such as North Korea's No Dong medium range ballistic missile."

The U.S. intelligence community says the report "believes Iraq has retained a small, covert force of Scud-type missiles, launchers, and Scud-specific production equipment and support apparatus. For the next several years at least, Iraq's ballistic missile initiatives probably will focus on reconstituting its pre-Gulf War capabilities to threaten regional targets."

"With substantial foreign assistance, Baghdad could flight-test a domestic mid-range missile by the middle of the decade," says the report, explaining that without international monitoring, and with help from Russia, China and North Korea, Iraq could renew its capabilities as they existed in 1991, before Operation Desert Storm. New, liquid fuel al-Samud missiles, with ranges up to 150 kilometers, will soon be deployed in Iraq, and Baghdad could extend their range, says the report.

According to the CIA, the Iranian-developed Shihab-3, based on the North Korean No Dong missile, is in advanced stages of development, and Iran could launch it during a conflict. Its range, 1,300 kilometers, puts it within reach of Israel. The American intelligence community says that Iran still doesn't have a nuclear capability, but could have one by the end of the decade – or sooner, if it gets foreign help.

The American intelligence estimate is less foreboding than the one voiced by Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer in a recent speech to the Council for Peace and Security, an organization of former senior officers in Israel's defense establishment.

Ben-Eliezer said he sees "a gradual move from the threat of conventional warfare to non-conventional warfare, which is turning realistic, worrisome and significant. So far, we've dealt with the nuclear weapons only as a theoretical threat, far from us, but around 2005, Iran will have nuclear capabilities that will threaten us, the region and possibly the entire world's security. Iran unceasingly supports terror organizations and we assume that getting nuclear weapons will increase its support for terror and for regional violence."

According to Ben-Eliezer, the "new alliance" between Iran, Hezbollah and the Palestinian Authority (PA) is the worrying issue exposed by the Karine A weapons ship episode. The defence minister believes that this new development is even more important than the personal involvement of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat in the weapons smuggling scheme. He said if the PA had used the weapons found on the ship, it would have changed the fighting from a limited conflict to something much wider.

"Behind the smuggling attempt was co-operation between the PA, Iran and Hezbollah," said Ben-Eliezer, "and the latter two are strategic threats to Israel. The ship incident proves the potential of regional threats from their most significant source."

Since the ship's capture two weeks ago, the intelligence community has accumulated evidence of the involvement of Hezbollah activist Imad Mugniyah, who is on the U.S. most wanted terrorist list, in the Karine A affair. Mugniyah is connected to the Iranian organization involved in foreign terror attacks and is wanted by the United States for his involvement in airplane hijackings.

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More Jewish Canadians visit Israel

TORONTO — The proportion of Jews from Canada visiting Israel virtually doubled last year over the year before, according to the Israel Government Tourist Office (IGTO).

Approximately 41 per cent of nearly 33,000 Canadian tourists to Israel in 2001 were Jewish, compared to 22 percent in 2000. And the proportion of Jewish visitors from Canada last year was higher than it was for other parts of the world, IGTO says.

Dani Shahal, Israel's tourism consul to Canada and director of IGTO, cites troubled times for the upsurge in Jewish travel.

"Canadian Jews are extremely loyal to Israel and when Israel is suffering from a crisis as it is now, Canadian Jewish community members respond strongly by visiting the country," he said.

Shahal notes comparably large Canadian Jewish tourism figures in 1998 when Israel also faced troubled times.

He's urging Jews across Canada to take advantage of solidarity tours offered by synagogues and organizations such as Jewish federations. A list of missions is available from IGTO (igto@idirect.com or 416-964-3784).

A detailed, statistical survey conducted for Israel's ministry of tourism during the first half of 2001 provides many other insights into the characteristics of Jewish visitors to Israel:

- Thirty-five percent of Canadian Jews who visited Israel were Orthodox, 33 percent were Conservative and nine percent were Reform.
- Nearly half of Jewish tourists from around the world chose Israel as their destination of choice for educational or religious reasons.
- The Western Wall, the Jewish Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem's Tower of David are the sites most visited by Jewish tourists.
- Eighty-seven percent of Jewish tourists were repeat visitors.

Although the proportion of Canadian Jews visiting Israel has increased substantially, Israel, which welcomed 1.2 million visitors last year, is suffering from a dramatic decline in overall tourism, IGTO states. The Israel Hotel Association estimates that Israel's economy lost $1.8 billion because of the tourism slump.

Move to allow shchitah spurs Swiss debate

By FREDY ROM
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERN — The Swiss government has launched a campaign to end a century-old law barring Jewish ritual slaughter.

Launched by Economics Minister Pasqual Couchepin, the campaign has created a heated outcry against any lessening of the prohibition.

It also prompted fears of a widespread anti-Semitic backlash in a country that has experienced such backlashes in recent years, after Switzerland came under international pressure to settle a variety of Holocaust-related claims.

In a recent newspaper interview, Couchepin admitted to some surprise at the stir his proposal has caused. But he said the move to allow ritual slaughter must be seen as a human rights issue.

Noting that an European Union tribunal ruled that the right to perform shchitah must be respected, he added, "We must decide whether we want to stand on the side of human rights."

Shchitah, or Jewish ritual slaughter, is widely believed to be a humane form of slaughter. But proponents of the Swiss law believe otherwise.

Most European countries – with the exception of Switzerland and Sweden – permit shchitah.

Animal rights groups, who have lobbied actively on the subject, have threatened to seek a national referendum if the government seeks to allow shchitah. The electorate has the right under Swiss law to hold a referendum on almost any legislative initiative.

Observers believe the move to allow shchitah would be defeated in a referendum. A recent government-sponsored survey showed all the Swiss cantons, or states, are against allowing shchitah.

Some historians maintain that the original law, which went into effect in 1893, was drafted because of anti-Semitism, not to protect animals.

Since the government launched the initiative, Swiss newspapers have been flooded with letters from animal rights supporters backing the existing prohibition.

Many of the letters have anti-Semitic overtones, with some referring to shchitah as a "holocaust of the animals."

Most editorials in Swiss papers speak out against changing the law.

A campaign against overturning the law recently was launched by Erwin Kessler, who had been sentenced by the Swiss Federal Court in Lausanne to several months imprisonment for anti-Semitic offences.

Alfred Donath, the president of the Federation of Jewish Communities, has called for an end to "the discriminating law."

But some Swiss Jews are concerned the government campaign may only increase anti-Semitism.

"We have to ask ourselves if a new wave of anti-Semitism is in our interests," Peter Abelin wrote in the Jewish magazine *Tachles*.

Israel to end home demolitions

CJN Wire Services

JERUSALEM — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told the Knesset foreign affairs and defence committee on Monday that he, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer had decided in a Sunday meeting to end the demolition of Palestinian homes in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The foreign minister told the committee that the damage caused to Israel's image by this kind of action was a large factor in the decision.

However, Peres emphasized that he himself was not opposed to the demolitions solely because of the international criticism, but rather for "traditional-Jewish reasons.

"We came to the conclusion," he said, "that... the damage caused was greater than the value [of the demolitions]."

Sharon had come under international criticism for his decision earlier in the week to demolish Palestinian homes in the southern Gaza Strip.

A European Union official said the Israeli demolitions were "unjustified." The International Red Cross said 53 homes were razed and hundreds of Palestinians made homeless as a result of the Jan. 10 demolitions.

Israel razed the homes after a Hamas attack last week on an army outpost near Gaza; four Israeli soldiers were killed.

The Israel army said that only 21 buildings were razed and that all were abandoned. Army officials also said the structures had been used by armed Palestinian gunmen to launch attacks on Israeli targets. Some of the buildings were used to hide tunnels in which arms were smuggled from Egypt to Gaza, the officials added.

Some Israeli cabinet members also criticized the demolitions.

Labour party ministers, including Peres and Ephraim Sneh, questioned the policy, calling it unnecessary and harmful to Israel's public image.

Sharon reprimanded the ministers for speaking before being briefed by the army on details of the operation.

He said at Sunday's cabinet meeting that critics were merely serving the interests of Palestinian propaganda.

Education Minister Limor Livnat, a member of Sharon's Likud party, rejected claims that the demolitions were an act of collective punishment. She said they were a defensive act designed to prevent attacks by Palestinians.

On Sunday, some 100 Peace Now activists demonstrated in Tel Aviv against the demolitions.

Compiled from JTA and Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd. news stories.

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CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our seventh annual Purim Art Contest.

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 21. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However, they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colourful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2002. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of colour, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 8, 2002.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 21, 2002.

Anti-Semitism in France takes on a new form — 'pro-intifadaism'

By NITZAN HOROWITZ
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Comment

In announcing the establishment of an international committee to combat anti-Semitism, Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior declared "France is the worst western country as far as the number of anti-Semitic incidents is concerned."

The declaration and the announcement struck representatives of the French Jewish community like a thunderbolt.

The French Jewish community is the second largest only to the United States among Diaspora communities. Certain elements in that community have been warning for some time about a significant increase in the number of violent incidents against Jewish institutions, but they, too, were amazed that the Israeli Foreign Ministry did not bother to consult with them before announcing the establishment of the committee.

Melchior reported there were 312 incidents in France last year, "but they don't take anti-Semitism seriously in France," he said, adding, "we sense a certain hesitation by the French authorities about what is necessary to do to halt the wave of anti-Semitism."

In response, the French Interior Ministry, responsible for the police and security services, says that anti-Semitism is on the decline. According to official statistics, by the end of November 2001, there were only 26 incidents, compared to 119 during the entire previous year. The number of anti-Semitic threats also dropped from 624 in 2000 to 155 in 2001.

The sweeping Israeli accusation drew, as could have been expected, equally vehement reactions. "I can promise you that the French authorities are absolutely committed to fighting all forms of anti-Semitism," said the Foreign Ministry's spokesperson, while the president's spokesperson said that President Jacque Chirac condemned every form of anti-Semitic activity.

There is no reason to doubt the French commitment to fighting anti-Semitism, and certainly not the commitment of either Chirac or French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin. Both have been consistent in their attitude toward anti-Semitic incidents and France's past Vichy government.

Israeli representatives in France make clear in no uncertain terms that describing France as an "anti-Semitic state" is ridiculous, insulting and causes insufferable harm.

The gap between the Israeli data on anti-Semitic incidents and the data provided by Paris, may be the result of the relatively new character of attacks on Jews and Jewish institutions in France. In the past, most anti-Jewish activity was conducted by far-right extremists – skinheads and neo-Nazis. Today, most of the incidents are apparently perpetrated by French teens of Arab descent, children of immigrants and residents of slums in city suburbs.

The attacks, such as the arson of a Jewish school, and the break-in of a synagogue in the Paris suburb of Creteil, take place in neighbourhoods where there is a large Muslim population.

A senior Israeli diplomat in Paris said the incidents "are apparently an expression of hostility by a very specific community, and it worsened after September 11.

"At the same time, there's an anti-Israeli political discourse on the extreme left that slips into the mainstream left. It worsened against the background of the intifadah, and is sometimes infected by anti-Semitic characterizations. But one must not be carried away and refer to every anti-Israeli criticism, no matter how vehement, as a form of anti-Semitism."

Experts and researchers in France have found it difficult to quantify the "anti-Semitic" dimension of the legitimate criticism of the Israeli occupation or human rights violations by Israeli authorities. They are also not convinced that France is unusual in Europe.

The feelings described by Melchior and mentioned by mostly right-wing Jewish leaders in France is the result of what they perceive as the efforts by French authorities to whitewash incidents that should have lit a red light.

A typical example was a fight held between Jewish and Arab youths on the Champs Elysée last September. The incident was sparked either by the Jewish teens or the Arabs – in either case, police needed to call in reinforcements and close the famous boulevard for a few hours before quiet was restored. Yet nothing about the event appeared in the French press. Nobody in the Jewish community believes the authorities kept it quiet to protect the rioters. Everyone understands that the conspiracy of silence was meant to prevent incitement in both communities.

But among some Jews, there is a profound feeling that the French authorities would prefer to whitewash rather than deal directly with the problem.

Israeli representatives admit that there has been a rise in the number of attacks on Jewish targets such as synagogues and kosher butcher shops. "Yes, the problem is widespread in France, but it's important to remember that France has the largest community of Jews in Europe and the largest community of Muslims," said the senior Israeli diplomat in Paris.

Jewish and official sources said while the incidents are in reaction to what is happening in the territories, they are largely the result of a domestic phenomenon in France.

"This isn't traditional anti-Semitism that we know," said a leading French Jew.

"These violent youths are French, the children of immigrants, who are dealing with racism and poverty. They hate France, and they are an ideal reservoir for draftees into causes like Osama bin Laden's."

Jan. 7

• The captain of the Karine A weapons ship carrying 50 tons of armaments that was seized by the IDF two weeks ago, confessed that he was hired by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to bring the arms-laden ship through the Red Sea to PA-controlled shores. The PA has denied any responsibility for the vessel.

Jan. 8

• Mira Awad, 26, a Christian Israeli Arab from the village of Rama in the Galilee, was selected to play the role of Eliza Doolittle in the Israeli musical production of *My Fair Lady*. Awad is a graduate of the Rimon School for Music in Ramat Hasharon and competed against 119 other candidates.

Jan. 9

• Palestinian gunmen killed four IDF soldiers early in the day when they crossed a border fence and attacked an outpost on the Gaza border near Kibbutz Keren Shalom. Two soldiers were also injured in the attack, one of them seriously. All were members of a Bedouin unit. Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack.

Jan. 10

• Islamic Jihad announced it was retracting its commitment to abide by the ceasefire declared by Yasser Arafat on Dec. 16 of last year. "Starting today, we won't keep to the understandings with the Palestinian Authority and its security services," the military wing of the organization announced.

Jan. 11

• The IDF bulldozed the runway at the Palestinian-controlled Gaza International Airport and closed a main road in Gaza between Rafah and Khan Yunis. The army also arrested 11 Palestinians in separate operations, all of which were in response to the killing of four IDF soldiers earlier in the week.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

Argentine Jews turn their attention to Zion

By NADAV SHRAGAI
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Some 1,300 Argentine Jews have approached representatives of the Jewish Agency over the past 10 days to look into the possibility of immigrating to Israel, Jewish Agency Chairman Salai Meridor said yesterday.

Meridor, who returned last week from a trip to Argentina, said the Jewish Agency received 10 times the number of requests compared to normal periods. Last year, 1,418 Argentine Jews immigrated to Israel, with an additional 97 arriving in the first nine days of 2002.

Meridor said that during his brief visit, he met with hundreds of Jews who expressed a desire to move to Israel. Rabbis and local Jewish leaders have also looked into immigrating to Israel with their congregations and communities, he said.

"What I found there was a Jewish community in a deep crisis, with growing fears stemming both from a deteriorating economic situation and from the new regime," Meridor said, adding that some 20,000 Argentine Jews had fallen into poverty and were no longer able to continue sending their children to Jewish educational institutions.

Meridor said most Jewish organizations in Argentina are focusing their efforts on helping local Jews look into immigrating to Israel. However, some Jews are probing other venues including the United States, Spain and Italy.

The Jewish Agency is sending dozens of former Argentines who have settled in Israel to their home country on "reserve duty" to assist in organizing the expected wave of immigration.

"In particular, we are beefing up our personnel in the outlying towns, where some 40,000 Jews are living, with the assumption that the rate of immigration from there will be higher," Meridor said.

The Jewish Agency also plans to add $1 million to its budget for Jewish education in Argentina, and Meridor expressed hope that Israel would soon make good on its commitment to increase its share of financing Jewish education there.

"If we don't do this immediately, a significant number of Jewish children whose families are no longer capable of funding their studies within a Jewish framework will drop out of these frameworks," he said.

Jewish Agency treasurer Haim Chessler said this year the organization would increase its operational budget for Argentina by 75 percent compared to last year.

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Film examines obscure Israeli sect

Hebrew Israelites are not halachically Jewish, although they follow Torah

Hazriel and his two wives, Aerela (left) and Zipora, enjoy a happy moment.

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

The Hebrew Israelites, an African-American religious sect led by a charismatic preacher named Ben Ami Ben Israel, settled in Israel in 1969, much to the curiosity and puzzlement of Israelis.

Concentrated today in the Negev development town of Dimona, the Hebrew Israelites believe in the Torah and keep the Sabbath, although halachically they are not Jewish.

Some of their men also practise polygamy and are allowed to have up to seven wives.

Sister-Wife, a one-hour documentary to be broadcast by TVOntario on Wednesday, Jan. 23 at 10 p.m. and again on Sunday, Jan. 27 at midnight, examines this sect through the prism of a Hebrew Israelite man who enters into a so-called "divine marriage."

An Israeli film directed by directed by Timna Goldstein and Hadar Kleinman, *Sister-Wife* focuses on Hazriel, a former drug addict from the slums of Detroit.

For reasons unfortunately left unexplained, Hazriel, a father of nine children, decides to marry Aerela, who is 14 years younger than his first wife, Zipora.

A fairly feisty woman, Zipora does not appear to resent his decision. In fact, she regards the imminent wedding with some anticipation.

In preparation for that blessed day, Hazriel, a welder who can presumably afford a second wife, enlarges his house. Meanwhile, Zipora and Aerela shop for bed sheets at a local market.

At the wedding ceremony, a fairly simple affair, a singer regales the guests with a song about the power of love.

As Zipora beams, Hazriel twirls Aerela around his arms. Then, for good measure, he gives Zipora a big hug. The man is in his element.

Tensions set in after the wedding when Zipora complains that Aerela is not "communicating" with her. Like so much in this amorphous film, Zipora's complaint remains vague.

Some months later, Aerela gives birth to a girl. Hazriel is happy. "Everything is going great," he gushes.

Later, to perhaps everyone's surprise, he suggests that he may be ready for a third wife, three to five years down the road.

Although *Sister-Wife* captures viewers' attention, it suffers from a lack of context.

The protagonists are not fleshed out at all and basically remain ciphers.

More annoyingly, Goldstein and Kleinman do not bother to draw even a rudimentary portrait of the Hebrew Israelites' origins, beliefs and customs.

We are offered glimpses of their lives – for example, Sisterhood Day, during which Hebrew Israelite woman dressed in white chant hymns and songs – but really nothing more.

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ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.

1 H	2 E	3 R	4 O	■	5 H	6 I	7 N	8 T	9 S	■	10 E	11 A	12 S	13 T
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The Canadian Jewish news

Arts & Travel

Canada Pops Orchestra leaves a resounding note

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

The Canada Pops Orchestra performing at Massey Hall.

TORONTO — The Massey Hall debut of the Canada Pops Orchestra, a non-profit organization, was a spirited, musical event that demonstrated the talent and versatility of the musicians and musical director David Warrack, renowned composer and conductor.

The mandate of the 60 musician orchestra is to establish a world-class orchestra that would act as a showcase for Canadian performing artists, arrangers, composers and directors. It has attracted a diverse spectrum of musicians and music lovers. The music spans from classical to jazz--blues, Latin, country, holiday and Broadway tunes. Warrack says he is motivated by a desire to bring joy to his audience.

The Canada Pops Orchestra fulfills Warrack's dream to present exciting musical programs that uplift and delight the audience. The Massey Hall debut concert had all the elements from Elgar to Berlin and from *Avenu Sholom Aleichem* to *O Holy Night*. Lola Rasminsky, a director of the Canada Pops, said when she first saw the orchestra when it premiered at the Canadian National Exhibition last summer, "I left on an incredible high which lasted for days.

> *'The joy that the audience and orchestra members were feeling got me hooked'*

"The joy that the audience and orchestra members were feeling throughout the concert got me hooked."

She adds that the orchestra's music appeals to all kinds of people. "It's accessible, entertaining and fun with the highest standards of musicianship. It's a very exciting and important addition to the musical landscape of Canada."

Jackie Richardson, stage and screen actor and singer, roused the audience with gospel, boogie-woogie, swing and love songs. Her New Orleans style presentation of *Birth of the Blues* was soul music of the finest.

Concert master, violinist Moshe Hammer's solo presentations exemplifies the virtuoso quality of the musicians. Hungarian born Hammer, who was raised in Israel and has been the music director of the Amadeus Ensemble since 1985, is one of Canada's most sought after violinists.

There was an overwhelming response to the formidable Three Cantorial Tenors, Paul Kowarsky, Benjamin Maissner and Yaakov Motzen, which drew bravos and an encore for their medley, *A Dream is Born*.

Their performance included Hebrew, Israeli, Yiddish, prayers, psalms including favorites, *Maoz Tsur* and *Yerushalayim Shel Zahav*.

Emphasis was placed on Canadian artists, among them Bill Bridges' arrangements and the music of Beverley Glenn-Copeland and John Weinzweig.

The uniqueness of the Canadian Pops' repertoire will be presented in their 2002-2003 season. It will feature several concerts at the home base in Massey Hall, ballroom concerts, summer performances, and two cross-country tours. And new works will be commissioned.

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What famous songwriting team wrote the music and lyrics to "Sound of Music"?
(Hint: the answer is printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 3 p.m. on Fri., Feb. 15/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., Feb. 18/02 at 10 a.m. The winner will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: Sing-A-Long Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: Sing-A-Long Contest, 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of Flip Publicity, The Eglinton Theatre or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

NEXT YIDDISHLAND CAFE EVENING JAN. 27

The next Yiddishland Cafe evening is titled Stories, Fables, Songs: Y.L. Peretz, E. Steinbarg, P. Miransky, Women Poets and Composers. The performers are **Chaya Thalenberg** (readings in Yiddish and English), **Lenka Lichtenberg** (songs), **Nina Shapilsky** (piano) and **Michael Ziskind** (violin).

Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. near Bathurst. Tickets, $12, available at Israel's Judaica Centres. Sunday, Jan. 27, 7:30 p.m. 416-787-2081.

* * *

Kafka and Son: At the age of 35, the alienated Czech-Jewish writer Franz Kafka penned 50 pages of confession, recrimination and desperation to his overbearing father. The letter presents a brutally honest and sometimes funny self-analysis by a writer who considered all of his writing a response to his relationship with his father. Themes and incidents evoked in Kafka's letter recur in his more famous works like *The Trial*, *The Metamorphosis* and *The Hunger Artist*.

Actor **Alon Nashman**, who appeared recently in the **Steve Martin** play *Picasso at the Lapin Agile*, has been exploring the theatrical possibilities of *Kafka's Letter to His Father*. He and director **Mark Cassidy** and designer **Marysia Bucholc** of Theaturtle are presenting a public reading of *Kafka and Son* as part of the Between Stages Reading Series.

Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor. Admission free. Thursday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m. 416-924-6211.

* * *

Klezmer Concert: Toronto klezmer band **Beyond the Pale**, consisting of **Eric Stein**, **Bogdan Djukic**, **Sasha Luminsky**, **Martin Van De Ven** and **Bret Higgins**, performs a concert for the Acoustic Harvest Folk Club. Birch Cliff United Church, 33 East Rd. (Kingston Road and Warden Avenue) $12. Saturday, Jan. 19, 8 p.m. Phone 416-226-2235, Web www.beyondthepale.net.

* * *

Farewell Concert: Speaking of **Beyond the Pale,** former co-founder of the group, **Joshua Engel,** is a musician/songwriter who has independently released his debut solo CD *Swimming to Catch the Sun* recently. Engel's currently preparing to embark on a two-month-tour of southeast Asia.

There will be a farewell party on Jan. 16, at Clinton's Tavern (693 Bloor St. W near Christie Station), so if you got this issue of *The CJN* early enough, you might want to try catch him live. Doors open at 9:30 pm.

* * *

Israeli Arts and Letters: After landing at Cairo Airport some 13 years ago, I became apprehensive as a customs officer searched my luggage and focused on one item in particular – a novel by the Egyptian writer **Najib Mahfuz**. He examined the book thoroughly, scanning the pages and jacket copy as though in a bookstore. After a few minutes he asked my opinion of the book. I replied with honest praise and he returned the book and waved me into Egypt.

Actually, there was nothing surprising in the customs agent's interest: after all, Mahfuz had won the Nobel prize only days earlier. What may be surprising to some, however, is the amount of attention this leading Arab writer continues to receive in Israel, where a new biography of him was recently published.

The book is *Najib Mahfuz: The Novelist Philosopher of Cairo*, by **Menahem Milson**, and it was published simultaneously in Jerusalem (Magnes Press) and New York (St. Martin's). I know of the book only because it received a favourable review in the latest edition of *Ariel: The Israel Review of Arts and Letters*.

Produced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, *Ariel* is the only Israeli magazine to open a window on the country's cultural scene for non-Hebrew readers. *Ariel's* reviewer lauded the Mahfuz biography and said it entices its readers "to fall in love with both Mahfuz and Cairo." The review is one of a handful of stories in the current issue to deal with the Arab world.

The lead story focuses on Jerusalem's Museum on the Seam, which tries to encourage a spirit of understanding and co-existence between Israelis and Arabs. Another piece focuses on Arabic literature in Israel. The issue also contains an excellent Holocaust story by Amir Gutfreund, poems by Yehuda Amichai, several stories on the natural environment in Israel, and other goodies. In short, *Ariel* is a grab-bag of progressive liberal Israeli thinking and culture, meant for export around the world. It is published in English, French, German, Russian, Spanish and Arabic.

The first issue of *Ariel* appeared in 1962, but the magazine almost didn't reach its 40th anniversary, since the ministry temporarily suspended publication a while ago due to lack of funds. The current issue marks its triumphant (and hopefully permanent) return. For subscription details, visit *Ariel's* Web site at www.mfa.gov.il and choose "Culture."

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Last remaining synagogue on Rhodes is well worth a visit

By HENRY SREBRNIK
Special to The CJN

RHODES — It's no wonder UNESCO has declared the old fortified town of Rhodes a world heritage site – it's an absolute gem, an exquisite jewel of a city.

Situated on the Greek Aegean island of the same name, Rhodes has had a continuous history of 2,400 years; it has been home to successive Hellenic, Roman, Greek Orthodox, Arab, Roman Catholic and Muslim Turkish civilizations, each of which has left a wealth of art, artifacts and architecture on this beautiful and sunny isle.

Ancient Greek acropolises, Roman temples, Byzantine churches, Roman Catholic palaces, and Turkish mosques – all of them can be found, sometimes literally one on top of the other, on Rhodes.

Archeological excavations and restorations seem to be in progress on every second block. And for those interested in more than culture and history, Rhodes, lest we forget, has some of the most beautiful beaches in the world!

A castle built by the Knights.

After being governed by the Byzantines, Persians, Saracens, Venetians and Genoese, the island fell into the hands of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem in 1309. Founded at the time of the Crusades to care for sick and wounded Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land, this devout Roman Catholic order of monks had become a powerful legion of fierce warriors battling Islam.

From Rhodes they defied the Turks on the mainland of Anatolia for 213 years, until they were finally vanquished by the armies of the Ottoman sultan Suleyman the Magnificent in 1522.

The famed Palace of the Grand Masters of the Order, and the buildings along Odos Ipoton, the Street of the Knights where the soldier-monks once lived, are among the most magnificent medieval structures in all of Europe. The resplendent palace, the inside of which was accidentally destroyed by a gunpowder explosion in 1856, is now a museum, as is the New Hospital, built by the Knights in the 15th century, in Platia Mousiou (Museum Square), which now houses the Archeological Museum of Rhodes. Both contain wonderful examples of Greco-Roman pottery, marble statues, frescoes and other artwork, and have lovely gardens. Neither should be missed.

Jews appear to have lived on Rhodes, the largest and easternmost of the 13 Dodecanese islands, since Roman times; they are mentioned in the writings of the Jewish historian Flavius Josephus. The famed medieval Jewish traveller Benjamin of Tudela founded a community of almost 500 Jews here in 1166. But things took a turn for the worse with the arrival of the Knights, who brooked no opposition to their Catholic faith; even the Greek Orthodox peasantry on the island was oppressed.

So it should come as no surprise to learn that the Jews on Rhodes were treated badly: following a plague in 1498-1500, the Order, in 1502, issued an edict requiring all Jewish inhabitants to be baptized into the Catholic faith. Those who refused were given 40 days to leave the island for Nice, France, without their possessions.

During the last two decades of the Order's rule, some 2,000 to 3,000 Jewish slaves were brought to Rhodes by the Knights and were put to work building fortifications, in anticipation of a Turkish invasion.

Given their lot, the Jews of Rhodes welcomed the Turks; in fact, they helped the Turks conquer the island fortress. Under the benevolent rule of the Ottomans, the small Jewish community was augmented by Sephardim who had been evicted from Spain afer 1492. The Kahal Gadol synagogue had already been built under the Knights; as the community grew, a number of others were established, including the Kahal Shalom Synagogue, founded in 1577.

During the four centuries of Turkish rule, the community grew to some 4,500, fully one-third of the city's population. Jews were merchants, craftsmen, small shopkeepers and artisans; many became rabbis and scholars. Secular education arrived with the schools of the Alliance Israelite Universelle in the 20th century.

Rhodes became an Italian colony in 1912 and many of its Jews emigrated during the Mussolini era. When the islands were occupied by the Nazis following Italy's surrender in September 1943, the remaining 1,673 Jews were engulfed in the fires of the Holocaust. Transported to Auschwitz in July 1944, only 161 survived. Even on this warm, sunny Aegean island, mere miles from Turkey, the evil hand of Adolf Hitler had reached out to destroy Jewish life.

Since Rhodes became part of Greece in 1947, fewer than 50 Jews have lived here.

The Kahal Shalom synagogue is located in La Juderia, the old Jewish quarter of Rhodes, at the intersection of two narrow cobblestoned alleyways named Dossiadou and Simiou. In 1939, there were still six synagogues in Rhodes, but today, it is the only one left. It remains the oldest functioning synagogue in all of Greece.

Constructed of indigenous porous stone, Kahal Shalom blends in with the other buildings in the little streets that surround it. The interior follows the traditional Sephardi style, with the prayer reading table in the centre of the sanctuary facing towards Jerusalem. The room has painted arches supported by large columns, and two arks frame a courtyard doorway. The floor is a mosaic of black-and-white pebbled tiles, as is the outer courtyard leading to the adjoining Jewish Museum, which features an exhibit of pre-war Jewish life on the island.

A library that once stood here was destroyed in 1944. In fact, much of La Juderia was obliterated during the war. The Platia Martyron Evreon, the Square of the Martyred Jews, which is one of the main open air plazas in the old town, was originally an area of Jewish homes and small shops. The lovely fountain with its three seahorses at the centre, and the numerous restaurants and cafés that surround it, make the square a popular gathering place for tourists. It is also home to the only remaining Jewish store in the old town, Anna Cohen Jewellery.

The synagogue and museum are open from April through October, and there are Friday night services in the sanctuary whenever a minyan gathers. In summer this should prove no problem. When my wife and I were there, in May, a constant stream of Jewish visitors, from Israel, Mexico, Russia, Sweden, the United States and elsewhere, passed through.

The Jewish cemetery is located outside the walls of the old town along the main coastal road to Kalithea, on the eastern side of the island. There are many attractive yet inexpensive *pensions* and other small lodgings in the old Jewish quarter. We stayed in one on Ikarou Street, just a block from the synagogue. A lovely little structure with an enclosed courtyard, it afforded us complete privacy.

The Spot Hotel, a charming building on Perikleous Street, is directly behind the synagogue; its owner, who grew up in the old Fletcher's Field neighbourhood of Montreal, told me that many Israeli tours have made use of its facilities.

However, the growth of cruise ship tourism has hurt hostelries here, he said. North American Jews, he complained, now come mainly on the giant ocean liners and have no need to book into local hotels.

Rhodes lies just a few miles off the Turkish mainland, a one-hour trip by fast catamaran, or 45 minutes by hydrofoil, from the lovely Turkish resort of Marmaris. (Since prices are cheaper on the Turkish side, some tourists take only day trips.) The island is also well served by a network of ferries that ply the Greek islands, and there are daily excursions to nearby islands such as Symi and Kos – themselves worthy of extended visits. Charter and regularly scheduled airlines fly into the modern international airport on Rhodes from Athens and other major European cities. Arkia Airlines connects Rhodes with Israel.

For more information, contact the Jewish Community of Rhodes at 5 Polydorou St., Rhodes, Greece, call: 3-02-417-3039; or e-mail: jcrhodes@otenet.gr and info@rhodesjewishmuseum.org.

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Joshua Engel embarks on a musical journey

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

TORONTO — Few CDs by one artist are as versatile as the debut CD by multi-instrumentalist Joshua Engel.

Ranging from love ballads to instrumentals to harmonies to punk rock, *Swimming To Catch The Sun* is a personal, musical journey – a musical stream of consciousness.

"It was even weirder before I made some cuts," Engel, 26, says, realizing the limitations of such a wide-ranging collection of songs.

"It's not easy listening, but I'm not doing it for commercial success. The CD is an expression of where I'm at. It was based on a journey I took. [All the songs were written while travelling through South America – some recorded directly through a microphone on the street, complete with the sounds of traffic].

"Those were the songs I was writing then. The CD is a glimpse of that period in my life. To put some songs away in a closet [because they don't fit together] is not what I want to do."

Engel who sings, plays guitars, bass, drums and mandolin on his CD got his start very early on, enrolling at the Royal Conservatory of Music at the age of three.

"I got lots of encouragement from my parents," he says. "I started piano lessons early and then picked up the guitar – I liked the showmanship of walking around with a guitar."

Since then, Engel studied jazz techniques at McGill University in Montreal and started to explore his talent for songwriting. He's participated in KlezKanada three times, performed with many musicians, and was one of the founding members of the klezmer band Beyond The Pale, before leaving in 1999 to pursue other musical forms.

Joshua Engel

"Klezmer has a strong influence on what I do, but I don't write in that type of style," he says.

"I'm a guitar player and it's a weird feeling being in a klezmer band. You're expected to play the mandolin."

Engels still occasionally plays with Beyond The Pale, and had a guest spot on their latest CD *Routes*.

Listen to *Swimming to Catch The Sun*, and you'll realize that Engels must like all sorts of music.

"I like music that surpasses classification in any genre," he says. "I don't dislike any music unless it's really horrible – even the Back Street Boys have some good riffs."

The CD is definitely a showcase of his amazing talent, even if it can throw the listener for a loop with its unexpected twists – like the funky punk rocker *Punk Rock Seahorse*.

"A journey is never straight and narrow," Engel explains, emphasizing the "journey" concept behind his album. "All sorts of unexpected things happen in life."

He explains further in the liner notes of the album. "The juxtaposing of forms and styles seems perfectly natural to me. Each style compliments the others just as opposites compliment each other."

Swimming...begins with a bluesy, rocky number *Same Old Songs*, an expression of his disillusionment with his musical direction at the time, and picks up his journey from there.

Engel's adaptability proved useful when he got an offer to work with Starshine Productions, a theatre company that produces original entertainment for children, including the recently performed *Uncle Jeb's Farm*. Engel currently serves as the musical director and also acted in that play.

"We do thought provoking children's musicals. Since 1999 we've done three different productions and the company's become part of my family," he says. They recently performed a series of free shows for school kids in Detroit public libraries.

Engel still hasn't figured out exactly where he would like his talents to take him, but he says he'll be happy as long as music is part of his future.

"I think I'm still searching for what I want to make a career out of. Something will unfold in time," he says confidently.

True to his musical versatility, Engel insists his next CD will be completely different. "It will be a lot more groove oriented – a little bit more fun and upbeat."

Engel performs around Toronto frequently and continues to compose, arrange and record. To pick up a copy of the CD or to sample some tunes visit www.joshuaengel.tv

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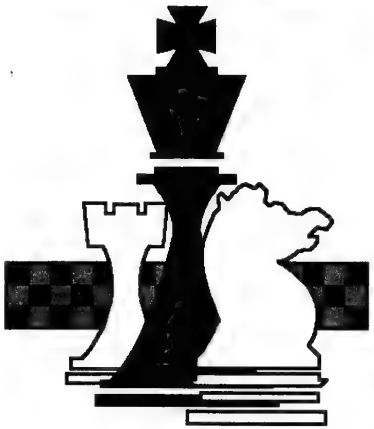

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Weizmann scientists develop vaccine to fight diabetes

By CINDY SHER
JUF News

CHICAGO — Researchers at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel have developed a vaccine to stop the progression of juvenile diabetes, also known as Type I diabetes mellitus or insulin-dependent diabetes.

The team of scientists, led by former Chicagoan Irun Cohen, found that injecting sick mice with a peptide fragment called p277 halts the progression of the disease.

Diabetes is a chronic illness related to elevated blood sugar levels, in which the body doesn't properly produce or use insulin – the hormone necessary to convert sugar, starches, and other foods into energy.

Between 120 to 140 million people suffer from diabetes worldwide, according to the Weizmann Institute. The number of juvenile diabetes cases is on the rise and can be devastating to a young sufferer, said Cohen, an honours graduate of Northwestern University Medical School.

"There is certainly great discomfort in having to take insulin shots several times a day and the disease can be very debilitating to a young person," he said.

Type I diabetes is an autoimmune disorder in which the immune system mistakenly attacks the body's own insulin-producing pancreatic cells. Attacking the cells reduces and eventually eliminates the body's insulin production. Type I diabetes and severe Type II diabetes – a metabolic disorder – require sufferers to take insulin injections.

The piece of molecule – the p277 peptide that the Weizmann scientists have discovered – trains the immune system to stop attacking. "We've taken an important step forward because we have shown that it is possible in a very safe and specific way to 'talk' to the immune system and get it to behave properly," Cohen explained.

Based on the diabetes research at the Weizmann Institute, Peptor, an Israeli biopharmaceutical company, has created an experimental drug called DiaPep277 to prevent or treat Type I diabetes. Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical School and Peptor Ltd. researchers recently conducted a clinical study in which they proved that DiaPep277 successfully arrests the progression of the disease in newly diagnosed patients.

In the study of 35 participants, 18 patients received DiaPep277 injections at the start of the study, at one month, and at six months; the other 17 patients took three injections of a placebo during the course of the study.

Those who took the drug prevented or delayed the attack on their immune system, which was made apparent by the increased level of their body's own insulin production. As a result, they needed fewer insulin injections. The patients who received the placebo, by contrast, required an increased number of insulin injections. No patients involved in the study suffered significant side effects from the drug.

Next, Cohen and his team of scientists must learn how to optimize treatment and ensure the vaccine's safety. The Food and Drug Administration has approved clinical drug trials in the United States, but there are still many other hurdles to climb before the drug can gain approval, according to Cohen.

The Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovot, Israel, is one of the leading centres of scientific research and graduate study in the world. Scientists, researchers, technicians, engineers and students examine ways to combat disease and hunger, protect the environment, and find alternative sources of energy, among other projects.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I have a newborn and I am wondering if you could tell me how to sterilize bottles.

A. I'm glad you asked this because many new moms don't know the right way. All pieces of the bottle, as wel as the tongs you'll use to remove the parts from the boiling water, must be washed in soapy water and then sterilized. To sterilize put all parts (including the nipple, collar, cap and bottle) into a pot, cover with water, bring to a boil, cover with a lid and let it boil 10 minutes. Remember to return to turn it off. Remove lid, let cool and remove with sterile tongs.

Q. I have been told that my LDL (bad) cholesterol is high. What can I do?

A. First, it is essential to achieve a healthy weight and to exercise regularly. Next, reduce saturated fat like that in red meat, baked goods, butter, cream and cheese. Increase fibre using bran, oats, fruits and vegetables and legumes such as chick peas, lentils, kidney beans, black beans. This will be an excellent start. Then have your doctor re-test your cholesterol in six months.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions, send them to The CJN.

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Jewish Rehab not just a place to rest anymore

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — At the Kolber Pavilion of the Jewish Rehabilitation Hospital (JRH) in Chomedey, researchers spend their days studying the mechanics of what most of us take for granted – walking.

Using equipment and computer software they designed to test subjects' posture and gait, the researchers are slowly learning what is lacking in patients who suffer neurological damage from, for example, a stroke or Parkinson's disease.

The JRH research centre is world-renowned for its invention of a body-weight support system that allows those re-learning how to walk to gradually increase the weight on their legs by letting a harness hold them up. Actor Christopher Reeves adapted the system for his rehabilitation following a spinal-cord injury that left him paralyzed.

The research team is also examining dizziness, another problem that affects balance, notably in the elderly and those with traumatic brain injuries.

The JRH plans to open a clinic to treat the malfunction of the vestibular system in the inner ear that causes dizziness.

"Of all the new programs in rehabilitation that we are presently working on, none is as unique, innovative and has the most potential for national and international recognition as our vestibular program," said Cathy Rabinovitch, director of the JRH Foundation.

Rabinovitch said the vestibular rehabilitation clinic will be the first of its kind in Canada and the JRH plans to construct an addition to house it.

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REISS, Rose – on Dec. 31, 2001, late of 6040 Bathurst St.
VENDROV, Anatoly – on Jan. 1, 2002.
ROBBINS, Lillian – on Jan. 1, 2002, late of 44 Charles St.
SOIFER, Semen – on Jan. 2, 2002.
GELFAND, Laib – on Jan. 1, 2002, late of 5900 Yonge St.
KOGAN, Etel – on Jan. 2, 2002.
WILDBAUM, Rachela – on Jan. 1, 2002.
POLLOCK, Vera Bacal – on Jan. 1, 2002, late of 9 Carl Shepway.
SALTZBERG, Nina – on Jan. 4, 2002, late of 110 Promenade Circle.
SHEIN, Yakov – on Jan. 4, 2002, late of 107 Thornbrook Crt.
HABER, Sandra – on Jan. 4, 2002, late of 92 Carrington Dr.
YAKOBSON, Yenta – on Jan. 5.
JACOBS, Rose – on Jan. 5, 2002, late of 14 Corwin Cres.
SHOOMAN, Bernard – on Jan. 4, 2002, late of 4300 Bathurst St.
LEVENSTON, Selena Symphia – on Jan. 5, 2002, late of 1925 Steeles Ave. E.
BERESKIN, Sonia – on Jan. 6, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
GELBAUM, Israel – on Jan. 6, 2002.
JACOB, Saida – on Jan. 6, 2002.
FLEISCHER, Regina – on Jan. 6, 2002, late of 61 Talbot Rd.
LASTOFSKY, Max – on Jan. 6, 2002, late of 7601 Bathurst St.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

336 CARD OF THANKS

The family of the late
SARAH COHEN-MAGID ז"ל
would like to express heartfelt thanks to all our relatives and friends for their comfort, sympathy and kind donations during the recent passing of our beloved Sarah.
Arthur Magid, Elliot Cohen and families.

In loving memory of
Eze Torkin ז"ל
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Your loving family,
Alice, Larry, Frieda, Michael, Jeffrey and Leah

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YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke. **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also. She is looking for an honest relationship. **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship. **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions. Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship. **AD#1028**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me. I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids. I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired. I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure. **AD#1136**

LET'S MEET
Single female, late 60's , retired professional, attractive, healthy, happy, personality, enjoys a variety of interests, seeks similar male. **AD#1378**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature. She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family. Please reply. **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed. If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find. **AD#1106**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call. **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life. **AD#1041**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs. Please call, will meet for coffee. **AD#1433**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family. **AD#1087**

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile. Together we will make for an award winning performance. **AD#1448**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5'3", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun tobe with, trustworthy, considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities. Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games. **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated. Looking for love in all the wrong places. Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years. Would like a photo. **AD#1577**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 8, brown hair and eyes. Loves music, dancing, movies. Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1514**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim, blonde, blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive and emotionally available, seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times. She likes quiet times, playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories. **AD#1045**

REACH FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big" Single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important. Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation. **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, caring and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoys walks, travel, dancing, dining, conversation. Seeks male, 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship **AD#1432**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive female, seeks friendship first with a wonderful man, preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and sincere. If you are tall and dark it's a bonus, you'll be happy you made the connection. **AD#1073**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 40 yrs, enjoys a glass of wine, dinner, movies, travel, theatre, and skiing, seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring. Share laughter, fun and friendship. **AD#1021**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis, skiing, movies, restaurants, going for walks. Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere. **AD#1134**

WARM & AFFECTIONATE
Jewish, South African widow, 60 yrs, attractive, slim, 5' 5", warm, affectionate, seeks down to earth Jewish male, and friends who are compassionate and caring. **AD#1110**

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HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

POETIC MALE
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YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, lookg for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship. **AD#1288**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969. Waiting for you call. **AD#1572**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1687**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile. **AD#1196**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic. **AD#1466**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1394**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors. A traditional male, works a a financial consultant. Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female. **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc... seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1328**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention. **AD#1427**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday. **AD#1309**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5' 6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me. **AD#1216**

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Montreal hosts JCC Maccabi Games next August

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The YM-YWHA Montreal Jewish Community Centre (JCC) will for the first time be one of the host sites of the annual JCC Maccabi Games, Aug.18 to 23, organizers announced recently.

Martin Schwartz, games chair, said that the games are expected to draw about 1,600 athletes aged 13 to 16. About 300 of them will be from Montreal.

Schwartz said that organizing the event will require a substantial amount of money, and will test logistical problem-solving skills to the limit.

It will also need a network of thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors to bring the whole thing together.

"We have to realize the size and the scope of it," Schwartz said at a ceremony at the Ben Weider JCC to launch the event.

"Athletes alone will consume over 40,000 bottles of water," he said.

Schwartz stressed the need for community members to support the games, through sponsorship, volunteering or serving as one of an anticipated 600 host families.

Speakers at the launch emphasized the extent to which the games have grown since the first Memphis edition in 1982.

Those games drew only 300 athletes, including 40 from Montreal.

By comparison, Montreal will be one of five cities playing host to the games, which have often served as a springboard for athletes to the Maccabiah Games held every four years in Israel (the next are in 2005).

The honorary chair in Montreal is outgoing Maccabi Canada president Roy Salomon.

The other cities will be Baltimore, Md., Memphis, Tenn., Omaha, Neb., and Springfield, Mass.

Altogether, the cities will see an expected total of 5,500 athletes coming from the United States, Canada, Mexico, South America, Australia and Great Britain, not counting hundreds of coaches and crew members.

The Montreal event will be notable for these features:

- The opening ceremonies will take place at the Molson Centre;
- The games will take place one year after the $20-million revamping and expansion of the Y, which made it feasible to use the facility as host site;
- It will be the first international sports competition to take place in the new, "merged" Montreal;
- The games are expected to inject about $1.5 million into the Montreal economy; and
- The games will also include a Day of Caring/Day of Sharing, a time-out day for athletes to volunteer within the Jewish community out of the Judaic spirit of tikkun olam and tzedakah.

Bronfman Jewish Education Centre executive director Shlomo Shimon, and Linda Kislowicz, newly named executive director of the Y, are serving as the co-ordinators of the games' Judaic component.

The sports action, which will take place in Montreal as well as its boroughs, will include baseball, basketball, bowling, golf, inline hockey, soccer, swimming, table tennis and tennis.

Montrealers at the launch included Y president Marvin Rosenbloom; Centre Communautaire Juif (CCJ) president Joe Amar; FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings; newly elected Montreal city councillor Robert Libman (representing Mayor Gerald Tremblay); councillors Marvin Rotrand and Howard Zigboim; and D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman.

Cummings told the crowd that the games will "enable the community to come together as one, and be a life-affirming experience for the thousands involved."

Howard Berish, who is serving as Schwartz's associate chair, said that the estimated costs of the games locally will be $700,000 to $800,000, most of which will come from the fees participants pay to compete, and from fund-raising among private and corporate sponsors. FEDERATION CJA is also providing a certain level of funding.

JCC Maccabi Games chair Martin Schwartz (centre) is flanked by FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings (left) and Games associate chair Howard Berish at the ceremony to announce the event. [Joel Silverstein photo]

As the months count down to next August, the games' organizing committee will also be on the lookout for all forms of equipment and other supplies.

Berish's own involvement came from having children who competed at previous JCC Maccabi Games.

"It's fantastic," he said. "The ambience, the feeling all over the continent."

In addition to the volunteer committee, among those who will help co-ordinate the games at the staff level will be the Y's Tracey Winter, who competed at the inaugural event in 1982, as well as Y veteran staffers Nehal Nassif and Diane Shea.

Potential volunteers or sponsors of the games can call 737-6551, local 514 or 519.

The Web site – www.montrealmaccabi.com – has information for host families and volunteers.

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Canberra victory earns Smashnova second title in two weeks

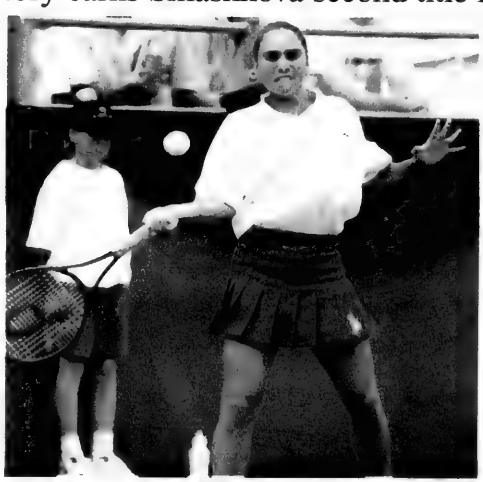
By ILANA BERGER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

CANBERRA, Australia — Israel's Anna Smashnova made it back-to-back WTA tour titles last weekend with a 7-5, 7-6 (7-2) finals win over top-seeded Thai player Tamarine Tanasugarn at the $110,000 Canberra Women's Classic.

Smashnova, 25, won her third WTA title last week in Auckland, N.Z., and added a fourth after a stuttering start against Tanasugarn, who broke serve in the first game.

The first four games went against serve until Smashnova held to lead 3-2 and then the games went with serve until the Israeli broke Tanasugarn in the last to take the set.

Smashnova, who had a career-high ranking of No. 36 before slipping to No. 87 last year, said she played her best tennis in last weekend's final and was getting back on a roll.



Anna Shmashnova
[Photo courtesy Barrie Erskine, Tennis Canada]

Smashnova, 25, rose to 69 in the rankings after last week's success. In the semi-final game, she beat home player Amanda Graham 7-5, 6-2.

Most notable in Smashnova's run of 10 straight victories is the fact that she has not conceded a set in any of her matches.

In the new rankings set to be published soon, the Israeli No. 1 should move up to around 50.

As a result of the draw, Smashnova was scheduled to meet Slovakia's Katarina Srebotnik, ranked 104, in the first round of the Australian Open this week, and if she advanced, then in the following round, she could face France's Amelie Mauresmo, No. 9 in the world, who is seeded seventh.

ספרותנו

מאת: יעל זליגר

קרוא וכתוב מאת: רונית מטלון, הספריה החדשה, הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד.

ספרה החדש של רונית מטלון כולל מבחר של מסות שנכתבו בחמש-עשרה השנים האחרונות. הרשימות הן אוטוביוגרפיות, מחשבות על אומנות וספרות, דיוקנאות אנשים ומצבים. הכתיבה היא אוטוביוגרפית אך פורשת בפנינו מרחב של נושאים חשובים. יש שהחיבורים חושפים פרטים בלתי צפויים, כאובים ומעוררים השתאות אך תמיד הכתיבה מעידה על חשיבה אינטליגנטית, העמקה ורגישות.

קשת הנושאים מאוד ענפה. מסיפורים על אביה, פרקי ילדות והתבגרות, שיחות אישיות עם אנשים ידועים ועד להתבוננות במצב הפוליטי העכשווי.

כחוט שני עובר הקול המזרחי בהרהוריה של מטלון. היא ילידת גני-תקווה (1959), שכונת מצוקה בסביבת תל אביב. מקום נידח ומוזנח שאין בו לא גנים ולא תקווה; "...עולם שהוא משולל אפשרויות לחלוטין ובו בזמן מכפיל את עצמו עד אינסוף." המימסד אינו זכור לטובה; רונית זוכרת שעל-אף שהייתה ילדה מחוננת ושואפת להשנים, כבת גני-תקווה היא שובצה בכיתה ברמה נמוכה. את תחושת העלבון היא לא שכחה. יש לה שני גיבורים מזרחיים; שניהם נולדו בקהיר והגיעו לארץ בשנות החמישים: אביה, והסופרת זיקלין כהנוב. בענין ובחיוב מתארת מטלון את תופעת ההגירה; "גדלתי במשפחה שבה אנשים זזו כל הזמן: מארץ לארץ, מעיר לעיר, מדירה לדירה, משפה לשפה... הקיבוץ הוא שנתפס כמאמץ שאין לעמוד בו."

בכתבה "יכולנו יחד עוברים את התעלה" מתוארת באירוניה משעשעת קבוצת ישראלים בטיול מאורגן לקהיר. במשך כל ארבעת ימי הטיול נתפסים חברי הקבוצה לדיון אינסופי בליכלוך ובהמונים בקהיר. הדברים מביכים במיוחד כשיש בסביבה דובר עברית מצרי.

בענין רב נקראת חטיבת כתבות מקורית המתבוננת בעולמם היצירתי של סופרים ואנשי תרבות שמטלון בחרה לחקור; לואיס קרול, דן צלקה, גורקי, יהושע קנז, נורית זרחי, אריה נבון, וורדינה שלונסקי. כאשר מטלון מראיינת מספר אנשים ידועים היא עושה זאת בחן וברגישות רבה. יותר מכל אהבתי את המפגש עם אלמנתו של פרופסור גרשום שלום. גברת שלום אינה מפסיקה להתאבל על בעלה, "הראש הכי מבריק במאה העשרים." לעומת זאת, פרוייד לדעתה "אימלל דור שלם". עגנון עלה לבעלה על העצבים; "המאניירזים שלו." אישיותו של בן-גוריון לא עניינה אותו; ברל כצנלסון - כן. ואף שהיה שייך לייקים, הוא לא הזדהה עמם. ועוד, ועוד; כתבה מרתקת ורווייה בהומור.

חטיבת כתבות נוספת עוסקת בבעייה הערבית. מטלון מעלה רישומים מביקוריה בעזה ובמחנות פליטים שם היא ממשיכה להיפגש עם ידידים ואנשי רוח פלשתינאים. היא אמנם מבינה את הישראלי, שהוא כבר נורא עייף ורוצה שיניחו לו כבר מ'הסיכסוך', המחסומים, ההצקה, הסגר, והסכם אוסלו. "אוסלו בעצמו הפך למין הושענא חבוטה, כבר לא יודעים מה לחשוב." אך עמדתה חד-משמעית נגד המשך הכיבוש שאינו מוסרי ומרעיל את נשמתנו.

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2 tblsps. rice vinegar
1 tblsp. minced cilantro
1 tblsp. minced red pepper

In med. bowl, combine salsa ingredients. Cover and refrigerate for at least 1 hr.

Preheat oven broiler or outdoor grill. Brush chicken breasts with olive oil. Grill or broil chicken about 7 mins. per side or until no pink remains.

To serve: Place fruit salsa on a plate, using a few spoonfuls per person. Top with cooked chicken breast. Garnish with kiwi slice. Prep time: 20 mins. Cooking time: 14 mins.

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Dear Norene

The Tastes of Jewish Tradition (JCC of Milwaukee, $26.95 US, 298 pp) is a delightful book for the whole family. An excellent resource, it contains activities, crafts and stories for 11 Jewish holidays. The 125 delicious recipes include Honey Pecan Crusted Chicken, Moroccan Couscous and Challah with a Twist. To order, call 1-888-644-1847.

On Tu b'Shvat (the new year of the trees), which falls on Jan. 28 this year, it is customary to eat fruits grown in Israel, particularly the seven species mentioned in the Bible: "a land of wheat and barley, of vines, figs and pomegranates, a land of olive trees, dates and honey" (Deuteronomy 8:8).

A typical meal includes symbolic foods that can be eaten entirely (apples, strawberries, grapes), those with inedible pits but edible outsides (apricots, dates, cherries, peaches, plums) or those with inedible outsides but edible insides (oranges, walnuts, pomegranates, watermelon). Here are 2 recipes from the book for your enjoyment!

MUSHROOM BARLEY SOUP

1 medium onion, peeled and quartered
1 lb. mushrooms, rinsed and dried
1 ½ tbsp. margarine
6 cups vegetable soup stock (fresh or canned)
⅓ cup pearl barley
¼ tsp. black pepper
¼ tsp. thyme
1 bay leaf
3 tbsp. wine
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 tbsp. soy sauce
⅛ cup parsley

In a food processor, slice onion; set aside. Slice mushrooms; set aside.

Melt margarine in a 3-quart pot. Sauté onion over medium heat until onion absorbs margarine. Add mushrooms. Cook over high heat stirring constantly for 5 minutes. Add stock, barley, pepper, thyme, bay leaf, wine, garlic. Bring to a boil; simmer covered until barley is tender, about 45 minutes. Stir in soy sauce and simmer 5 minutes more.

Remove bay leaf. Add parsley. Serves 6 to 8.

APRICOT CHICKEN WITH CRANBERRY OPTION

This easy, impressive dish can also be made for Passover.

2 lbs. chicken pieces, with or without bones and skin
12 oz. jar apricot jelly
1 small bottle (8 oz.) Western-style French dressing
1 package dry onion soup mix
½ cup dry white wine
1 cup dried apricots (or more)

Mix all ingredients together except chicken. Pour mixture over chicken and marinate in fridge for at least an hour or overnight. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Bake for 1 hour for boneless breasts, 1 1/2 hours for bone-in breasts.

Cranberry Option: (Stickier, but with a wonderful flavor.) Omit apricot jelly, wine and dried apricots. Add 16 oz. can of whole cranberries, 1 cup dark French or Russian dressing and 1/2 package onion soup mix. Serves 6.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com*

The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 32.)

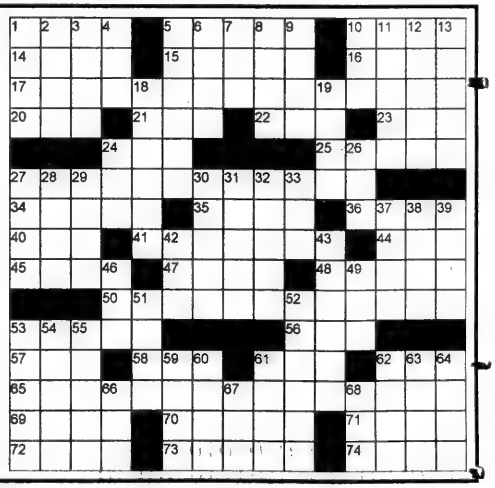
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Yoni Netanyahu, for example
5 They may be dropped
10 ___ Jerusalem
14 Actress Lena
15 WWII beach
16 Amsterdam's ___ *Frankhuis*
17 Lee Harvey Oswald's killer
20 *A Chorus Line* tune
21 Monopoly acquisitions, for short
22 Dead ___
23 Mimic
24 New beginning?
25 ___ Aliyah (1881-1904)
27 Big name in Canadian music
34 Emulated Adam Goldberg
35 Ann Landers' home state
36 "Ay gevalt!"
40 "Wayne's World" word
41 Language Ladino is related to
44 Half a Senesh poem
45 Genesis name
47 Another Genesis name
48 ___ donor
50 Hit by 27-across
53 Billy Crystal at the Oscars, say
56 Used one's *tuchus*
57 "Seinfeld" character
Uncle ___
58 Adam Yauch's music
61 And so on
62 Mai ___ (cocktail)
65 Dylan classic
69 Toe the line
70 Rubin may have issued one
71 Pre-
72 Ford the shallows
73 Feast time
74 Strip of contention

Down

1 Hyatt rival, slangily
2 Oomph
3 Louisiana produce
4 Lennon's lady
5 Stephen King medium
6 Stern colleague
7 Catch a *ganef*
8 "___ Magic Moment"
9 Not meshugga
10 Have some kugel
11 Lend ___ (listen to)
12 Does the job of a *mohel*
13 Religious belief
18 Challah et al.
19 "Is it ___?" ("Marathon Man" line)
24 Compass pt.
26 One ___ million
27 "The Birdcage" actor
28 Milton Friedman's forte, for short
29 One-time resident in 16-across
30 Subject of an Elton tribute
31 Max plays drums in his late-night band
32 In the red
33 Laugh syllables
37 Young engineer's toy
38 Arkin of "Jakob the Liar"
39 Verb for Streisand
42 "___ *favor*"
43 Grant of the NBA
46 Another compass pt.
49 Q-U ties
51 Gene's "Young Frankenstein" costar
52 Purim honoree
53 Tennis ___
54 Kind of toast
55 Did a dove's cry
59 63-down, correctly-spelled
60 Needle source
61 Major ending
62 1996 Pulitzer-winner Rosenberg
63 1998 film featuring Woody Allen's voice
64 Brainstorm result
66 ___ River accords
67 Show approval
68 Hoffman's "___ the Dog"



2002 TU B'SHVAT TELETHON

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF TORONTO

invites the community to participate as telephone volunteers and contributors to celebrate the New Year of Trees and JNF's 100th anniversary

fun ~ gifts ~ surprises ~ food

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2002

Memories from last year's Telethon

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JNF office: 416-638-7200 Fax: 416-638-7345 Email: tor@jnf-canada.org

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INSTITUTE OF JEWISH LEARNING

a program of

Chabad @ Flamingo

What is The Robinson Family Institute of Jewish Learning?

Our modern age is defined by the explosion of technology and information, and the pathway of knowledge is now more accessible than ever. Yet, a remarkably staggering number of Jews know very little about the important fundamentals of Jewish life. The institute offers a program of serious Jewish learning designed to meet the needs of our diverse Jewish community. The institute strikes a fine balance by providing an engaged and intellectual climate for learning, while simultaneously presenting course material at a comfortable level and pace.

OBJECTIVES:

- To provide a stimulating and vibrant atmosphere that encourages questions, dialogue, and critical thinking.
- To effectively upgrade Jewish knowledge and awareness.
- To grow with and respond to the learning needs of our diverse Jewish community.

On behalf of the Board of Directors,
Rabbi Mendel Kaplan
Ora Bigio
Stephen Tannenbaum
Harry Goodman
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G-D IN THE BEDROOM?

Lecturer: ***Rabbi Mendel Kaplan***

DATES: Mondays; January 28, February 4, 11 & 18

THE DIVINE PRESCRIPTION FOR MAINTAINING YOUR MARRIAGE

- How can the Torah enhance your marriage?
- What are the laws that have brought men and women closer together throughout history?

Join us as we shed light on the meaning, mystique and beauty of the Torah's laws on sexuality and intimacy. Focus on personal and spiritual fulfillment and the emotional enhancement of your marriage relationship.

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: JANUARY 28 — "Kosher Sex": learn how and why the Torah regulates intimacy.

WEEK 2: FEBRUARY 4 — "Mikvah Mystique": discover the most private of Jewish rituals.

WEEK 3: FEBRUARY 11 — "Family Purity": unlocking the secrets to enhancing the bonds of marriage.

WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 18 — The spirituality of sexuality: revealing the mystical meaning of true intimacy.

HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

Lecturer: ***Mrs. Ester Zirkind***

DATES: Tuesdays; January 29, February 5, 12, & 19

THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATION

- Where does Judaism come from?
- Why are we here now – and where are we going?

Learn the historic, humble beginnings of the Jewish people. Follow their amazing growth and development. Discover your heritage.

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: JANUARY 29 — Creation, Adam, Eve, Noah and the great flood. The Patriarchs, Matriarchs, Exile, Exodus and Sinai.

WEEK 2: FEBRUARY 5 — The Prophets, Kings and development of a national entity, the subsequent exile.

WEEK 3: FEBRUARY 12 — The return of the exiles and the establishment of modern Judaism.

WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 19 — The Roman Exile: the development of a spiritually independent people, tested and verified.

UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW

Lecturer: **Mrs. Ester Zirkind**

DATES: Wednesdays; January 30 – March 20

EFFECTIVELY ENHANCE YOUR BASIC AND MINIMAL KNOWLEDGE OF THE LANGUAGE

- Move your Hebrew speaking/reading skills to the next level
- A dramatic improvement in eight weeks – guaranteed!

This beginner's course builds on the knowledge you already have, enabling you to maximize your Jewish experience.

WEEK 1: JANUARY 30
WEEK 2: FEBRUARY 6
WEEK 3: FEBRUARY 13
WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 20
WEEK 5: FEBRUARY 27
WEEK 6: MARCH 6
WEEK 7: MARCH 13
WEEK 8: MARCH 20

BEING A "MENSCH"

Lecturer: **Mrs. Chavie Rapaport**

DATES: Wednesdays; January 30 – March 20

THE TORAH'S DEFINITION OF DECENCY, CARING & SHARING

- Why have Jews always supported other Jews – and non-Jews too?
- How do age-old concepts of community affect us today?

Build on more than 35 centuries of tzedakah – more than charity, it means justice and righteousness too. Discover Judaism's secret blueprint for communal life, uniquely Jewish politics and social activities.

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: JANUARY 31 — The biblical sources for modern charity and social goodness.

WEEK 2: FEBRUARY 7 — Defining tzedakah: the requirements, obligations and limits.

WEEK 3: FEBRUARY 14 — Priorities: knowing how and when to give. When can I refuse?

WEEK 4: FEBRUARY 21 — Community service: tzedakah as a form of social and political activism.

JANUARY

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
27	28 G-D IN THE BEDROOM?	29 HUMBLE BEGINNINGS	30 UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW	31 BEING A "MENSCH"		

FEBRUARY

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					1 Light Candles at 5:08pm	2 YITRO
3	4 G-D IN THE BEDROOM?	5 HUMBLE BEGINNINGS	6 UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW	7 BEING A "MENSCH"	8 Light Candles at 5:18pm	9 MISHPATIM
10	11 G-D IN THE BEDROOM?	12 HUMBLE BEGINNINGS	13 UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW	14 BEING A "MENSCH"	15 Light Candles at 5:27pm	16 TERUMAH
17	18 G-D IN THE BEDROOM?	19 HUMBLE BEGINNINGS	20 UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW	21 BEING A "MENSCH"	22 Light Candles at 5:37pm	23 TETZAVEH
24	25 PURIM EVE	26 PURIM	27 UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW	28 EVIL UNMASKED		

MARCH

					1 Light Candles at 5:46pm	2 KI TISA
3	4 PASSOVER MADE PRACTICAL	5 SATURDAY MADE SIMPLE	6 UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW	7 EVIL UNMASKED	8 Light Candles at 5:55pm	9 VAYAKHEL-PEKUDEI
10	11 PASSOVER MADE PRACTICAL	12 SATURDAY MADE SIMPLE	13 UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW	14 EVIL UNMASKED	15 Light Candles at 6:03pm	16 VAYIKRAH
17	18 PASSOVER MADE PRACTICAL	19 SATURDAY MADE SIMPLE	20 UPGRADING YOUR HEBREW	21 EVIL UNMASKED	22 Light Candles at 6:12pm	23 TZAV
24	25 PASSOVER MADE PRACTICAL	26	27 Light Candles at 6:18pm PASSOVER EVE	28 Light Candles after 7:22pm 1st Day of PASSOVER	29 Light Candles at 6:20pm 2nd Day of PASSOVER	30 1st Intermediate Day of PASSOVER

THE BELLS OF LIBERTY

Lecturer: ***Mrs. Chaya Perman***

DATES: Mondays; March 4, 11, 18 & 25

PASSOVER MADE PRACTICAL

- **What's the true significance of Pesach?**
- **How do you run a "kosher" seder?**

Celebrate our 3,317th Passover the way it was meant to be – with family, friends and joy. Learn how and why we do it the way we do. This series of classes will put you in the driver's seat.

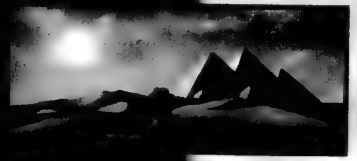
SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: MARCH 4 — The truth about chametz, matzoh and wine and why we celebrate this holiday with such devotion.

WEEK 2: MARCH 11 — The Seder: a "hands-on, how-to session". 14 steps to a perfect Seder.

WEEK 3: MARCH 18 — Practical Preparations: making your home Passover-proof. Chametz: searching, selling and destroying this forbidden substance.

WEEK 4: MARCH 25 — A collection of perfected Pesach recipes will be distributed at the final class.



SATURDAY MADE SIMPLE

Lecturer: ***Rabbi Dr. Lea Steiner***

DATES: Tuesdays; March 5, 12 & 19

DEMYSTIFYING THE SHABBAT MORNING SERVICE

- **Do you dread going to Bar or Bat Mitzvahs, Brit or Baby namings?**
- **Do you feel that the time you spend at the Synagogue is wasted?**

Change the way you view the Shabbat morning experience forever. Learn the meaning, relevance and spiritual significance of the ancient liturgy – and find out more about the world's oldest prayer service.

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: MARCH 5 — Meaning and Origins of "Saturday in the Synagogue": Can't we just pray at home?

WEEK 2: MARCH 12 — The secret of the scrolls; Torah Readings and the first sermons.

WEEK 3: MARCH 19 — The Musaf service: The Relevance of the ancient Jerusalem Temple and sacrifices today.

EVIL UNMASKED

Lecturer: ***Rabbi Mendel Kaplan***

DATES: Mondays, March 4, 11, 18 & 25

A DEEPER LOOK AT THE ETERNAL STRUGGLE AGAINST EVIL

- **How can we make sense of senseless carnage and suffering?**
- **Is evil a part of or apart from the divine creation?**

Discover secret insights of the Kabbalah. A fascinating mini-series that will attempt to shed light on one of the darkest dimensions of reality.

SYLLABUS

WEEK 1: The Source: The mystical roots of all evil.
FEBRUARY 28

WEEK 2: What for: The how's and why's of
MARCH 7 negative existence.

WEEK 3: Shadows: The dark secrets of evil.
MARCH 14

WEEK 4: Coping: Making sense
MARCH 20 of a world full of evil.

THE FACULTY

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan – Rabbi Kaplan spent his youth studying at Yeshivot in close proximity to the internationally revered Lubavitcher Rebbe of righteous memory. Upon graduating rabbinical seminary in NYC, he assumed a rabbinic internship in Los Angeles. Subsequently he held several postings in Buenos Aires (Argentina), Petersburg (Russia), Milwaukee, Detroit and Jerusalem. Currently he is the executive director of Chabad @ Flamingo, and the spiritual leader of it's Family Shul. The Rabbi is a regular guest on two local television shows, and lectures in and around the GTA

Mrs. Chaya Perman – Mrs. Perman and her husband Moshe have been emissaries of the Lubavitcher Rebbe in Venezuela for 28 years. Chaya is an author, educator, and instructor and the mother of eight lovely children, two of whom are expanding on their parents' work in South America. She has written extensively and co-edits today's largest Jewish Spanish magazine, "Rumbo a tu Judaismo". Chaya divides her time between Toronto and Caracas. She has become involved in various special needs groups and consults to families with special needs children. Most importantly, she has made Pesach for her community for over 20 years.

Mrs. Chavi Rappaport – Mrs. Rappaport was raised in NYC, upon graduating high school with honours, she enrolled in a student exchange program and majored in education and Judaic Studies in Israel and the United States. She went on to graduate Beth Rivka Teachers College with honours. Before immigrating to Canada she taught English studies at several high schools in the NY metropolitan area. Since her arrival in Toronto 1989 Chavi has been teaching Judaic subjects at local high schools and teachers seminaries, and regularly lectures in the GTA on a variety of Jewish topics.

Rabbi Dr. Leo Steiner – Dr. Steiner is a registered clinical psychologist who currently works with victims of trauma. He has held positions at the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry, the Crisis Unit of Toronto's East General Hospital and York Central Hospital. Dr. Steiner has worked extensively with First Nations peoples and prison populations in Kingston Penitentiary and Prison for Women. He is also an ordained Rabbi and teaches several weekly Torah classes in and around the GTA During the past decade, he has officiated at numerous congregations as well.

Mrs. Ester Zirkind – Mrs. Zirkind was born and raised in London, England. She graduated high school with honours from Lubavitch House Schools, went on to attend the renowned Kfar Chabad Teachers Seminary in Israel, where she specialized in Judaic studies, before completing her studies at the Beth Rivkah Academy in New York. Esther has been teaching Jewish studies, including history, chassidut, "Ethics of our Fathers", women's studies, Chumash (bible studies with commentary in the original) in high schools and adult education facilities in England, United States and Canada for more than two decades. She is currently completing a degree in educational psychology at York University.

I travel a lot to the US, and lately I found myself scheduling my trips around the classes schedule (not vise versa as I used to do at the beginning). I attended many seminars in my life; I ran an IBM reseller computer company. IBM is known for scheduling conferences with world famous speakers – self motivators – such as Tony Robbins, Zig Ziegler and others. It is very hard to impress me with good speakers, but to my pleasant surprise, the speakers in my class did not fall short of any speaker I ever met.

Debbie Tadmore

Rabbi Kaplan's five-week course on "Making the most of your relationships" was one of the most enjoyable and insightful classes I've been to in a long time.
Topics included: defining a relationship and defining love. The detail was interesting from several perspectives such as:
- Judaism
- Current events
- Professional and Psychological

The classes were very informal and exceptionally interactive which allowed everyone the chance to participate. This class would be great for anyone looking to improve any of the relationships in their life. These may include spousal relationships, parent/child relationships or the toughest of all… Dating.
The Rabbi provides you with functional tools to effectively manage the myriad problems that life's relationships throw at you daily.

Cindy Tisspiat

My husband and I find the courses to be informative, instructive and entertaining, as well as spiritually uplifting. Rabbi Kaplan has that unique and rare gift which makes attending his lectures inspiring and meaningful. The courses have depth and the instruction is of the highest quality. It is truly wonderful that this opportunity for adult education exist in our neighborhood. I wholeheartedly recommend the courses offered by Chabad Flamingo to anyone who has an interest in their Jewish roots.

David Rosman, OB/GYN, York Central Hospital
Caryl Rosman, Psychiatric Social worker, homemaker

"The course on Mysticism was nor only stimulating to my intellect, but enriched my general understanding of Judaism. These courses are a definite must for Jewish learning…"

Norman L. Epstein, Emergency Physician, Credit Valley Hospital

REGISTRATION FORM

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PASSOVER MADE PRACTICAL

❑ **SATURDAY MADE SIMPLE** *Cost: $30*
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The Canadian Jewish news
44 Pages | Thursday, January 24, 2002 | 11 Shevat, 5762 | 75c

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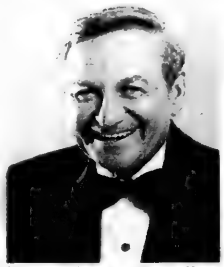
This Week

National



Legendary comedian Frank Shuster remembered. *Page 6*

Professor dedicated to things running smoothly. *Page 14*

Veteran MP resigns from the House of Commons. *Page 22*

Israel & the Jewish World

Vatican calls Nazareth mosque 'unacceptable' to Christians. *Page 29*

Arts & Travel

Jewish soccer player becomes latest *Survivor* millionaire. *Page 33*

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www.cjnews.com

Canadians enjoy a fireside sing-along near a Bedouin tent in the Negev desert. *[Dafna Lorber photos]*

Birthright Israel experience

6,000 participate, including 800 Canadians

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

JERUSALEM — Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert is an adept politician and a capable public speaker, though he could hardly be mistaken for a rock star.

Yet when he left the dais of the Binyanei Ha'uma (Israel Convention Centre) following an address to hundreds of Birthright Israel participants, he might have been mistaken for one.

Inspired by his call for Jewish solidarity and for Jerusalem to remain as Israel's eternal capital, many young people mobbed him as he left the auditorium. Among those vying for a minute of his time were a group of Canadians who already had spent a week touring the Jewish State.

Like the other Birthright participants who had given Olmert a standing ovation, the group felt the mayor's comments further reinforced what they'd already experienced while touring the Holy Land – love for Israel, attachment to Jerusalem and Jewish solidarity.

The group gushed with enthusiasm as they described to *The CJN* their time in Israel, particularly the way it brought them together and forged personal relationships they said would last a lifetime.

To Birthright participants interviewed by *The CJN*, the experience was meaningful in a variety of ways. For some, it was the beauty of the country, while for others it was the spirituality of Jerusalem. Others cited the lust for life displayed by typical Israelis. Some felt more connected to their Jewish roots.

Now in its third year, Birthright brings young Jews, between 18 and 26, to Israel for the first time as part of an organized tour.

Conceived by philanthropists Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, Birthright aims to strengthen Jewish identity and solidarity with Israel by giving a free trip to Israel as a personal birthright to all young Jews. So far, 25,000 people have taken advantage of the offer.

Continued on page 31

Mandy Nichols and Ryan Nishmas celebrate Israel at the Birthright mega-event.

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Beshallach
Candlelighting: 5:00
Havdallah: 6:05

U.S. to review relations with the PA — please see page 27

The News in Brief

Canada

Order of Canada

OTTAWA — Several Jewish Canadians were appointed last week to the Order of Canada. Promoted to companion, the order's highest rank, were Reuben Cohen of Moncton for voluntary service, and Phyllis Lambert of Montreal for architecture. Promoted to officers were Bluma Appel of Toronto for voluntary service and Samuel Belzberg of Vancouver for philanthropy. Appointed as an officer was Alvin Gerald Libin of Calgary for business. Appointed as members were Carole Grafstein and Gerald Halbert of Toronto for voluntary service, and Roel Buck of Toronto for industry, business and commerce.

Israel

Argentine Emergency

JERUSALEM — The Jewish Agency for Israel plans to expand its operations in Argentina. Agency officials say they plan to put the organization on emergency footing to accommodate increased demands by Argentine Jews to immigrate to Israel. Agency chair Sallai Meridor, back from a fact-finding trip to Argentina, said last week the economic situation for Argentina's 200,000 Jews is "very grave."

Jobless Rate

JERUSALEM — Israel has the second-highest unemployment rate among Western nations. Based on a survey of 30 industrialized countries, Israel came in behind Spain, the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* reported reported last week. In October 2001 figures, unemployment in Israel was 9.4 per cent, compared with Spain's 13 per cent.

Intifadah Costs

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian uprising has cost Israel more than $3 billion (US) since it erupted in September 2000. According to figures released by the Bank of Israel, the economic damage has totaled about four per cent of Israel's Gross Domestic Product.

World

Iranian Jew Freed

TEHRAN — Iran last week released another Jew who was convicted of spying for Israel. Faramarz Kashi, whose five-year jail sentence had been reduced to three years, was the second of 10 Iranian Jews convicted in July 2000 of spying for Israel to be released. The time Kashi served while awaiting trial counted as part of his sentence. Ramin Nematizadeh, who was released in March, was the the first of the 10 to be freed. The defendants received sentences ranging from four to 13 years. Western Jewish groups say all are now eligible for release, and have called on Iranian leaders to free the remaining eight detainees.

JDL Charges

LOS ANGELES — A leader and a member of the Jewish Defense League have been indicted. JDL chair Irv Rubin, a former Montrealer, and member Earl Krugel, face federal charges of plotting to bomb a southern California mosque and a U.S. congressman's office. If convicted, they could face life in prison.

Documents Online

TRENTON, N.J. — Documents that helped convict Nazi war criminals and then gathered dust for decades have begun appearing in an online college law journal. The first installment, published by the *Rutgers Journal of Law and Religion,* lays out a Nazi plan to eliminate Christianity and convert its followers to an Aryan philosophy. New documents – taken from 148 volumes of personal papers and records kept by Gen. William J. Donovan during the Nuremberg trials – will be posted every six months, along with commentary from scholars, at www.lawandreligion.com.

Jewish 'Nobel'

NEW YORK — A group of anonymous Jews from Latin America has established the first "Jewish Nobel Prize." The award will be given to Jews who have excelled in culture and art, social sciences, liberal arts, applied sciences and Judaism, according to the Israeli daily *Yediot Achronot.* Each winner will receive $1 million (US). Nominations for candidates are slated to take place over the next few months.

Teetotalers Rally

MOSCOW — Anti-Semitism pervaded a recent anti-alcohol demonstration in Russia. Teetotalers held signs saying "If you drink wine and beer, you are a lackey of Tel Aviv" and yelled anti-Semitic slogans.

French Rally

PARIS — About 1,000 people demonstrated in France this month against recent anti-Semitic attacks. The protest took place in the Paris suburb of Creteil, site of a recent firebombing of a Jewish school. Among those addressing the crowd was Nazi hunter Serge Klarsfeld, who said French officials "underestimated" the seriousness of the attacks.

Jewish Museum

WARSAW — Poland's prime minister has announced the creation of a Jewish Museum in Warsaw. Speaking Jan. 10 to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, Leszek Miller said the Museum of the History of Polish Jews will be built on the site of the city's old Jewish quarter.

New Law Could Extend Art Claims

PRAGUE — Jews around the world may be granted unlimited time to claim works of Nazi-confiscated art now in Czech hands.

Deputy Prime Minister Pavel Rychetsky says he will submit to the Czech cabinet an amendment to the current law, which expires at the end of this year, with the goal of pushing the new law through parliament soon.

A government commission has identified thousands of paintings and art objects in the hands of state galleries and museums across the Czech Republic that belonged to Jews before World War II.

The Czech Federation of Jewish Communities convinced the government that more time was needed to lay claim to the looted works.

The Czech ministry of culture has set up a list of artworks identified as confiscated by the Nazis, at www.restitution-art.cz. Unlike other Czech restitution laws, non-Czech citizens are permitted to make claims.

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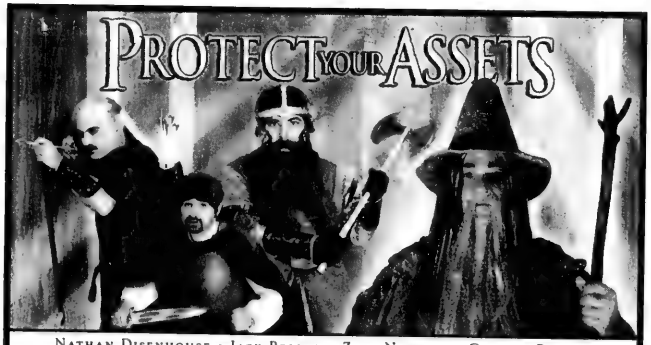

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Coalition will advocate for home-care funding

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto have been instrumental in forming a multicultural coalition to advocate for increased home-care funding.

The coalition, Communities for Home Health Care, comprised of such groups as the Italian National Congress, the Portuguese Congress, the Armenian community, the Hellenic community, the Islamic Society of North America and the Catholic Church, is focusing on the present crisis in the delivery of home health care services in Ontario.

Simon Rosenblum

Michael Scheinert

It is calling on the Ontario government to restore a previous financial commitment to home health care.

Simon Rosenblum, director of public policy for CJC, Ontario region, said in 1998 the provincial government committed itself to providing $550 million over six years to meet the challenge of home-care needs.

"Mid-way, however, the budget line was frozen and the annual increments were stopped at $275 million," he said.

The coalition is demanding a restoration of the original funding allocation so that money can be allowed to flow into the system, Rosenblum said.

Michael Scheinert, president and CEO of Circle of Care, among the largest providers of home-care services in the province, the largest provider of personal home-care services in North York and the largest provider to the Jewish community in the GTA, said that although services have diminished across Ontario, North York, which has the largest senior population in the province, has suffered the most. "Funding depends on the number of people in the community, not on the number of people who require services," he said.

The community care access centres "really made every effort to sustain services, but the inevitable consequence of what they were obliged to do by the Ministry of Health was the reduction of services and the erosion of care."

The erosion of these services has not been in the spotlight, he said, because home care is "largely invisible. There are no prominent champions for the provision of home care. It does not register on the Richter scale."

Rosenblum said that in the last year, organizations such as the United Way and the Canadian Association of Retired Persons have begun to raise their voice about the crisis, but they could not prevent the deterioration of services.

"There is no champion in the government, in bureaucracy or within the sector. Home-care organizations do not have the same impact as the board of directors in a hospital," he said.

The home-care labour force, said Scheinert, is 99.5 per cent women, and there is a pay equity issue between those who work in institutions and those who provide home care.

"The labour force has no significant voice and no impact on policy."

Previously, said Scheinert, home-care services were 70 per cent chronic care cases, and 30 per cent acute care. "Now, because people are being pushed out of hospital earlier, the situation is reversed.

"Put that fact together with the fact that we are living in an aging population, and we can see that we have a big problem."

Keith Ray, a member of the UJA Federation social planning and allocations committee, said that as things stand, people cannot be released from hospital because there is no home care available for them, so hospitals and emergency rooms are jammed. "The government has to pay now or pay later; they have taken the short-term view."

The coalition is planning a press conference at the end of January, and plan to meet with cabinet ministers and MPPs. On Feb. 18, there will be a meeting at Bernard Betel Centre, in which speakers will focus on the human side of the cutbacks.

Tribunal rules against Internet hate

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In a long-anticipated ruling that expands the reach of Canada's human rights legislation to the Internet, a tribunal has ordered Holocaust-denier Ernst Zundel to remove material from his Web site that is likely to expose Jews to hatred or contempt.

Last week, a two-person human rights tribunal found that material on the "Zundelsite" "viciously targeted" Jews "on the basis of their religious and cultural associations."

Despite the ruling's strong language, its practical impact on the Zundelsite may be limited. Zundel moved to Tennessee early last year, selling his Toronto home and winding up his affairs here. Nevertheless, the decision could have practical consequences.

The tribunal noted that its decision provides a "symbolic value in the public denunciation" of Zundel's Holocaust-denial views as well as an educational and deterrent benefits.

Sabina Citron, the Holocaust survivor who launched the complaint against Zundel more than five years ago, called the decision "a small victory" and "a good first step."

She contended, however, that Zundel should have been charged under the Criminal Code's anti-hate provisions for promoting hatred against Jews.

Ed Morgan, chair of the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress, said, "I'm quite pleased they found that Holocaust-denial is the equivalent of hate propaganda" against Jews.

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The era they ushered in

The melancholy we felt at last week's death of Frank Shuster was at a number of levels.

First and foremost, of course, was the passing away of a fine, thoughtful and gentle individual.

Then there was the fact that along with his partner, the inimitable Johnny Wayne, he blazed a trail for all aspiring Canadian artists, not only comedians and humorists, in the quickly expanding, post-World War II, television-age of North American communications. They did so, distinctly and proudly, as Canadians.

In the heaving ocean of American market forces, they sailed into the wind, against the current, proving to fellow Canadians who also wished to hold fast against the deluge from down south, that it could be done.

But they were also, unmistakably, the avatars of Jewish custom, Jewish language, Jewish behaviour and Jewish values which they openly, unashamedly incorporated into their comedy routines. Rare was the sketch, on radio or on television, that did not include Yiddishisms or other Yiddish shtick.

They had stepped from the teeming, vibrant Jewish milieu of Toronto's Harbord Collegiate onto Ed Sullivan's stage and the CBC's airwaves and telecasts.

Together, Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster helped carve from the hard granite of intolerant, exclusivist Canadian society the image of a new face for Canadian identity and a more tolerant, inclusivist culture.

But it was not mere serendipity that allowed them to do so.

Like the path they paved for artists who came after them, their path into a newer, better Canada was paved by a cadre of committed, determined leaders who laboured on behalf of Canadian Jews both before and after World War II.

The record of that labour was recently presented by Irving Abella in his farewell address as president of the Canadian Historical Association.

Entitled *Jews, Human Rights and the Making of a New Canada*, the speech moved briskly with great force and drama across Canada's history from the early '20s to the early '60s. Abella pulled no punches.

"The Canada of the first half of the last century and particularly from the 1920s through the 1940s was a foreboding place for Jews, as it was for most immigrants. Closed to most of the world by racist immigration laws that divided the peoples of the world into preferred and [mostly] non-preferred, Canada was a country permeated with xenophobia, nativism and anti-Semitism. The Jew was the pariah of Canadian society, demeaned, denounced and discriminated against.

"For Canadian Jews in these years, quotas and restrictions were a way of life."

Abella painted an unembellished portrait of pre-war Canadian society. Its colours were mostly dark.

He also provided a thumbnail sketch of the anti-Semitism that "permeated" the country, citing seven different reasons for its prevalence at that time. To illustrate the absurdity of the prejudice and the hardship it occasioned, Abella chronicled the example of "a young, brilliant law student who arrived back in Canada in the 1930s fresh from an outstanding academic record at Harvard.

"His applications to teach at the universities of Toronto and Manitoba were rejected because he was Jewish. He found it difficult to rent a home in Toronto because many of the areas of the city were restricted."

The "young, brilliant law student" was Bora Laskin, destined to become, one day, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Canada.

After the war, galvanized by the unutterable horrors visited upon the Jews of Europe and by the example and epoch-making courage of the Jews of Palestine, Canadian Jewish leaders "chose to launch an all-out offensive against discriminatory practices in Canada."

Abella briefly described some of the many fronts in that offensive and the leaders who led the charge. He concluded:

"Thus, by the 1960s, Canada had turned the corner. For Jews, as well as for this country's other minorities, that decade was a watershed. Before it existed the old Canada, parochial, nativist, exclusionary; beyond it, a new Canada was taking shape, a Canada of diversity, colour, vibrancy, a Canada of open minds rather than closed doors, a Canada in which Jews and other ethnic groups were quickly becoming part of the Canadian mainstream, and were seen as part of the solution rather than as part of the problem.

"The decade began with Canada finally repealing its odious racist immigration laws and opening itself up to all the world's nations... And it was in the 1960s that all of the barriers, restrictions and quotas against Jews crumbled, one by one, sector by sector. At long last, after 200 years in the country, the Jewish community would be able to play out its dreams and become an integral part of the very same Canadian society that had excluded it for so long."

"Playing out [their] dreams," to use Abella's words, was exactly what Johnny Wayne and Frank Shuster did on a wide variety of stages and for audiences breathing the fresher, reinvigorated air of a post-war era. That era, and the "new Canada" they helped usher in, is the Canada in which we and our children live today so freely and with so much possibility.

—MBD

SeeJN

ECRUSY IN WASHINGTON:

Eva Zucker, left, and Keren Shilling show Canadian spirit at United Synagogue Youth's recent International Convention in Washington, D.C. The five-day convention brought together more than 1,150 North American teens from the Conservative movement's youth arm, including a contingent of 28 from USY's Eastern Canadian Region (ECRUSY).

Historian warns against beatifying Pius XII

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Vatican's dialogue with Jews would be gravely compromised if it decided to beatify Pope Pius XII, a Canadian member of an international historians' panel warned last week.

"Beatification would be extremely damaging," said Michael Marrus, a University of Toronto history professor who sits on a now-suspended panel that had been charged with investigating the Roman Catholic church's conduct during the Holocaust.

An expert on the Holocaust, Marrus urged Pope John Paul II to refrain from beatifying Pope Pius XII – beatification is the first step toward sainthood – because historians have not reached a consensus about his wartime role and policy.

Some historians claim Pius XII was, in fact, indifferent to Nazi Germany's persecution of Jews.

"This issue, in the opinion of most historians, has not been resolved," said Marrus, author of *The Holocaust in History* and *Vichy France and the Jews*.

"Unquestionably, beatification would have a negative effect on Roman Catholic-Jewish relations, and in the wider world," he added.

Marrus disagreed with a recent comment by Seymour Reich, a prominent American Jewish leader, that the suspension of the historians' panel could "derail" Catholic-Jewish dialogue.

The Jewish and Catholic historians suspended the panel, established in 1999, when they concluded the Vatican would deny them access to Vatican documents published after 1923 and thus tarnish their credibility.

'Guardedly hopeful that the Vatican understands the seriousness of this issue'

Subsequently, two of the Jewish panelists resigned, citing a lack of co-operation by the Vatican.

Marrus, the last remaining Jewish panelist, suggested that while the archival issue remains relevant, the broader matter turning on Pope Pius XII's possible beatification is even more important.

He said he is guardedly hopeful that the Vatican understands the seriousness of this issue.

Last summer, Rev. Peter Gumpel, a Jesuit priest responsible for gathering documents to support Pope Pius XII's beatification, denounced the historians, claiming they had launched a "slanderous campaign" against the church.

Michael Marrus

The historians' panel was originally set up by the the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations and the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

Recently, Walter Cardinal Kasper, head of the Vatican commission, said he does not regard the committee, chaired by Reich, as "an exclusive or as a major partner" and that he would look for other experts to continue the panel's work.

Responding to Kasper's statements, Marrus said the historians' preliminary report, released in 2000, is in the hands of the Vatican and awaits a reply.

"That's the way forward, rather than searching for new partners who would be closer to present opinion in the Vatican."

But Marrus conceded the panel has run its course.

"It's finished. It's over and done."

Marrus said he has no regrets about having joined and said he is still in touch with its Roman Catholic members.

He said he disagrees with a recent observation by Rabbi David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's Jerusalem-based director of interreligious affairs, that Jewish-Catholic ties have never been better.

"I wouldn't put it quite that way," said Marrus, who is also dean of graduate studies at the University of Toronto.

"There has been a remarkable improvement in Jewish-Catholic relations, and a lot of credit for that should go to Pope John Paul II.

"But there are issues that need attention, primarily the role of the Vatican during the Holocaust.

"It needs a resolution."

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Greater Toronto Area

Frank Shuster remembered

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Obituary

TORONTO — Frank Shuster was remembered as a caring father, a Canadian gentleman and a great comedian at a memorial service held last week.

The surviving member of the Wayne and Shuster comedy team died last Sunday of pneumonia at Mount Sinai Hospital at age 85.

Shuster, a legendary figure in Canadian comedy, was born in Toronto and raised in Niagara Falls. After his father closed his movie theatre, the Colonial, in 1930, the family moved back to Toronto where he met Lou Weingarten – later to be known as Johnny Wayne – at Harbord Collegiate Institute.

There the two began a 50-year career together.

They were an army touring act during World War II and wrote and performed comedy for CBC radio and television beginning in the 1940s. They also appeared a record 67 times on the *Ed Sullivan Show* and were twice voted the best comedy team on the continent by U.S. television critics. In 1997, Shuster was named an officer of the Order of Canada.

After a private service for close family, Shuster's friends and colleagues gathered at Holy Blossom Temple to laugh and cry as they heard short anecdotes about his life.

His commitment to enduring partnerships was recalled in a touching eulogy written by his wife, Ruth, and delivered by Rabbi Gunther Plaut.

"His first partnership was with Johnny Wayne – an association that lasted 53 years," she noted.

When Wayne died, "Frank was devastated at the loss of his friend."

Ruth recalled how her husband pulled himself together, despite a struggle with Parkinson's disease, to work on retrospectives of the Wayne and Shuster shows.

Frank Shuster

Rabbi Plaut, a neighbour and regular golf partner, joked that Shuster "was better at comics than he was at golf."

But Rabbi Plaut said Shuster's gift was his ability to bring laughter to anyone watching him, adding that he remembers watching Wayne and Shuster while in South Africa.

"Wayne and Shuster brought Canada to us."

Another important part of Shuster's life was his deep concern for social justice, Rabbi Plaut said.

Shuster's daughter, Rosalind, recalled her father's story about an American publicist who tried to persuade Wayne and Shuster to move to the United States.

"Canada is our home and we're happy here," she remembered her father saying.

"But there's more to life than happiness," the agent retorted.

Stephen Shuster recalled his father quipping that his Gemini Award for Life Achievement was really for making a living in Canadian show business.

In an interview, Stephen said show business was in his family's blood.

"My great-grandfather owned a theatre and hotel in Rotterdam, Holland," he said.

"My dad got his start in show business simulating gunshots by tapping a pencil on a microphone during screenings of silent Western movies in his father's theatre."

Director and producer Stan Jacobson, who was a close friend, said Shuster had a true Canadian spirit.

"When his friends were becoming doctors and lawyers, he and Johnny Wayne chose the less travelled road of show business in the 1930s."

In a phone interview, Jacobson said Wayne and Shuster never hid the fact they were Jews.

Jewish accents and Yiddishisms were thrown into many of their sketches. One skit about Russian ballerinas featured Madame Padeshve (Yiddish for sole of a foot).

The pair were often overheard speaking Yiddish to each other. In fact, Jacobson said, one of Ed Sullivan's assistants once asked Shuster who this guy *oys geherst* (did you hear) was because they referred to him so often.

But the comedians were also incredibly proud of their Canadian heritage, Jacobson said. In fact, Wayne requested that his coffin be draped in a Canadian flag.

After the service for Shuster, Alfie Scopp, who appeared on the *Howdy Doody Show*, said there was something universal about Shuster's humour that appealed to everyone.

"Frank will be remembered as a class act," Scopp said. "People liked him just because he was a genuinely nice guy."

Writer Pierre Berton and singer Maureen Forrester, who both attended the Holy Blossom service, said Shuster will be remembered as a Canadian icon.

Wayne and Shuster were great comic writers, Forrester said. "They were never vulgar."

Berton said the pair initiated a group style of comedy that influenced a long line of shows such as *SCTV* and *Kids in the Hall*.

He called Shuster's death "a great loss" to the community the duo served for more than 50 years.

In addition to his wife and two children, Shuster is survived by two sisters – Rose Kirsh and Geraldine Leder.

Shuster's daughter said that in his last years Shuster had been editing old sketches to make them more relevant to today's young people. The last retrospective was called *Wayne and Shuster – the First 100 years*.

Struggling with Parkinson's, Shuster's last few years were difficult, his family recalled.

One thing about her father, Rosalind said, is that "he was a class act. He knew when to exit."

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Sat., Feb. 2, 8:00 p.m.
2 "Homicide" (1991)
Bob Gold is a cop. A good cop. But tonight, he will betray his friends, disgrace the force, and commit an act of violence because he believes it is the only right thing to do as a Jew. Joe Mantegna is Bobby Gold. Directed and written by Pulitzer Prize-winning David Mamet.
Sat., Feb 9, 8:00 p.m.
1 "The Seventh Seal" (1957)
Directed by Ingmar Bergman this outstanding Swedish film stars Max Von Sydow, Bibi Andersson and Gunner Bjornstrand. A disillusioned knight on his way back from the Crusades, portrayed by Von Sydow, plays a game of chess with death while being offered a reprieve. Critics, hailing the movie as a spellbinding, one of a kind masterpiece, gave Bergman international acclaim.
Sat., March 2, 8:00 p.m.
3 "Kafka" (1991)
Directed by Academy award winning Steven Soderbergh, director of "Traffic" and "Erin Brockovich." A stunning film that explores the identity of Josef K from Kafka's "The Castle" and "The Trial." In an existential search for self, Josef K confronts a secret organization that controls society, and in the process he confronts his Jewish identity as well.
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Sat., Feb. 23, 8:00 p.m.

CJC supports school board criticizing "unacceptable article"

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, has supported a Toronto District School Board (TDSB) trustee's motion criticizing an article distributed by District 12 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation (OSSTF).

CJC Ontario region chair Ed Morgan presented a deputation at last week's board meeting, in support of Gerri Gershon's motion regarding the article titled *Why America is hated*, which appeared in the December issue of *D12 Voice*, the OSSTF newsletter.

The article, which Morgan called a "deeply flawed, unbalanced and politically motivated diatribe that bears its anti-America and anti-Israel bias clearly and proudly," was recommended by the union as a teaching resource.

They supported the motion, Morgan said, because "the *D12 Voice* is an OSSTF communications vehicle that editorially presents issues, which, in the words of the editor, Doug Little, are not balanced and indeed carry a particular bias."

The motion was not considered at the meeting, but the board called a special meeting, which was scheduled for Jan. 21, to discuss the matter.

"As offensive as this may seem, *D12 Voice* has the right to conduct itself in this fashion as long as it is supported by its membership," said Morgan.

He added, however, that the newsletter does not have the right to dictate curriculum.

"It is our belief that teachers have an overwhelming responsibility to present information to their students in a fashion that is both balanced and honest.

"While the world outside of the classroom is often characterized by the clash of viewpoints and ideologies, students require balance in the classroom in order to develop the cognitive skills that will allow them to participate and purchase wisely in the marketplace of ideas that is our free and democratic society," said Morgan.

'Deeply flawed and politically motivated diatribe'

"[We believe] that the current debate on this brings into question the ability of all teachers in the TDSB to present classroom material in a fair and even-handed fashion.

"For this reason alone, it is critically important that the board move quickly to clearly state its position in favour of balance and fairness," he said.

He said CJC Ontario supports the notion that teachers be permitted to deal with controversial and sensitive issues. "We believe that this goal can best be accomplished by allowing curriculum professionals to develop proper materials to permit teachers to do their best work.

"Such materials will be free of ideology and will strive to present a balanced perspective on issues that are difficult and complex."

Curriculum development is not the responsibility of OSSTF, he said. "We support Trustee Gershon's motion because it speaks to the importance of balance, fairness and honesty in education."

Bernie Farber, executive director of CJC, Ontario region, said, "There is little doubt that Doug Little and CJC view the current situation in the Middle East from very different perspectives.

"Our differences on this matter are irrelevant. What is relevant is the fact that the *D12 Voice* crossed a very significant line when it advocated the use of [the article] as resource to stimulate classroom discussion."

When the matter first emerged, said Farber, "Mr. Little acknowledged, in correspondence to us, the lack of balance and objectivity in the article that had been published. His precise words were:

" 'We make no pretense of being objective. We do not have a balanced view of the Mike Harris regime. We do not have a balanced view of oppression anywhere. We side with the oppressed against the oppressor. We view America and Israel as its agent, as a prime oppressor in this case in the Middle East.' "

Farber said that this is "dogma plain and simple. If that is all it was, then CJC would likely have remained silent on the matter. But when dogma threatens to become a part of the curriculum, then action is required.

"We trust in the wisdom of the members of TDSB to send a clear message through their vote: that it recognizes that excellence in education begins with honesty in the curriculum and balance in the classroom."

Asked what would have made the article acceptable, Morgan said the article was presented with an introductory paragraph that said students wonder why Islam hates America.

"That paragraph followed by false history is completely unacceptable."

Farber declined to answer a trustee who asked whether the author of the article was Jewish, saying he was outraged by the question.

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Dry Bones
TU BISHVAT IS WHEN THE JEWS PLANT TREES.
YES.
AN ACTIVITY WHICH, HERE IN THE "HOLY LAND" IS SEEN AS A POLITICAL ACT!!
SO DESCRIBE AN ACTIVITY WHICH HERE IN THE "HOLY LAND" IS NOT SEEN AS A POLITICAL ACT!
HMMM...
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Governing by template

It is utterly inexcusable that in one of the richest provinces in Canada, in an advanced, highly sophisticated, highly technologized, western society such as Ontario in the year 2000, seven people died and some 2,300 became seriously ill because they drank the water in their homes. Justice Dennis O'Connor, the one-person commission of inquiry who investigated the reasons for the Walkerton, Ont., water disaster of the summer of 2000, agrees.

The tragedy "could have been prevented," he told the people of Walkerton last week as he delivered his report to them and to the people of Ontario. Like the incessant pealing of a heavy steel bell from a high steeple in the town square, O'Connor's words ring out for all citizens to hear, pounding at our conscience and piercing the heart.

He concluded that the tragedy was caused by the dishonesty and incompetence of the individuals who were in charge of monitoring the quality of the community's water supply and by the obstinate bullheadedness of the Ontario government. The Koebel brothers failed to detect the deadly bacteria poisoning the water. But the government of Ontario created the conditions where the brothers' incompetence, or worse, led inexorably to the sorrow and suffering that spilled so cruelly into the lives of the people of Walkerton.

O'Connor did not quantify the apportionment of blame. But he was unequivocal in finding blame. "It is simply wrong to say, as the government argued... that Stan Koebel or the Walkerton [Public Utilities Commission] were solely responsible for the outbreak or that they were the only ones who could have prevented it."

The culpability of the government came in three parts: It emasculated the Ministry of Environment (MOE) by eliminating almost a third of the ministry's staff and $200 million a year from the ministry's budget, thereby effectively disabling it from being able to catch the toxins coursing through Walkerton's water. It reduced the regulatory accountability applicable to the private sector into whose hands the government had devolved the potentially life-saving work of the MOE. And it dismissed out of hand the many alarms and warnings arising from its policies sounded by public servants and citizen watchdogs alike.

"Certainly, I... and the cabinet made no reductions in expenditures that we believed would affect the health and safety of any citizen in Ontario," Premier Mike Harris told the people of Walkerton last week. How trite and beside the point!

Had his cabinet made any budget reductions believing they would affect health and safety of Ontarians, then that would have been prima facie evidence of either criminal recklessness or criminal intent on their part. Of course the government intended no harm. But they were blinded to the foreseeability of harm by their slavish, unthinking dedication to a simplistic ideology that they used as a template, however ill fitting or unsuited, for all of their important responsibilities.

O'Connor pointed out that the government's first loyalty should have been to the well-being of Ontarians, not to its come-hell-or-high-poisoned-water approach to governing by template.

All governments of all jurisdictions in Canada should take notice.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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Waiting for compensation

We are grateful to Sholom Hershkop for his letter (*CJN*, Dec. 20, 2001). He talks for many Holocaust survivors waiting for compensation. We are the ones who worked in the ghettos, in concentration camps or suffered much worse. The people who are supposed to distribute the money have been holding on to it for such a long time. Why are they doing that? Don't they feel a little guilty? Not many of us are left. What are they waiting for?

Thank you, Sholom, for talking about us, too.

Blanch Krone
Toronto

* * *

Liberal-left death wish a luxury

In view of *facts on the ground* as they have unfolded over the past eight years... and especially the last two years, we are all very fortunate indeed that the more or less "liberal-left" point of view that was given lavishly *disproportionate* opportunity to expose itself is now thoroughly discredited in the eyes of the world. This applies not only to those events that impinge directly on Israel, but also domestically, especially with regard to certain issues such as "multi-culturalism," "race relations" and immigration policies that were hitheto considered beyond criticism.

The liberal-left death wish is a luxury that Jews of all persuasions can never afford.

Norman L. Roth
Toronto

* * *

Commenting on Kushner

In a recent Toronto lecture, Rabbi Harold Kushner observed that "[Since Sept.11] more people have recognized the need for God," since "God begins where human self-sufficiency ends" ("Sept. 11 changed people for good, says famed rabbi," *CJN*, Jan. 3).

In the light of my 1996 analysis of Kushner's thought (*Theology and Theodicy: On Reading Harold Kushner*, Modern Judaism, John Hopkins University Press), I would argue that according to Kushner's own thinking "human self-sufficiency," or better, self-reliance, begins, when God ends, and God ends very early on.

Abraham Cohen
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

OSSTF newsletter inexcusable

I have seen the Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation's (OSSTF) newsletter (*CJN*, Dec. 13, Dec. 20, 2001) and the inexcusably inflammatory talking points and think it was reprehensible and irresponsible for Doug Little to summarize the complexities of the Middle East situation in such a distorted way. Little implicitly acknowledges that the slanted worldview in the OSSTF newsletter reduces the incredibly complicated 50-year Arab/Israeli conflict into a fable of good guys fighting bad guys. But this is pedagogically necessary, Little claims, to counterbalance the arguments made by the simpleminded mainstream media, which is outrageously dominated by strident pro-Israel forces.

Perfect: rather than lower the temperature, Little comes up with selective points that further polarize the depressing situation. Obviously, he is following the Marxian idea that things can get better only if they first get worse.

Little says that his source is *Z magazine* but I can't help but wonder whether *Z magazine* got it from the textbooks used by the Palestinian Authority or the curriculum followed in Saudi Arabia. One thing is certain. If a teacher is willing to present the material in the way Little advises and perhaps prefers, he or she can be sure of steady employment as an educator in the religious schools anywhere in the Islamic world. But since Little earns his livelihood here in Canada, he ought to be more responsible, and if he wishes to inject himself into the debate, as a teacher, he ought to attempt to be an agent of compromise rather than someone who "does not have a balanced view." His attitude is disgraceful.

R. Nathan Pila
Toronto

* * *

All terrorists should be condemned

The arrest in Los Angeles of two members of the lunatic fringe group, Jewish Defence League (JDL), will be applauded by all right-thinking Jews who unequivocally condemn any alleged acts of violence and terrorism. There actions are counterproductive and detrimental to Israel. The almost daily killings of Israeli civilians by Palestinian suicide bombers has made the world realize that the villains were Islamic terrorists and that Israel's retaliation was justified.

While in no way apologizing for or condoning the murderous intentions of the Jewish Defence League, it must be emphasized that they are not sanctioned by any country nor supported in any way by any legitimate Jewish organization. The condemnation of JDL will be unlike Muslim leaders who say, "The acts or deeds of Islamic terrorists were terrible, but..."

Bert Raphael
President, Jewish Civil Rights Educational Foundation of Canada

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The restoration of the Sarajevo Haggadah

By BETH KAMPSCHROR

It had all the makings of a surgical procedure: tweezers, small scissors and other instruments laid out within reach, as expert Andrea Pataki sewed up the patient. But it wasn't surgery on a human being. The patient, rather, was the Sarajevo Haggadah, a 600-year-old book that is the most famous surviving Sephardi Jewish manuscript in the world.

"The 19th-century binding had to be repaired and stabilized, and the end papers – one was lost and the other was loose," said Austrian-born Pataki, who holds a degree from Germany's State Academy of Art and Design and has worked with rare and centuries-old manuscripts in both Israel and the United States.

Surprisingly, Pataki didn't have to touch the Haggadah's magnificently coloured illuminations. All the events of Genesis are depicted in vibrant reds, rich blues and other colours. Text letters are often highlighted with gold and lapis lazuli. Everything on the 109 pages of bleached calfskin dates from the mid-1300s. Pataki said the pictures are one reason the book is so rare.

"It has 34 full pages of illuminations, which is very rare," she said. "Normally illuminations are incorporated in the text. The whole book of Genesis is there, though it's a liturgical manuscript. And the colours are still good.

"I checked under a 25x microscope and I didn't see any flaking or powdering of the pigments, so I think they'll be fine. The overall condition is very good for its age."

The Haggadah doesn't just look good for its age. It looks good for all it's been through. Sephardi Jews fleeing King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella's Catholic Spain in 1492 brought the book with them, and there is evidence that it was in Italy around 1510. Jewish merchants from the now Croatian coastal city of Dubrovnik carried it with them through the barren hills of Herzegovina and into Ottoman-controlled Sarajevo sometime in the 18th century.

In 1894, a boy from Sarajevo's Kohen family sold the Haggadah to the Viennese museum for a few dozen florins, after his father's death left the family impoverished. The book was returned to Sarajevo when the National Museum was established later that decade.

The Haggadah miraculously survived three wars here in the 20th century, thanks to people of different ethnicities who knew the book's value for all Bosnians, as well as all of humanity.

A famous anecdote here illustrated how then-National Museum director Jozo Petrovic outsmarted a Nazi general who demanded the Haggadah after the Germans entered Sarajevo in April 1941.

"But Mr. General," Petrovic said. "One of your colonels came yesterday and took the book."

"What was his name?" the general said, suspicious.

"We were not allowed to ask," Petrovic said.

Petrovic managed to smuggle the Haggadah to a mountain village above Sarajevo, where it remained until the end of the war.

Nearly 50 years passed peacefully for both the Haggadah and the people of Sarajevo. But in April 1992, Bosnian Serb forces laid siege to the city, shelling and sniping at its citizens and 600 years of cultural history. The National Museum had been bombed more than 60 times by the beginning of June that year. The Muslim museum director was one of the people who dashed through sniper fire and exploding mortars to rescue the Haggadah. The war ended in 1995, but the Haggadah has remained in a Sarajevo bank vault since its rescue.

> 'The Haggadah miraculously survived three wars here in the 20th century'

Pataki said that signs of the book's history were visible; before it became a museum artifact a century ago, 'the Sarajevo Haggadah was in private use at springtime Passover seder dinners. The book contains prayers, seder rites, Torah readings and hymns that had been used for generations during Passover week.

"For seder evening they were always drinking and having a party around it, so you can see the signs of that, but that's something you never touch – it's part of the book's history," Pataki said.

Pataki, along with the inspector-general of France's libraries and a Jerusalem art historian, proposed the restoration project last April. The German government donated $20,000 to pay for the restoration, and the United Nations Trust Fund in Bosnia gave $50,000 to rebuild the Haggadah's climate-controlled room in the Sarajevo National Museum. The museum suffered heavy damage during the war and is still not entirely structurally sound.

"This is a complex project that has several components," said UN-Bosnia Trust Fund head Gary Manukyan. "The UN Mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina as a whole was soliciting funds for the Jewish community here, and the $50,000 was to renovate and secure the room at the National Museum."

The Haggadah's immense value – estimated in 1991 at $700 million (US) – was not the only reason that the project was approved, Manukyan said. Given Bosnia's recent history of warfare between ethnic groups, the UN Trust Fund is aiming to rebuild Bosnia's cultural treasures to promote the common cultural bonds that Croats, Jews, Muslims, Serbs and others here share.

"It's a kind of bringing cultures together," Manukyan said. "We're involved in the restoration of mosques, and the Orthodox Museum [in Sarajevo] was recently renovated. There was a big Jewish community before the war in Sarajevo. It's shrunk, of course, but of course they still have their society. We're trying to assist in this cultural renewal."

Sarajevo's Jewish cemetery, one of the most famous Sephardi burial grounds in the world, will also be reconstructed in another UN-affiliated project that will simultaneously restore the interior of Sarajevo's Orthodox Cathedral and reconstruct a destroyed 16th-century mosque in Foca and a destroyed Catholic church in Derventa. The cemetery was part of the front line during the 1992-95 war and has been de-mined but not renovated.

The World Bank, Bosnia's Jewish community, and others also donated to the Haggadah project, as did UN special representative Jacques Paul Klein. For 10 days in December, Pataki worked in the basement of Sarajevo's Union Bank under the watch of three museum officials and three Sarajevo police. The Haggadah is now ready to be displayed – along with other religious and cultural artifacts restored with UN Trust Fund donations, sometime this year – depending on when its room is finished.

"We're pushing for April, but how successful we'll be I don't know," Manukyan said.

Pataki has recommended that the Haggadah be displayed with a facsimile and a CD-ROM so that the book can be researched by scholars and art historians with a minimum of stress on the new binding.

"Or they could limit the time and people studying the manuscript – scholars, the public and art historians," Pataki said. "The climate conditions should be as stable as possible, because if you have lots of changes it's difficult for the manuscript."

Beth Kampschror is a freelance journalist in Sarajevo.

Andrea Pataki restoring the Haggadah. Photos are courtesy of the United Missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Synagogue bloopers

In a usually serious world, there is still some fun to be found. To be sure, one has to look in strange places occasionally, but with a bit of luck, something will turn up that brings a smile to face and heart.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

On the Internet, I recently read a collection of bloopers that appeared in synagogue bulletins across the continent. As the collector of these items wrote, "even the spell checker would not have helped."

Here is a brief excerpt that, I hope, will amuse you as it has amused me:

- Don't let worry kill you. Let your synagogue help. Join us for oneg after services. Prayer and medication to follow. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our congregation.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- We are pleased to announce the birth of David Weiss, the sin of Rabbi and Mrs. Abe Weiss.
- Thursday at 5 p.m., there will be a meeting of the Little Mothers Club. All women wishing to become Little Mothers, please see the rabbi in his private study.
- The ladies of Hadassah have cast off clothing of every kind and they may be seen in the basement on Tuesdays.
- Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at JCC. Please use the large double door at the side entrance.
- Rabbi is on vacation. Massages can be given to his secretary.
- The Men's Club is warmly invited to the oneg hosted by Hadassah. Refreshments will be served for a nominal feel.
- We are taking up a collection to defray the cost of the new carpet in the sanctuary. All those wishing to do something on the carpet will come forward and get a piece of paper.
- If you enjoy sinning, the choir is looking for you!

If you were amused by these bloopers, thank the unknown collector who put them on the Internet. I think that, in general, we would do well to put Jewish news, from time to time, in the category of enjoyment and pleasure. Being Jewish is more than suffering and playing the role of victim. Laughter is good medicine – both for individuals and for a people.

That's all for today, making this a column of fewer paragraphs than is my wont. My hope is that after reading the above, you'll start all over and enjoy "blooping." (It's a word they took out of the dictionary; or maybe it was never there.)

Don Quixotes or Bravehearts?

Anyone walking through Tel Aviv in mid-December could not fail to notice huge billboards in Hebrew, English and Arabic, proclaiming "Better the Pain of Peace than the Agony of War." What most people did not know was that the same posters appeared throughout areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority — in Gaza, Ramallah, Jenin, Tul Karem, and Jericho.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

The public campaign is sponsored by the joint Israeli-Palestinian Forum of Bereaved Parents. Founded several years ago by Yitzhak Frankental, whose soldier son had been kidnapped and killed by Hamas, the forum advocates peace and negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians. The current campaign is unprecedented in its scope, scale and its simultaneous outreach to the Israeli and Palestinian publics.

The campaign was launched two months ago, on the sixth anniversary of Yitzhak's Rabin's assassination, with a controversial installation in Tel Aviv's Rabin Square entitled, The Human Toll of the Intifada. In a bold — and what some called a sacrilegious – step, 900 "coffins" were placed throughout the square to signify the number of Israeli and Palestinian casualties since October 2000. Since the Israeli authorities refused to allow the presence of Palestinian flags in the exhibit, 700 boxes (Palestinians) were draped in black sheets, and 200 (Israelis) in white sheets. The installation will soon be shown again – in the Palestinian Authority. Frankental says this time the coffins will be draped in Israeli and Palestinian flags.

The forum does not voice opinions on specific issues that could arise in any future talks — and this may be its weakness. However, its position, eloquently expressed by parents who have lost children, is simply that the only alternative to the cycle of violence and reprisals is a process of negotiations where differences can be confronted. Today, the forum seeks to reinvigorate the Israeli peace camp, which has been virtually silenced since the outbreak of the intifadah in September 2000.

Frankental, an Orthodox Jew, speaks painfully of the hostility he has encountered from those who believe he is supporting the enemy. But since his son's murder, he has searched indefatigably for every opportunity to preach the value of peace to Israelis and Palestinians in order to prevent even more deaths. When challenged about the seemingly incongruous timing for a peace campaign, he responds that, paradoxically, the sheer scope of violence and cost to both communities over the last year may have opened a window for some small impact.

In the current, charged atmosphere of hatred, anger and distrust, many Israelis view the forum's campaign as naive at best – and even dangerous. They believe that by just talking with the enemy, Frankental and his associates weaken Israel's position in the necessary confrontation with the Palestinians. Moreover, they argue, as long as the Palestinian leadership is committed to violence, there is no point in flirting with hollow notions of mutual legitimization.

The forum's Palestinian partner is the National Movement for Change, a peace organization established several years ago in Gaza by Khader Mogarbe. A former member of the Palestine Liberation Front, Mogarbe served close to 20 years in Israeli prisons. In fluent Hebrew, he speaks of his changed convictions and his deep-seated belief that only talking can break down prejudices and bridge the gaps between the communities. Mogarbe's impact is minimal today, not just because of his message on the need for reconciliation with Israel as a Jewish state, but because he actively advocates against Muslim fundamentalism and for a more democratic, secular Palestinian society. However, as long as Palestinians continue to cast all the blame for their economic and political plight on the Israelis and refrain from openly challenging their own leadership, Mogarbe is likely to remain marginal.

Polls on its impact notwithstanding, it is folly to believe that activities such as the forum's campaign alone can influence Israeli public opinion when divorced from other factors. An additional wave of suicide bombs could quickly destroy any minimal impact the group has had in promoting the logic of negotiations. But even now, a majority of Israelis say that if they had confidence in the negotiations, they would be prepared for far-reaching concessions. As for the Palestinians, perhaps all that can be said is that the continued public activities of an organization like Mogarbe's reflect more diversity in that community than is generally acknowledged.

Florida, Canadian Jews and the U.S. connection

Many readers of this column have likely experienced at least part of a winter season in Florida. A fair number of retired Canadian Jews own or rent condos, staying for several months. Others (children and grandchildren) stay with relatives, or in hotels, for a week or two.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

Parking lots in the malls or in the Century Village-type gated communities are full of Ontario and Quebec licence plates around the Christmas holidays. And a good proportion are seniors who own residences there.

While the east coast of South Florida no longer has a monopoly on American Jewish travel plans and condo purchases – some look to Florida's west coast, others to Arizona or California – there is still no escaping the Jewish ambience in parts of South Florida, from Miami up through Boca to Palm Beach.

Yet, the area is not static. This can be seen in its many gated retirement communities. My unscientific observations below are drawn from the large Century Village complex in Deerfield Beach, which I know best. They may or may not apply to the rest of South Florida.

I have noticed an ongoing change in the ethnic and religious mix. While the Jewish presence remains strong, there has been a steady inflow of non-Jews, including French Quebeckers, among condo owners and renters. There has been a steady increase in Christmas light decorations over the years, and more and more French can be heard at pools, tennis courts and golf courses. Since many Quebec Jews head south in part to escape the province's political and linguistic tensions, their reaction to this new influx is mixed, at best.

Most surprising is that there seem to be no black or American Latino residents in the complex. I have no idea how this segregation persists, unless middle-class visible minorities find such communities unappealing. Buyers and sellers are often connected by word of mouth, which can also restrict access to those outside the "in-group." This past Christmas, I noticed a Sikh fellow jogging around the village. I hope he was an owner and not just a visitor.

There has also been a major demographic shift. Many of the first wave of owners have died off, leaving the condos to their children, who are mainly middle aged and still working. These baby- boomers use their condos mainly at holiday periods. Over the next few years, many of them will retire. The age structure will become slightly younger, with a corresponding change in leisure-time activities and cultural ambience.

There is also a set of subtle class distinctions within South Florida's migratory Jewish population. The wealthy retire or settle in Palm Beach and Boca, often in luxury highrise condos or the more lavish gated communities. Middle class Jews gravitate to the more modest Century Village-type communities. This is similar to the social class distinctions they left in the northeast.

As the Jewish population as a whole ages, more Jews, including Canadians, are likely to spend more time down south. This will pose strains on Jewish family life, since grandparents, parents, and college-age children may all be spread out across the continent.

Actually, a winter vacation in Florida can help alleviate the stress of this dispersion as it brings families together between Rosh Hashanah and Passover. But the phenomenon will also weaken the ties of many Canadian Jews to Canada. Many retirees return to Canada largely to keep up medicare benefits and for medical treatments. But they often spend close to half the year down South.

At the other end of the age spectrum, more children and grandchildren of these retirees have begun to look southward. Certainly, more and more children of baby boomers are heading to the United States for undergraduate or graduate studies, as well as for work. This represents a Canadian Jewish brain drain.

The north-south pull has always been strong for Canadian Jews, who have tended to look to New York for communal connections. Canadian rabbis and Jewish communal leaders have been American or U.S.-trained. As the Jewish elderly, and their grandchildren, look south, the pull will become more formidable. The continental integration of Canadian Jews has long been underway. As the boomers age, and as their children seize opportunities in the United States, it will gain momentum.

The Kirshner File

Recife capitalizes on its Jewish history

Sixty or 70 years ago – no one in Recife is quite sure – a local Brazilian historian, Jose Antonio Goncalves de Mello, identified the site of Zur Israel (Rock of Israel), the first synagogue in the Americas.

Sheldon Kirshner in Brazil

Mello, an expert in Holland's 17th-century colonization of northeastern Brazil, stumbled upon it after combing through old documents and maps.

Zur Israel was completed in 1637, seven years after a Dutch force occupied the state of Pernambuco, sending the Portuguese colonists packing. During the short-lived Dutch era, which ended abruptly in 1654, Portuguese Jews who came to Brazil by way of Holland were permitted to practise their faith freely and openly in Recife. They established a functioning Jewish community, replete with schools, synagogues and a cemetery. In 1642, the first rabbi posted to the New World, Isaac Aboab da Fonseca, arrived from Amsterdam to take up his post at Zur Israel.

Apart from Jews, the port of Recife – a centre of sugar and tobacco production – was also inhabited by native Indians, Portuguese and New Christians, Jews whom the Inquisition had forced to convert to Christianity. It is estimated that Jews formed about 10 percent of Recife's population and almost half of its free, white inhabitants.

Conflicting street names.

After the Portuguese reconquest, the Jews were scattered. Some fled into the interior, others returned with the Dutch to Amsterdam and still others set sail for Dutch-held islands in the Caribbean Sea.

A group of 23 Jews, having been captured by Spanish pirates, were rescued by a French ship and deposited in New Amsterdam, a fledgling Dutch colony on the densely forested island of Manhattan, in what is now New York City. With the Dutch gone from Recife, Zur Israel was converted into a residence and private chapel of the Portuguese governor, who subsequently donated the building to a Catholic religious organization.

During the 19th century, following Brazil's independence from Portugal, Zur Israel was used as a French-style boutique. Then it was demolished and replaced by a bank and an electrical equipment shop.

After Mello's discovery, there was talk of excavating the site. But nothing was done until 1999, when an archeological team, led by Marcos Albuquerque of the Federal University of Pernambuco, began investigating. Albuquerque knew he had hit paydirt when he discovered a well. A commission of four rabbis from Brazil and Argentina confirmed that it was really a mikvah, or Jewish ritual bath.

During the course of the dig, Albuquerque also found Dutch and Portuguese bric-a-brac: fragments of smoking pipes and bits of clay enamelled dishes.

With the backing of the local and federal government, the Federacao Israelita de Pernambuco, the Safra Fund and the Inter American Bank, Recife decided to turn the site into a Jewish museum and a documentation and memorial centre. No attempt was made to reconstruct the synagogue. The original layout had been lost. Construction began last spring.

On Dec. 3, 2001, on a warm, sunny day in Recife, the Centro Cultural Judaico de Pernambuco, a pale yellow structure with white trim, was officially inaugurated at a press conference attended by local dignitaries and journalists. Among those at the ceremony were Boris Berenstein, president of the state Jewish federation; Tania Kaufman, an anthropologist and historian, and Jose Paulo Naslavsky, an archivist.

(Brazil's president, Fernando Henrique Cardoso, was scheduled to have opened the centre some months earlier, but dropped out, citing a "terrorist" threat. In fact, his cancellation stemmed from a nasty political turf war, reliable sources claim.)

Sinagoga Kahal Zur Israel, the centre's alternative name, is on a gentrified street that reflects the tumult of Recife's history. During the brief Dutch epoch, the street was called Rua Dos Judeus. Then, for centuries afterward, it was known as Rua Do Bom Jesus. Now, in honour of the opening of the Centro Cultural Judaico de Pernambuco, both names are being used. In stylized black letters, they are emblazoned on a building at the head of the street.

It is an attractive thoroughfare, dotted with 19th-century refurbished buildings, restaurants, cafes, nightclubs and boutiques. According to Kaufman, the campaign to breathe life into the Zur Israel project was galvanized by a desire to gentrify Recife's old quarter and thus enhance its tourist potential.

The focal point of the tastefully designed Centro Cultural Judaico de Pernambuco is Zur Israel's mikvah, the synagogue's last remaining remnant. Displayed beneath floor level, under heavy glass, it resembles nothing less than a spiffy ruin.

The walls are adorned with panels, in Portuguese and English, chronicling the Jewish presence in Recife. It seems that Zur Israel was not the sole shul in Recife. There was another synagogue, Congregation Magen Avraham, but its ruins have not been located.

The names of Zur Israel's original members are inscribed on plexiglass. I jotted down a few: Isaac Athyas, Abraham Ysrael Dias, Joseph Atias, Mose Peres, Joseph da Costa, David Burgos. Feminists and civil rights activists will note, rightly so, that only men are listed.

On the second floor, where the official inaugural took place, there is a space, with benches and a Torah ark, that could pass for a modern synagogue.

An Internet site, expected to be up and running soon, will offer a virtual tour of the centre. Its address will be: www.Arquivojudaicope.org.br.

By all accounts, Zur Israel has stirred at least a modicum of interest in Recife's Jewish past. This is all for the better, since Brazilian school texts attach little or no importance to the contributions of Jews to Brazil's colonial economy, said Naslavsky.

Katia Mesel, a Recife filmmaker, hopes to capitalize on this newfound interest. She plans to make a docudrama, titled *The Rock and the Star*, about Recife and its Jewish connection. Mesel, 53, has been working on it for six years, ever since she bought the rights to one of Mello's books, *The Dutch in Brazil*. She estimates the movie will cost about $3 million (US). Since she has yet to round up all the financing, she does not know when production will actually begin.

The Rock and the Star, which would be her first film on a Jewish topic, shifts between the present and the past. It begins as a young Jewish man examines his family tree, and unfolds in flashbacks in various locales: Brazil, Holland, Portugal and New York City.

The movie, which will be in Portuguese, Dutch, English and Hebrew, closes in 1654 with the arrival of Jews in New Amsterdam, the nucleus of today's American Jewish community.

An architect by training, Mesel can trace her lineage back to New Christians. Her mother, a descendant of Marranos, converted to Judaism when she was 19. She knows other Brazilians who've "returned" to Judaism from New Christian backgrounds. Among well-informed Jews, they are referred to as Anousim.

Recife's contemporary Jewish community, headed by Berenstein, a successful radiologist whose parents hail from Romania and Russia, consists of 450 families, 90 percent of whom are Ashkenazim.

Berenstein's father, a soldier in the Red Army during World War II, immigrated to Recife – a city of 1.5 million – to join his two brothers, who had settled in Brazil in the 1930s. "He arrived here with nothing," said Berenstein, the proprietor of four clinics who drives around in a Mercedes. "The first years were very hard." Like many Jews before and after him, he was a door-to-door pedlar. Having amassed savings, he opened a furniture store."My father's generation were mainly businessmen," he explained. "The sons and daughters are largely professionals."

Recife has one synagogue, Beit Menachem, which is affiliated with the Chabad movement. The vast majority of Jews here are inclined towards liberal Judaism, and generally avoid the Chabad shul.

Mesel and like-minded Jews attend services in Recife's Jewish day school, the Colegio Israelita Moyses Chvarts, which has 160 students, not all of them Jewish and some of mixed-race backgrounds.

It sits behind a high gray wall on a quiet, tree-lined street in Torre, a sedate neighbourhood several kilometres from Zur Israel. Founded 83 years ago, the colegio is the only Jewish day school in Pernambuco, which, outside Recife, has very few Jews.

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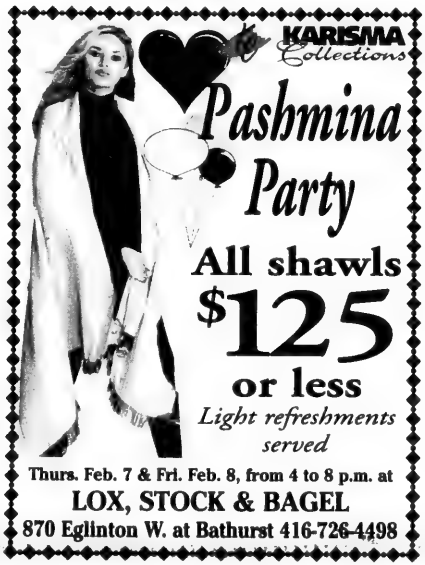
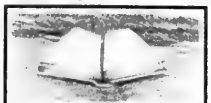


Jewish Life

Experiencing God in our lives

By RABBI LORI MACKLIS

I still have very vivid memories of a day trip that my parents took with my brother and me when we were young. We went to a small town in Ontario; we had been reading a historical fiction of some of the events that had happened there in the previous century. It was a story that fed our imaginations from the page. When we arrived on the country roads where the incidents had happened, we could "hear" the horses riding. The sky cast a foreboding presence over the area and we re-experienced what it must have been like 100 years ago.



All teachers know the value of experience over the lecture or the written page. While it is true that experiences and lectures complement each other, until one is able to experience a setting, an action or experiment for oneself, it is hard to personalize it and find meaning in it.

An example of this idea can be found in Parshat Beshallach, in the Shirat Hayam. The Israelites had heard the stories of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, but they now experienced God's power at the sea for themselves.

The song says, "This is my God and I will enshrine Him; The God of my father, and I will exalt Him." Until each person was able to experience God in his or her own life, they were not able to connect to the God of their ancestors.

Rabbi Mendel of Kotsk interprets this line as, "This is my God – I will have to find Him first and then I will enshrine Him." I understand this line to mean, if I personally am not actively looking to experience God in my life, not just in the life of my people, then I will not be able to make a dwelling place for God within me.

Even all of the marvels and miracles that the Israelites experienced at sea and in the desert were not enough to keep the people from grumbling and complaining every step of the way. How much more is it difficult for us to "find" and experience God in our daily lives!

So the written word and the experience must complement each other. When we rise to say the *Amidah*, we first must remember the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, the God of Sarah, the God of Rebecca, the God of Leah and the God of Rachel. Each of these patriarchs and matriarchs had a unique experience of God in his or her life. This is the God we can connect with – the God of our people, the God of our community – but we must also experience God individually. When I experience God as the One who gives me strength to cope with the world; when I experience God as the One who provides a direction for my life, then I will be able to praise God.

May each of us find moments in our lives when we are able to say, "This is my God and I will sing God's praises."

Rabbi Macklis is the assistant rabbi at Temple Sinai and a member of the Toronto Board of Rabbis.

The diligent almond tree

By BATSHEVA POMERANTZ
Israel Press Service

Guest Voice

As spring approaches, the mountainous Israeli landscape awakens after three months of winter rains. Almond trees are the first to shower generous bouquets of white and pink blossoms from their boughs; dotting the slopes of Israel's mountains and plains.

The almond tree has become the symbol of Tu b'Shvat, the 15th day of the Hebrew month Shvat, also known as the New Year of the Trees, due to its early and abundant blossom.

Hebrew language reflects the quality of the almond, as the word for "diligence" in Hebrew is *shkidah*, derived from *shaked* (almond), and, likewise, "persevered" is *shakad*.

In fact, both diligence and perseverance were needed to cultivate the almond tree in the late 19th century after Baron Edmond de Rothschild recommended planting it in addition to vineyards to bolster the economy. High quality almond species were introduced, but it soon became evident that citrus orchards were more profitable.

After the founding of the State of Israel, more groves were planted, mainly in the Upper Galilee and the northern Negev, with the mass planting of almond trees, using mechanized methods, being introduced in the 1970s.

The almond was considered a superior fruit even as far back as biblical times. Jacob's sons were ordered by their father to include almonds in the offerings they were taking to Joseph in Egypt in order to win favour in their powerful brother's eyes (Genesis 43:11).

The almond blossom played a significant role during a revolt by the Children of Israel against Moses and Aaron's leadership. The leaders of the twelve tribes, including Aaron who represented the tribe of Levi, agreed that whoever's staff blossomed overnight would be elected leader. Not only was Aaron's staff the only one to blossom overnight, but it then immediately produced its fruit, the almond. This was quite remarkable considering that the almond tree's fruit usually appears about five months after its flowers.

Yehuda Feliks, an Israeli professor of botany, writes in his book, *Plant World of the Bible*, that the almond, known in Latin as *prunus amygdalus*, is related to stone fruits such as peaches, apricots, cherries and prunes.

Two types of uncultivated almond trees are found in Israel: the sweet almond, which has white and pink flowers, and the bitter almond, which has only white flowers.

The fruit of uncultivated almond trees consists of the bitter substance amygdaline. Cultivated sweet species, made by grafting, result in a thin shell and a large sweet seed.

Almonds were a treat for children in talmudic times, along with nuts, peaches and pomegranates, while their shells were utilized for heating. The almond fruit actually consists of three layers of shell and skin, including a tough gray-green hull, which splits open at maturity to reveal the almond shell, which encloses the nut.

It has been noted that the branches of the almond tree in full bloom appear, from various angles, to resemble the branches of the menorah, Israel's national symbol, radiating light with their fusion of pink and white petals.

In his book *Nature and Landscapes in Israel's Heritage*, Nogah HaReuveni, founder of Neot Kedumim, the biblical landscape reserve in central Israel, finds another connection between the almond and the menorah: In the biblical description of the menorah, its cups are described as "mishukadim" (from *shaked* – almond). Commentators note that mishukadim can mean decorated with specks, as the wooden shell of the almond, or almond-shaped cups. The almond, upon ripening into fruit, indeed resembles the cups of the menorah.

A large menorah faces the Knesset, Israel's parliament, which marks its birthday on Tu b'Shvat. The Knesset convened its first session in the Jewish Agency building in 1949 on this day. [In 1950, the Knesset moved to the building that now houses Israel's Ministry of Tourism, moving to its current location in 1966.]

Today, the nutritious almond, popular with vegetarians, is made into pastes, drinks and sweets, such as marzipan. In fact, the Kfar Tavor visitors' centre in northern Israel contains an unusual sight – a marzipan museum that includes a showroom with imaginative and elegant marzipan creations, and an area where children can make marzipan items. The marzipan, it should be noted, is imported from the almond groves of California, which now provide most of the almonds used to make local marzipan.

As we approach Tu b'Shvat, Israelis stock up on almonds and other treats, while the popular children's song, *Hash'kediyah Porachat* – "The Blossoming Almond Tree," can be heard emanating from schools and kindergartens all over Israel. Almond trees in full bloom herald the spring, like a long-awaited guest, extolling the beauty of the land of Israel:

The almond tree
The almond tree is growing.
A golden sun is glowing.
Birds sing out from tree to tree.
And this is what they say to me.

Tu b'Shvat is coming
The birthday of the trees. (x2)

Hash'kediyah porachat
Hash'kediyah porachat,
V'shemesh paz zorachat,
Tziporim meirosh kol gag,
Mevasrot et bo hachag.

Tu Bishvat higiya
Chag la'ilanot.

Jewish Life

Bar/bat mitzvah – part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, I continue my look at bar and bat mitzvah Internet sites with some advice for the b'nai mitzvah and their families.

One of the central (and most nerve-wracking) events of coming of age is being called up to read from the Torah. Of course, Web sites will never replace human teachers, but there are several places you can visit and commercial software that you buy to learn how to chant from the Torah **[http://hebrew.about.com/cs/barbatmitzvah/]**. My favourite Web site is "Navigating the Bible" where every verse of the Torah can be viewed in Hebrew, Hebrew transliterated into English and English **[http://bible.ort.org/books/torahd4.asp]**. In addition, each Hebrew verse appears both the way it appears on the Torah scrolls and in the Chumash with "nekudot" (vowels) and "trope" (musical notation). And last but not least, if you want to hear the verse being sung, simply click on the speaker icon and you'll hear Cantor Moshe Haschel perform it.

Although becoming a bat or bar mitzvah is seen as a stepping stone toward adulthood, Judith Davis, a licensed family therapist, suggests that it is actually a milestone for the entire family. The parents' relationship is maturing and they will have to find new ways to deal with their child's transition into adolescence. At the same time, there may be new challenges in dealing with their own aging parents **[http://www.jflmail.com/oldarticles/1461.html]**. In a related article, Davis also suggests this is an opportunity for family healing:

"Our decision to invite Aunt Rosie, who's been cut off from the family since Uncle Ben died, could begin healing wounds throughout that generation, many of which we aren't even aware of. Our decisions about everything, from prayers to parties, guest lists to thank-you notes, are really decisions about relationships. They are the therapeutic opportunities hidden in the ritual's details, the 'work' that occurs as we outgrow old roles and take on new ones" **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/1764.html]**.

I particularly liked an article entitled "Planning a special bar/bat mitzvah" that deals with the increasing numbers of Jewish b'nai mitzvah with disabilities preparing for their celebrations. We learn about Joel Hornstein who recited his portion from the Torah in Hebrew and English, something that had not been expected of a child with autism. The article suggests that special co-operation is required between the parents, rabbi, cantor, religious school teacher, and if possible, the disabled child: "They should consider themselves a team with one goal in mind: The development of a beautiful and meaningful ceremony that recognizes the disabled person as a member of the Jewish community and as an affirmation of Jewish life that transcends all the usual boundaries" **[http://www.jewishjournal.com/archive/08.11.00/specialmitzvah.08.11.00.html]**.

Another situation that requires special planning is when there is a divorce in the family. Some tips for divorced couples:

- Recognize that the simchah belongs to your child;
- Never use your child as a confidante for your feelings of sadness or anger;
- Be a mensch (kind and generous person) and behave in a way that reflects the traits you want your son or daughter to emulate **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/2591.html]**.

And for some personal insights, Evelyn Luchs explains the difficulties she faced as a single mother of a bar mitzvah and how she overcame them **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/972.html]**.

There many other questions you may have about preparing for your simchah. And there's a good chance they've already been asked and answered at the marvelous Jewish.com Web site. For example, in response to a question about bar mitzvah jitters, the following advice is offered:

- Work hard and be well prepared;
- Don't tell your friends that you are anxious; and
- "Remember that everyone there is on your side. The adults are going to be there because they love you, and the kids will all fall into two groups: those thinking, 'Thank Heaven it isn't my turn yet,' and those thinking, 'Thank Heaven mine is over'" **[http://www.jewish.com/askarabbi/Lifecycle_Events/Bar_and_Bat-Mitzvah/]**.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

Knowledge from the trees

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

As Tu b'Shvat nears, we expand our view from the day to day and spend a moment thinking of the other creations that share our world.

The new year for the trees is a time to reflect on what we can learn from the trees that can affect our lives. Certainly we are taught in the Torah how we must behave toward the trees. We are forbidden to cut down a tree if it bears fruit. We are forbidden to level a forest of trees in order to besiege a city in wartime. We are particular about how and when we harvest fruit. The list goes on from there.

There is of course a practical side to our preservation of the trees, as they are intrinsic to our survival – they give us food to eat and air to breathe. But Jewish texts take us beyond the mundane and the practical, and there is much to learn from the trees.

Firstly, we are to respect all of creation, including the trees. One of the most famous trees in our texts appears in Genesis: the tree of knowledge of good and evil. This is the tree whose fruit (and our eating of it) caused events to unfold which resulted in our expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Yet we do not know which tree it was, as it remains unnamed.

The midrash in Genesis Rabbah contains a discussion wherein the rabbis speculate about which tree is the tree of knowledge. The conclusion is that its identity is intentionally hidden from us – we are never to know.

The reason for its anonymity lies in the reality of the human condition. According to the rabbis, if we knew the identity of the tree, we would forever be pointing to it and accusing it of causing our downfall. We would view it as a sinful tree, a tree of evil, and by extension, the knowledge we had gained would be considered sinful and evil. To protect the honour of the tree, a part of creation, we are kept in the dark.

In other words, sometimes certain knowledge is kept from us so that other knowledge can come to light. We do not learn the name of the tree, but we learn the more important lesson of respecting and honouring all of creation.

Another important lesson comes from a midrash in which a scholar who has been wandering for a long time sees a tree in the distance. By walking toward the tree and finally reaching it, the scholar ultimately finds a village of people and is provided with shelter. He returns to the tree and offers it a blessing but cannot decide with what to bless the tree. It is already growing strongly and, therefore, clearly has a water source. Its branches are long and powerful and there seems nothing left wanting.

The scholar finally understands that the only blessing to be offered to the tree is that its fruit should grow with the strength and power that it now possesses. It is the hope of future fulfillment and the blessing of children and continuity. For that instant, the vast differences between all the species of creation seem very small indeed.

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Professor dedicated to things running smoothly

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Academia

Operations research, Oded Berman's specialty, emerged as a science during World War II.

German submarines roaming Atlantic sea routes were sinking United States merchant marine ships at will and at an alarming rate.

The problem, which was growing worse by the week, had to be urgently addressed so that food and military supplies could be shipped to allies like Britain and the Soviet Union in the face of Nazi Germany's blockade.

Mathematicians, physicists and statisticians were called in to find a practical solution. Building mathematical models, they devised an all but foolproof method of bombing Germany's increasingly dangerous submarine fleet.

These innovative scientists made a key contribution to the war effort.

Sixty years on, operation researchers are still applying their knowledge to solve military problems, particularly in militarily-engaged countries like the United States and Israel.

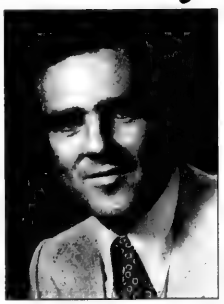
"Operations research is very advanced in Israel, especially in the army," said Berman, a University of Toronto professor.

(By no coincidence, Ehud Barak, Israel's former prime minister and chief of staff, has a degree in operations research).

Today, however, operations research is also being brought to bear in civilian situations.

Commercial airlines use its techniques to plan flight schedules and crew assignments.

Post offices, police forces, fire stations, manufacturing plants and the like rely on its methodology to solve managerial, logistics, transportation and inventory problems.



Oded Berman

Calculating probabilities, as Berman suggests, is no easy task.

"The number of possible solutions may be in the millions," said Berman, a former associate dean of programs at the U of T's Joseph L. Rotman School of Management.

"It's actually quite complicated," he added. "There is a lot of mathematics behind it."

Berman, a seventh-generation Israeli, holds degrees from Tel Aviv University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

As an undergraduate student, fresh from serving in the Israeli army, he studied economics and statistics. Later, at the PhD level, he specialized in operations research.

Berman, whose scholarly interests range from operations management to software reliability, has been associated with the University of Toronto since 1990.

Before arriving in Toronto, he taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the University of Calgary and the University of Massachusetts, where he was chair of the management sciences department.

Berman, 54, came here partly because he likes Canada's social welfare system. "I feel better in a place that takes care of the poor and the weak," he explained.

And apart from being attracted to Toronto's cosmopolitan atmosphere, he could not resist an offer from a great university.

He was born in Jerusalem a year before the first Arab-Israeli war. His late father, Moshe, was chief engineer of Israel's telecommunications network. His mother, Cila, was a homemaker.

Berman has two sisters. Michal teaches computer science in the United States. Liora is a civil servant in Israel.

Prior to becoming an academic, Berman was an athlete, Israel's 800-metre youth champion. After completing his army service in 1969, he decided to concentrate on his studies. "It was time to grow up," he said. "But I still love sports."

He has been through two wars: the 1967 Six Day War and the 1973 Yom Kippur War.

In 1974, he left Israel to continue his education at MIT, figuring, correctly as it happened, that a PhD from MIT would help his career. In 1978, he launched his academic career in MIT's department of electrical engineering.

In the past 24 years, he has published more than 120 articles, contributed monographs to several books and co-written (with Niv Ahituv, currently vice-president of Tel Aviv University) a book entitled *Operations Management of Distributed Service Networks – A Practical Quantitative Approach*.

To this day, Berman maintains close professional and personal ties with Israel. He visits at least once a year and is writing a book with a Haifa University colleague.

A year ago, he was a keynote speaker at a seminar in Eilat. In 1984-85, he was a visiting professor at the Technion and Tel Aviv University.

Despite his ties to Israel, he has no foreseeable plans to leave Canada. "You never say never. Who knows? But not in the very near future."

Berman's wife, Nili, an Israeli, teaches at Bialik. They have three sons: Guy, 27, a lawyer; Ron, 21, a University of Toronto student who plays for Israel's national hockey team, and Danny, 10, a grade 5 student at Associated Hebrew School.

The recipient of the Rotman school's Roger Martin and Nancy Lang Award for Research Excellence in 2000, Berman spends several days a month as a consultant.

One of his clients is the Toronto Police Service, which asked him to devise a fast response time model.

Berman's work on behalf of another client, the U.S. Post Office, focused on staffing levels. Thanks to a mathematical model he and others developed, the post office now saves about $1 billion (US) a year.

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HIPPY helps poor kids succeed in school

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For some people, the term hippie conjures up images of long hair, bell-bottom jeans and a rejection of conventional values.

But for those involved in the Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters – HIPPY for short – the term means success for economically deprived immigrant and minority families.

The program, initiated by Avima Lombard in Israel in 1969, helps parents become the first educators of their own children. Parents – usually mothers at home – are trained by tutors from their own community to teach preschoolers the skills they need to begin primary school on par with their non-immigrant peers.

Not only is the child's success in school enhanced because they are better prepared, said Henry Green, chair of the HIPPY board of trustees, "but over the years we've seen that by educating parents to deliver curriculum, a structure has developed which has helped [parents] move on to careers.

"Parents often go on to become tutors themselves and then go back and finish high school, community college or university. Many have become teachers," said Green, who is currently a visiting fellow at the University of Toronto.

HIPPY has "allowed the parent to move out of poverty, off of welfare and into educational tracts."

U.S. Senator Hilary Clinton was so impressed with the Israeli program that she championed it throughout the United States while her husband was president, Green said.

The strength of the program lies in its ability to empower parents to become the first teachers of their children

HIPPY has grown in the United States from one pilot helping a handful of families to 150 sites in over 30 states helping tens of thousands of children.

Carol Slater, chair of HIPPY Canada, said that Israel began international workshops exporting its national preschool program to other countries in 1982 through its Centre for Creative Learning at Hebrew University. The international organization now operates in more than eight countries – including Turkey and South Africa.

Five years ago, when Slater was vice-president of the National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, she came across a HIPPY pamphlet and began work on opening the first Canadian site.

Working together with Debby Bell from Simon Fraser University and Enzo Guirrieio from the Britannia Community Services Centre in Vancouver and with funding from various public and private sources including Health Canada, United Way and the Diamond Foundation, a program was launched in Vancouver three years ago. A second site is about to be opened in Halifax.

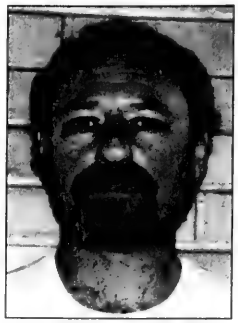
The strength of the program lies in its ability to "empower parents to become the first teachers of their children," Slater said. This gives status to the parent in the eyes of the child, thereby building self-esteem in both.

Monthly meetings bring immigrants together to discuss problems and accomplishments which "goes a long way in helping these parents overcome their fear of going into places like schools and dealing with authority for the benefit of their children," Slater said.

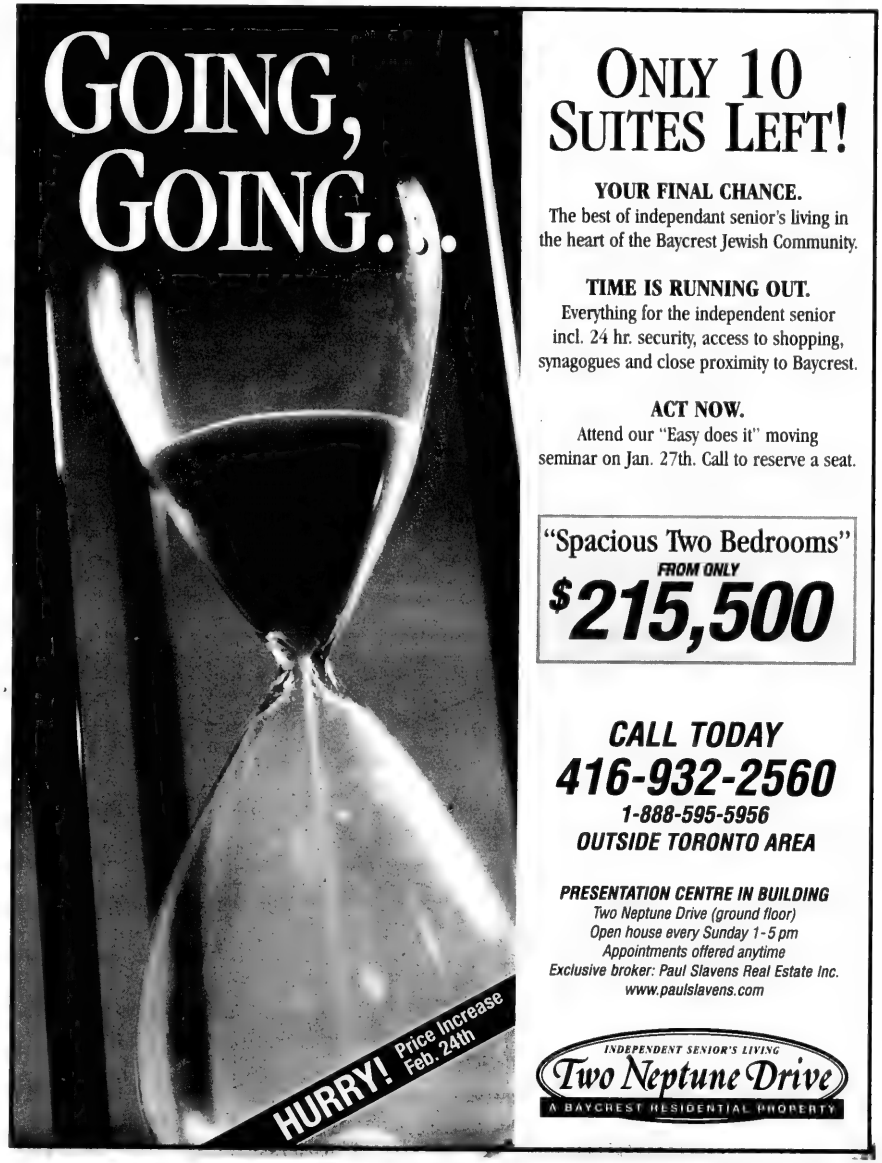
Bringing the program into the homes of the families eliminates the need for a drop-in centre, which significantly reduces the costs associated with the program, she added.

Green is working towards opening a Toronto site by September. The benefits of this program lie not only in its ability to build success within economically disadvantaged homes, he said, but because of its connection to Israel, it also creates interethnic and interreligious connections for the future.

By involving Israel in the educational process, positive partnerships are created between many diverse groups, he said, adding that HIPPY provides a link to Israel for people – such as the Somali or Aboriginal communities – who likely would have little other relationship with the Jewish community.



Henry Green



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Ryerson deals with anti-Semitic and hate graffiti

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The recent appearance of anti-Semitic and homophobic graffiti in men's washrooms at Ryerson University appears to be an isolated, but serious incident, according to Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region (CJC). The Toronto police hate crime unit and 52 division have been brought into the case.

Although offensive graffiti is not uncommon in washrooms, the recent spate at South Kerr Hall is different, Farber told *The CJN*. "It's in violation of hate laws and is also advocating genocide. [That] raises the level of the criminal violation."

Among the graffiti were comments including "Die Jews," "Islam will take over Canada" and "Support Israel's existence if you want to die."

Also, Farber added, a Jewish student was named in a separate piece of graffiti. "That's very disconcerting," he said. "To the best of my recollection, this is the first time we've seen a name attached to anti-Semitic graffiti."

Jews and gays are the two groups most often targeted in hate crimes and hate graffiti, he noted. "It's offensive to everybody who has some decency in them."

The only other anti-Semitic incident in recent memory on the downtown Toronto campus is the defacement of Ryerson's Jewish Students Association's sukkah over a year ago, with the words "Hay Israel, How many kids U kill?"

Following the recent incident, JSA president Brian Wolk said he got a letter of support last week from a Muslim student affiliated with the university's Muslim student association.

Wolk was disgusted by the graffiti, but said he doubts that it would discourage Jewish students from choosing the school. He feels comfortable among the multicultural student body, and said that people generally choose Ryerson for the programs it offers.

There was talk last week at the JSA of running educational anti-racism seminars in conjunction with other campus groups such as ryePRIDE, the university's gay student group, but nothing had been initiated yet, he said.

Michelle Lackie, the JSA's staff liaison at Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto – and the staffer for Jewish Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (JLGBT) students and young professionals of Toronto – commended Ryerson's Discrimination and Harassment Prevention Services office for its response to the graffiti, which included posting of fliers warning that graffiti motivated by bias, prejudice or hate could be considered a hate crime and that perpetrators would be disciplined.

The fliers state in bold letters, "Hate has no place at Ryerson."

Detective James Hogan of the Toronto police hate crimes unit said he would guess the graffiti is the work of "people who use the building frequently – Ryerson students." He said his unit receives "occasional calls" from other universities about similar incidents.

Drache may be the only openly gay Jewish student at Ryerson; he does not know of any others

Ryerson student Mordecai Drache, 29, who discovered the graffiti in the early evening of Jan. 8, was "really upset… It was sort of the two extremes of vulnerability and seething anger." Drache may be the only openly gay Jewish student at Ryerson; he does not know of any others.

He did not report his discovery to the Ryerson student council (ryeSAC) until two days later, because he had a personal matter to deal with on the intervening day, he told *The CJN*. RyeSAC contacted the university's harassment office, he said.

Drache said there is homophobic graffiti "all the time" in the men's washrooms, and he has also seen anti-Islamic graffiti, but the recent graffiti was particularly prominent. Not only did it target two groups and name a Jewish student, but it "seemed very vicious," he said.

Farber would advise students to be vigilant, and to report such graffiti to Ryerson authorities and to CJC

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Bar-Ilan Friends plan conference on terrorism

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canadian Friends of Bar-Ilan University will hold its first BESA Center conference Sunday, Jan. 27 at Leah Posluns Theatre.

The conference – a three-hour program entitled How Can We Be Secure from Terrorism? – will feature 15-minute talks by BESA faculty members Efraim Inbar and Gerald Steinberg, as well as Irwin Cotler, human rights lawyer and MP for Mount Royal.

The talks will be followed by breakout sessions, providing an opportunity for interaction with the speakers.

Inbar, director of Bar-Ilan's BESA Center – known more formally as the Begin-Sadat Center for Strategic Studies – will speak on the need to support the United States in the global campaign against terror and what should be done by Canada and other democratic countries to fight terror.

Steinberg, a senior research associate and professor of political studies, will give a talk called Responding To the Myth of "Good Terror," and Cotler, who is a member of the BESA Center Advisory Board, will give an address called Durban to Ground Zero: What Have We Learned?

The BESA Center, which is affiliated with the university's political studies department, focuses on the study of Middle East peace and security.

Part of its mission is to educate the community on issues affecting Israel and the Jewish world, said Dov Altman, executive director of the Canadian Friends organization. The conference, for which planning began shortly after Sept. 11, is "one of the ways we are working with the community to fill that role."

Altman said he believes it was visionary of Thomas Hecht, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, Quebec region, and founder of the centre a decade ago, to dedicate the centre to the late Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and, particularly, to his Egyptian counterpart Anwar Sadat for their groundbreaking peace initiatives.

The conference will begin at 7:00 p.m. (refreshments at 6:30). Admission is free.

Advocate for Israel tours Ramallah following conference

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Mark Eltis was likely the only Jewish visitor the day he toured Ramallah earlier this month.

The University of Waterloo student and former Jewish Students' Association president, who has spoken about Israel at a number of Ontario campuses in the past year, felt apprehensive on beginning his journey to the Palestinian Authority (PA), he admitted. Before leaving his Jerusalem hotel, he removed his Star of David, not knowing whom he might encounter.

UWO student Mark Eltis toured Ramallah in a Canadian government SUV.

"The first thought that comes to mind going into Ramallah, is the scene of those two soldiers being brutally lynched by the mob," he said in a recent phone interview.

His impromptu, 90-minute tour of Ramallah took place after Eltis participated as one of about 30 Canadian delegates in the World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS) conference at the end of December. The event, held at Neve Ilan on the outskirts of Jerusalem, featured sessions on activism, leadership and Israel in the media.

During a leadership seminar after the conference, Eltis spoke with WUJS conference speaker Steve Hibbard, the Canadian government representative to the PA, following Hibbard's talk to students at the Israeli foreign ministry office.

Hibbard told Eltis to give him a call if he ever wanted to see Ramallah. On the final day of his trip, Eltis took the diplomat up on his offer, motivated in part by his own advocacy work. "The next time I'm in a debate, I want to say, 'I've been there,'" he told *The CJN*.

Hibbard sent a bullet-proof car with diplomatic licence plates to pick Eltis up at his hotel. His first stop – after a 30-minute delay at the border checkpoint – was Hibbard's office. The security was beyond anything Eltis had ever seen. "The actual structure [appeared to be] made to withstand... a rioting mob," he said.

Eltis saw local refugee camps, some out-of-the-way Israeli tanks, the office for the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine and PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's compound, but he also saw "mansions that are bigger than any house I could ever afford." He was told they belonged to American expatriates of Palestinian descent.

"Sure, there's suffering," he said, but if Ramallah citizens are living in a "horrific police state," he didn't see it. People were out shopping and going about their business.

"The funny thing was, you couldn't really tell Ramallah apart from a suburb in Jerusalem... It's a real shame when [media] show the entire Palestinian population as a bunch of starving, desperate refugees. Most of Ramallah is fairly middle class."

His Palestinian guide "continually expressed his desire for peace," Eltis said. "He didn't say anything too controversial. The irony was that his stances were much more moderate than Palestinian spokespeople you see on television or hear in Canada."

He noted that the guide was somewhat vague about the meaning of the words on public posters of suicide bombers. He suspects that both the guide and driver knew he was Jewish, partly because they called Israel by its proper name.

Eltis said he asked whether Palestinians are aware of what their leadership rejected at Camp David. His guide's answer was that they don't, Eltis reported.

"I haven't changed my political views," said Eltis, who describes himself as centre to centre-right politically. But he "[couldn't] say one bad thing" about the two Palestinians who showed him around Ramallah. "My hosts were very gracious. They treated me with the utmost respect.

"It was nice to speak to some Palestinians and get their point of view. In the end, I think we're all prisoners of the political situation. It's unfortunate. There are good people on both sides."

As it turned out, Eltis was more concerned for his safety in the old quarter of Jerusalem, where the thought of suicide bombers crossed his mind, than he was in Ramallah, from the safety of a bulletproof, Canadian car.

He is convinced that Israel needs support from Diaspora Jewry, in the form of visits. He compared love for Israel to love for a person: If you love someone, you don't wait for a better time, he said. "You go when they need you."

Ironically, he felt that the Canadians at the WUJS conference needed their Israeli counterparts' solidarity more than the Israelis needed Canadian support. When a Palestinian speaker equated Zionism with terrorism, the Israelis reacted with much greater equanimity than the Canadians, Eltis said. "It was obvious that we were the ones who were insecure."

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The parents were with 5 of their 8 children when a suicide bomber detonated a knapsack filled with nails and explosives. The mother and two daughters A"H were killed instantly. The father and son A"H lay mortally wounded and died after reciting the Shema Yisrael together. Two young girls aged 8 and 10 were injured, one very seriously.

The 3 brothers not with the family found their sisters in the hospital. Then they came together for the five concurrent funerals which took place on Mount Menuchot in Jerusalem.

The father Mati was a Jewish studies teacher and the mother Tzirel worked with deaf children. They left a small amount of life insurance. The remaining 5 children aged 8 to 21, are destitute and facing a crisis. The youngest girl faces many surgeries and long term therapy.

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CJ Food

Figs play important role in traditional Tu b'Shvat treats

BY RIVKA TAL
Special to The CJN

Tu b'Shvat means simply the 15th day of the Hebrew month Shvat, which this year falls on Jan. 28. The Israeli folk song, *The almond trees are blooming*, invariably proves to be true, for sure enough, the almond trees in the Jerusalem Forest near my home become a riot of white-pink blossoms every year around Tu b'Shvat time.

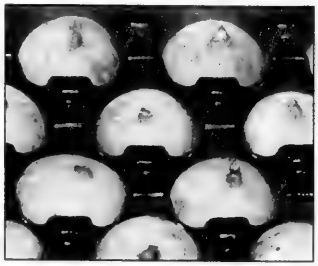
On Tu b'Shvat, it is the custom to eat the fruits for which the Torah praises the Land of Israel, as mentioned in the verse referring to the Land as a good land, "a land of wheat, barley, grape, fig and pomegranate, a land of olives and date honey" (Deuteronomy 8:8). Together with the other species, figs are mentioned in the Torah 16 times, as the most important of the country's fruit.

Figs were cultivated in Israel in very early times. The fig was a basic food, possessing high nutritional value, largely by virtue of its honey. The fig tree is the first mentioned by name in the Torah: Adam and Eve covered themselves with fig leaves after they ate of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. The fig is also mentioned as having medicinal qualities. Figs were dried in the sun and were either left whole or cut up and pressed.

More than 70 expressions connected with the fig can be found in mishnaic and talmudic literature. Various strains are mentioned, depending on the colour and time of ripening. Today, fig trees are cultivated in Israel mainly by Arabs.

Their economic value is limited in modern Jewish agriculture because the fruit must be picked almost daily since it does not ripen simultaneously. Perhaps this is why most figs eaten in Israel today are dried and imported from Turkey. In North America, they are mostly grown in California. Large, shady fig trees can be found in Israel, especially on the banks of streams and near springs, and are among the most beautiful trees in the country.

Figs are as important a food to modern man as they were to our predecessors in Eretz Yisrael. Nutrient-dense, tasty, portable and versatile, they help meet the needs of today's dietary guidelines. Dried figs make satisfying snacks and sweet and flavourful recipe additions. The dense, sweet flesh, coupled with the unique crunchy seed, goes well in baked goods, and with meat, poultry, fish, vegetables and other fruits. Figs can act as a sweetener in a variety of preparations. Fig puree (8 oz. of figs pureed in a blender with 1/4 to 1/3 cup water or fruit juice) can be used as both a sweetener and a fat substitute in many recipes.



White figs by the crate

One serving of figs is 40 grams, about 1/4 cup or about 4 or 5 figs. They contain more dietary fibre per serving than any other common dried or fresh fruit, as well as the highest overall mineral content of all common fruits.

The 40-gram serving is an easy way to add a serving of fruit to reach the daily recommendation of a minimum of five fruits and vegetables.

Enjoy dried figs year round with a myriad of possibilities! Add sliced figs to rice, couscous, wheat or barley kernels as they cook; sprinkle with sauteed onion. Toss into pancake mix. Stir dried figs into any drop or bar cookie. Stuff apples with chopped, dried figs. Quickly prepare some impressive and delicious tarts for an afternoon tea: spoon prepared pudding into ready-made tart shells; top with a few fig slices and sprinkle with lemon zest.

SPICED FIG COMPOTE

Try this compote year-round as well as for Tu b'Shvat.

1 lb. figs, checked
2 cups sweet red wine
1/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
4-in. stick cinnamon
4 cloves
shredded zest of 1 lemon
shredded zest of 1 orange

Combine figs with wine in medium saucepan. Add brown sugar, cinnamon, cloves and shredded citrus zest. Bring to a boil, partially cover, reduce heat and simmer 45 minutes to one hour, until figs are plump and soft.

Remove from heat and let stand, partially covered, several hours or until cool. Transfer to a bowl and refrigerate, covered, two hours or longer.

Divide figs among dessert bowls and garnish with additional shredded orange zest. Yield: 6 servings.

CHOCOLATE CHIP FIG BARS

A treat to satisfy the sweetest tooth, these delicious goodies are appropriate anytime.

1 3/4 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
1/2 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
1/4 tsp. salt
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1/2 cup unsalted margarine, softened
1 egg, slightly beaten
grated peel of 1 orange (about 1 tsp.)
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/4 cups chocolate chips (divided)
1/2 cup chopped dried figs

Stir flour, baking powder, soda, salt and cinnamon together. Cream brown sugar and margarine in a large bowl. Add egg, orange peel and vanilla, beating well. Gradually stir in flour mixture. Stir in one cup chocolate chips and chopped figs. Chill dough 15 to 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 375. Divide dough into thirds. With lightly floured hands, form each third into 12-inch log. Place on large (17 x 14-inch) greased cookie sheet 3 inches apart.

Flatten each log to about 2 inches wide and 1/2 inch thick. Bake for 15 to 20 minutes or until lightly brown. Loosen from pan and cool slightly. Cut diagonally into about 1-inch slices. Melt remaining 1/4 cup chocolate chips over hot water. Drizzle chocolate over bars. Cool until chocolate sets (or chill briefly in refrigerator) and slice with a sharp knife. Yield: about 3 dozen cookies.

FRESH FIG BARS

If you are lucky enough, as we are, to have a fig tree in your yard, save this recipe for July-August, when they ripen.

4 cups fresh figs, checked and chopped
1 cup water
1 cup honey
1/4 tsp. salt
2 tbsp. grated lemon peel
2 tbsp. all-purpose flour, sifted
2 tbsp. water
2 tbsp. lemon juice
1 cup unsalted margarine, softened
3/4 cup firmly packed brown sugar
2 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
1/2 tsp. salt
3 cups quick-cooking oatmeal

Combine figs, water, honey, 1/4 tsp. salt and lemon peel in saucepan and simmer 1 to 1 hours or until dark and thickened, stirring occasionally. Combine 2 tbsp. flour and water and stir into fig mixture.

Cook 5 minutes longer, stirring constantly. Remove from heat and stir in lemon juice. Cream margarine with brown sugar until light and fluffy. Combine flour, 1/2 tsp. salt and oatmeal and stir into creamed mixture.

Preheat oven to 350. Pat half of oatmeal mixture into bottom of a well-greased 9 x 13-inch pan. Spread fig filling evenly over oatmeal mixture. Sprinkle remaining half of oatmeal mixture on top and press with fork.

Bake for 25-30 minutes or until lightly browned around the edges. Cut into squares while still warm. Cool completely before removing from pan. Yield: 24 bars.

LARRY GOLDSTEIN, CA

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CJ Food

Some tasty suggestions for celebrating Tu b'Shvat

By EILEEN GOLTZ
Special to The CJN

Tu b'Shvat was chosen because of its timely position between the winter rains in Israel when the trees are dormant and the period when the tree sap begins to rise in the spring. Fruit ripening before Tu b'Shvat is considered of the old year; fruit ripening afterward is from the new year.

On the holiday, there should be four different kinds of wine served, as well as at least three different kinds of fruit and nuts. The precise number of fruits and nuts can vary widely depending on your own particular *minhag* (custom).

The first cup of wine should be a dry white wine representing the dormant winter. The second cup should be pale (a pale rose or a mixture of red and white wine) representing the beginnings of spring. The third cup should be more deeply coloured but not a deep red. This cup symbolizes blooming trees. The fourth and final cup of wine should be a deep red colour to represent trees with ripe fruit.

The first fruit eaten should have an inedible covering (symbolizing the soul within man). The second fruit should be one that is edible except for a pit (symbolizing the heart of man). The third fruit is one in which the whole fruit can be eaten. This fruit is said to symbolize creation.

Some suggested fruits are bananas, avocados, melons, nectarines, apricots, peaches, blueberries, strawberries, grapes, olives, dates, figs, pomegranates, oranges, apples, walnuts, almonds, carobs, pears and cherries. If you have difficulty finding them, use the closest available substitute. For example, use grape jam or raisins for fresh grapes, canned cherries or cherry jam for cherries, and fig bar cookies for figs. You should also try and include two baked foods containing wheat.

OATMEAL RAISIN MUFFINS
(dairy)

1 cup crushed pineapple, undrained
1 cup sour cream
1 egg
¼ cup butter, melted
1½ cups flour
1 cup old-fashioned oats or quick oats
½ cup sugar
1 tbsp. baking powder
1 tsp. ground cinnamon
½ tsp. salt
1 cup raisins

Preheat oven to 350. In a small bowl, combine the undrained pineapple, sour cream, egg and butter. Mix until blended. In a large bowl combine the flour, oats, sugar, salt, baking powder, cinnamon and raisins. Make a well in the centre of the dry mixture. Pour in the pineapple mixture and stir until just mixed. Spoon the batter into greased 2½-inch muffin cups. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes until lightly browned and a wooden toothpick inserted in centre comes out clean. Serve warm. Makes 12.

PISTACHIO STUFFED MUSHROOMS
(dairy or pareve)

20 large mushroom caps
½ cup onion, minced
½ cup butter or margarine, divided
⅓ to ½ cup dry bread crumbs
½ cup chopped pistachios or pecans
2 tbsp. chopped parsley
¼ tsp. marjoram, crushed
¼ tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350. Remove stems from mushroom caps and finely chop the stems. Saute the stems and onion in ¼ cup butter until tender. Place the mixture in a bowl to cool for 10 minutes. Add the bread crumbs, pistachios or pecans, parsley, marjoram and salt. Mix well. Spoon stuffing into mushroom caps.

Place the stuffed caps on baking sheet and drizzle the tops with the remaining melted butter. Bake 5 minutes or until hot. Makes 20 appetizers.

The stuffed mushrooms can be broiled instead of baked. Broil 6 inches from heat for 5 minutes until browned and thoroughly heated.

FRUIT AND RICE SALAD WITH HONEY DIJON VINAIGRETTE

4 cups cooked brown or wild rice, chilled
¼ cup raisins or dried cherries
½ cup chopped dried apricots
½ cup chopped pecans, toasted
¼ cup green onions, sliced thin
½ cup sliced water chestnuts
3 avocados
vinaigrette (see recipe below)

Place the raisins and apricots in small bowl and cover them with boiling water. Let them stand for 10 minutes then drain, discarding the liquid, and let them cool.

Add the pecans, green onions, water chestnuts, and raisins and apricots to the chilled rice. Mix well and then pour the vinaigrette over the mixture. Toss until the mixture is coated with the vinaigrette and then refrigerate for 1 hour. Just before serving, halve, seed and peel the avocados. Fill each half with the rice salad and serve. Serves 6. You can decorate the salad with a few pecan halves and green onion slices

Vinaigrette:
¼ cup oil
1 tbsp. lemon juice
1 tbsp. red wine vinegar
1 tsp. honey
¼ tsp. ground coriander
¼ tsp. Dijon-style mustard
salt and pepper to taste

Shake all ingredients together in a tightly covered container.

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TANACH / BIBLE STUDIES

MONDAY	9:30 - 11:00 am	***The Book of Judges*** (resumes Jan. 7) with Rabbi Shulman
	7:30 - 8:30 pm	***Parshat Hashavua*** (call to confirm) with Rabbi Sacknovitz
TUESDAY	9:30 - 11:00 am	***The Joseph Story - Parts 4 & 5*** (Fee) (continuing) with Dr. Shoshana Zolty
	7:30 - 8:45 pm	***SHIMSHON: HOLY MAN OR THUG,*** *The Book of Judges, Ch. 14-16* (resumes Jan. 7) with Rabbi Shulman
SHABBAT	Prior to Mincha	***Parshat Hashavua*** with Rabbi Shulman

TALMUD & MISHNA

MON. - FRI.	6:00 - 6:55 am	***MIT (Morning Institute for Torah studies)*** (Fee) with Rabbi Rabi
WEDNESDAY	Noon - 1:15 pm	***Lunch & Learn*** (resumes Jan. 9 - downtown location) with Rabbi Shulman

JEWISH THOUGHT & PRACTICE

TUESDAY	9:30 - 10:30 am	***Pirkei Avot*** (Women Only) (resumes Jan. 8) with Rebbetzin Baila Shulman
	7:30 - 8:30 pm	***Hebrew Reading Crash Course*** (Feb. 20 to Mar. 13) 4 weeks, call for details and to register) with Nechama Motzen
WEDNESDAY	8:00 - 9:00 pm	***Intermediate Hebrew*** (Jan. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, & 20 — registration required) with Hilda Weil
THURSDAY	7:00 - 8:00 pm	***Why We Do What We Do - Minhagim & Customs*** (Jan. 24, Feb. 7 & 28, March 14) with Chazzan Motzen
SHABBAT	9:30 am - Noon	***Pray and Learn*** with Rabbi Elliott Diamond

A BLEND OF JEWISH EXPERIENCES

Book Club - Sunday, Feb. 10, 8:00 pm, Location: ISRAEL'S BOOKSTORE, 897 Eglinton Avenue West, *The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon* by Richard Zimler
Parenting (Fee) with Rochelle Meister Diamond 416-256-0818 & Lori Tamari Ulmer 416-789-1559
Simcha Dancing (Fee) (for Women Only) Mondays - 7:30 - 8:00 pm (Jan. 14, 21, & 28, Feb. 14) with Vera Elzas

PLEASE CALL THE SYNAGOGUE OFFICE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

MEKOROT INSTITUTE OF TORAH STUDY FOR WOMEN
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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Jan. 28, is deadline for Feb. 7 issue and Monday, Feb. 4, is deadline for Feb. 14. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, Jan. 24

COMEDY CABARET

Calling all amateur comedians and raconteurs. Know any good jokes? Like to tell funny stories? Come to Bernard Betel Centre's Comedy Cabaret 2:30 p.m. **Ruth Cohen**. 416-225-2112.

Friday, Jan. 25

MUSICAL LEGACY

Temple Sinai marks Shabbat Shira with **Cantor Tzvi Taub** presenting a program of music by composers **Louis Lewandowski** and **Salomon Sulzer**. Performed by soloists and choir, this 19th-century music is included in the service and in special additions to it. 8:15 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

With guest speaker **Paula Mintzberg**, respite services co-ordinator for Bernard Betel Centre, presented by Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood. Services at 9 a.m. followed by luncheon. Prepaid reservations. **Cynthia Bielak** 416-635-6890.

RARELY SEEN FILM

Screening of *The Harmonists*, the story of the rise and fall of a vocal group that was popular in Germany before it was disbanded in 1934 as part of the increasing persecution of Jews. 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3838.

JEWISH COMPOSERS

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am's showcase of music by Jewish composers features **Judy Peleg**, piano, and **Josef Peleg**, violin, plus special performances by **Cantor Marshall Loomer** and **Shneur Bielak**, 8 p.m. 416-633-5500.

Sunday, Jan. 27

TU B'SHVAT EVENT

Jewish Discovery Museum celebration of the New Year of the Trees. Plant herbs that will grow for Passover, learn more about different kinds of leaves and trees, play tree games, sing songs about trees, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Bathurst JCC. 415-636-1880, ext. 456.

YIDDISHLAND CAFE

Workmen's Circle Yiddishland Cafe evening, Stories, Fables, Songs: Y.L. Peretz, E. Steinbarg, P. Miransky, Women Poets and Composers. Performers are **Chaya Thalenberg**, **Lenka Lichtenberg**, **Nina Shapilsky**, **Michael Ziskins**, 7:30 p.m., 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Reserve 416-787-2081.

DEAD SEA SCROLLS

A lecture and slide presentation on The Dead Sea Scrolls and the History of Judaism, with **Lawrence Schiffman**, 8 p.m., Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto, 613 Clark Ave. W., Thornhill. 905-886-3810.

TU B'SHVAT SEDER

The Jewish Vegetarian Society of Toronto Tu b'Shvat seder, 6 p.m., Zionist Building, 788 Marlee Ave. Kosher vegan food. Reserve. **Evelyn**. 416-485-9164.

WINGATE BRANCH

General Wingate branch, Royal Canadian Legion, breakfast, nosh, general members meeting 9:15 a.m., Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave.

EMBRACING JUDAISM

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda series based on the text *Embracing Judaism* by **Simcha Kling** concludes with Judaism and Christianity. 9:30-10:45 a.m. Instructors **Rabbi Howard Morrison** and **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer**.

Continued on page 21

A P S

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Qualified candidates interested in exploring this unique opportunity, on a confidential basis, may e-mail their resumes to *execdirector13@hotmail.com*. Please note that only those candidates whose backgrounds and qualifications most closely match our position requirements will be contacted.

Continued from page 20

TU B'SHVAT EVENT

The New Year for the trees, 7 p.m., Kaballah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W. 416-631-9391.

Monday, Jan. 28

THE JAZZ SINGER

The Toronto Film Society presents the movie *The Jazz Singer* with **Al Jolson**, 7:30 p.m., Jackman Hall Theatre, Art Gallery of Ontario. 416-363-7222.

Tuesday, Jan. 29

THE JEWS OF ROME

Beth Tikvah Synagogue 3-part series on the history of the Jews of Italy continues with The Jews of Rome. Interactive discussion follows video and lecture. Presenter **Gerald Zeidenberg**. 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Jewish Genealogical Society monthly meeting, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. **Prof. Pietr Wrobel**, University of Toronto, speaks on Warsaw – the 19th-Century Capital of World Jewry?

Thursday, Jan. 31

SIX WAYS TO ASK GOD

Toronto Jewish Healing Project series, Six Rabbis: Six Ways to Ask God, continues with Addressing God: Does One Need a Stamp? with **Rabbi Ronald Weiss**, director of chaplaincy services, Jewish Family & Child Service. 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**, 416-944-3359.

And What Else Is New

MEKOROT INSTITUTE

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women's two new mini-courses:

Lo Bashamayim: Authority and Innovation in Jewish Law with **Prof. Eric Lawee,** Sundays 8-10 p.m., Feb. 3, 10, 17 and 24, Yeshivat Or Chaim, 159 Almore Ave. Open to men and women.

Mekorot Downtown Brown Bag Seminar – Esther: The Scroll of Exile and the Dawn of Redemption with **Hilda Weil**. Wednesdays, 12:30 p.m., Feb. 6, 13, 20, at the offices of Heenan Blaikie, 26th floor, Royal Bank Plaza (South Tower at Bay and Front streets.)

New term for continuing courses begins Feb. 4.

Register 416-398-1510.

HEALING PROJECT

Toronto Jewish Healing Project is offering a 6-week group, Coping With Your Physical Illness: A Spiritual Support Group beginning Wednesday, Feb. 6, 2-3:30 p.m., at Beth Tzedec Congregation. Led by **Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum** and music therapist **Mary Rykov**. Register. **Ella** 416-944-3359.

WOMEN'S ROUNDTABLE

Women's Roundtable Weekly Meditation, a 5-week learning session for women only, Inspirational thoughts on the weekly Torah portion in a relaxed home setting. Moms and tots welcome. Begins Wednesday, Jan. 30. Sponsored by Jewish Russian Community Centre Women's Institute of Torah Study. Call **Chana Weisberg**, dean of WITS, for information about winter semester courses. 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

HEBREW READING

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue 5-week course on Hebrew Reading, Level II, developed by the National Jewish Outreach Program, for those with a basic ability to read Hebrew who want to practise reading Shabbat morning prayers and learn the meaning of commonly used words. Begins Sunday, Feb. 3, 9:30-11 a.m. Register. 416-633-3838.

SHABBAT SHIRA

Beth Tzedec Congregation hosts **Cantor Meir Finkelstein** for Shabbat Shira, Jan. 25 and 26. Finkelstein is a composer of synagogue liturgy, teacher and lecturer on the history of Jewish music, the Bible and the Hebrew language. Service at 8:45 a.m.

BREAKFAST GATHERING

The Sisterhood of Adath Sholom Synagogue, 864 Sheppard Ave. W., Breakfast Gathering featuring author **Alvin Abram** with unusual, intriguing and positive stories of the Holocaust. Sunday, Feb. 3, 9:30 a.m. Reserve. 416-635-0131.

DOWNTOWN PROGRAM

The Downtown Jewish Learning Council presents Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Judaism But Had No One to Ask, a 4-part program with **Rabbi Michael Skobac** of Jews for Judaism. Begins Wednesday, Feb. 6, at 7:30 p.m. at the Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. Register. 416-924-6211.

SINGING GROUP

All are welcome to join the Yiddish/Hebrew singing group, Wednesdays 7:30 p.m. at First Narayever Synagogue. Taught by **Allan Merovitz.** 416-516-4856.

JEWISH MEDITATION

Meditation exercise to learn how to relieve stress, focus your thoughts, develop your consciousness and more with **Chashi Skobac** who has taught meditation classes and workshops in Canada and the United States. Begins Thursday, Jan. 24, at 8 p.m.for 6 weeks at Chabad Lubavich Markham, 83 Green Lane, Thornhill. 905-886-0420.

SUPPORT GROUP

Circle of Care Adult Children's Support Group for adult children caring for a parent with an irreversible cognitive impairment such as Alzheimer's disease, 8 sessions, beginning Tuesday, Feb. 5, 6-7:30 p.m. at 530 Wilson Ave. **Tania Pape** 416-635-2860, ext. 472.

BBYO FROM MONTREAL

B'nai Brith Youth Organization is looking for all former alumni of LRA (Montreal) region who have moved to Toronto. This is a great way to renew your old friendships. If you are interested in being part of the BBYO Alumni call **Elliott Moldaver** at 416-661-2430 or BBYO office 416-398-2004.

COME OUT & PLAY

This workshop presents playful ways to enhance parent-child interaction, with child psychotherapist **Liana Lowenstein,** Tuesday, Feb. 5, 7-10 p.m. at the Village Shul, 1027 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-785-1107, ext. 204. Course is geared to parents of children ages 3-12.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups and workshops. For information or to register, **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids, Tuesday, Jan. 29, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313.

The Challenge of Anger for Women, Thursday, Jan. 31, 7:30-9 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 6th floor. Six sessions.

Coping With Cancer support group for women begins in February. **Sheila Walker**, ext. 260.

WEEKLY MEDITATION

Weekly Jewish Meditation with **Rabbi Moshe Kirsh** every Thursday, 9-10 p.m. starting Jan. 31 at Congregation Ohr Penimi (Orthodox), 51 Elgin St. 905-889-0793.

FOR SENIORS

Join **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Sunday dance at the community centre Jan. 27, 7 p.m.; Casino Rama Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 29; Casino Niagara Feb. 14; Collingwood, Blue Mountain Pottery and Candy Factory Feb. 28; Dancersize classes every Thursday at 10 a.m.; Membership open. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Jan. 24, lecture by **Ely Shanhav**; Jan. 31, video concert with **Barbra Streisand.** For information, **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays for movies, lectures, singalongs, dances, bingo. Jan. 29, Tu b'Shvat party. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Gladiator*, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 27.

Beautyworks: Skin and Fragrance with **Shireen**, cosmetic manager, Shoppers Drug Mart, Thursday, Jan. 31, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Joan,** ext. 126.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Between Stages Reading Series, in association with Theaturtle and Threshold Theatre, presents a public reading of *Kafka and Son*, a new play based on **Franz Kafka's** *Letter to his Father*, starring **Alon Nashman**, directed by **Mark Cassidy** and designed by **Marysia Buchole**. Thursday, Jan. 31, 8 p.m. For information, **Esther Arbeid.**

Seniors programs: Thursday, Jan. 24, 2 p.m., The Return "Home," **Margaret Cohen-Teuter** talks about her life in Kaiserslautern, Germany, during the war; Thursday, Jan. 31, 2 p.m. Golden Oldie movie.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Register now for winter courses: Bridge, instructor **Joel Shapiro**; Ballroom Dancing; Chai Dancers; Current Events; Drama – Habima Players; Needlecrafts; Folkdancing; Yoga; Line Dancing; plus Learning Experiences, Luncheons and Arts Unlimited Outings.

Early Childhood Department: Spaces open for September Tic Tac Two runs 9:15-11:15 a.m., September to June. Class options are Monday-Wednesday-Friday, Tuesday-Thursday or Monday-Friday. A second morning nursery room opens in September. Ext. 351.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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Or by email to: **dannydavids@cogeco.ca**

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-William Arthur Ward-

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Do you know a teacher in a Toronto Jewish Day School who inspired you or someone you know? We invite parents, grandparents, students, former students, school administrators and colleagues to nominate that teacher for a Teacher of Excellence award.

Please visit our web site at www.teacherawards.org to share with us the reasons why your teacher is deserving of a Teacher of Excellence award. Nomination forms may also be requested by phoning 519-621-3620 x2210.

Check out our internet edition at www.cjnews.com
The Canadian Jewish news

Coast to Coast

Veteran Gray resigns from House of Commons

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Canada's Jewish voice in Parliament and the cabinet has been reduced by one with the unexpected departure from politics of Herb Gray in the wake of Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's cabinet shuffle last week.

Gray, one of the longest-serving MPs in Canadian history and deputy prime minister until the shuffle, will head the Canadian section of the International Joint Commission, which monitors air and water quality issues between Canada and the United States.

Through 40 years and eight prime ministers, Gray ascended to the highest level of any Jewish politician in Canada. He ran and won in 13 straight elections, beginning in 1962 with a victory, in his first attempt, in the seat of Windsor West.

His resignation from the Commons reduces the number of Jewish MPs to five, and leaves just one in cabinet, as Elinor Caplan was shifted from citizenship and immigration to minister of national revenue – a move some observers saw as a demotion.

Herb Gray

Gray, 70, relinquished the title of deputy prime minister, a post he assumed in 1997, to the man who emerged as the biggest winner in Chrétien's shuffle, John Manley.

Earlier this month in an interview with *The CJN*, Gray defended his attendance at a global gathering in Israel of elected Jewish politicians from around the world. Canada was the only participating nation to have sent two senior cabinet ministers to the conference, Gray and Caplan, in addition to three other MPs and two senators.

There was no hint from Gray at the time that he was in his final few days in politics.

Gray was the first Jewish Canadian to become a federal cabinet minister when he was appointed by then-prime minister Pierre Trudeau in 1969.

In lauding his long-time colleague and friend, Chrétien said Gray "has been a public servant in the truest and best sense of the term. It has been a great honour to serve with him."

Manley also took time to praise Gray: "His service as a minister has been outstanding and his shoes are very large ones to fill."

One indication of how warmly Gray was regarded was reflected in a rare honour last week. Prior to leaving cabinet, Gov.-Gen. Adrienne Clarkson awarded Gray the title of Right Honourable, the highest designation public officeholders can have in Canada. It's usually reserved for current and former prime ministers, governors general and chief justices of the Supreme Court of Canada.

Gray seemed resigned to his new fate.

"Anybody who's in cabinet serves at the behest and request of the prime minister, who can decide to make a change at any time," he was quoted as saying last week. "I recognize that there is a logical end to any type of activity, and it seemed appropriate to use this major shuffle to move on to other challenges."

Gray modelled his political career on the late Paul Martin Sr. and David Croll, the latter a one-time mayor of Windsor, MP and senator, said Gray's long-time friend, Senator Jerry Grafstein.

"He had a conspicuous career unmatched by anybody in public life, both in longevity and contribution" Grafstein told *The CJN*. "Above all, he had a deep personal integrity."

Gray often said he was especially proud of having turned the post of deputy prime minister from little more than a title into a full-time job, to the extent that Manley's appointment to the position was seen as a promotion.

He served as acting prime minister in the prime minister's absence in the House of Commons.

Although not a flashy personality or dramatic speaker, even critics conceded Gray had a knack for deflecting questions from the Opposition, and was not above trading barbs. In one instance a few years ago, he used several Yiddish words and expressions to rebut a question, but the Speaker stopped him, saying there was no way of knowing whether the words were "parliamentary."

Prior to the Brian Mulroney era, Gray served in several cabinet portfolios, including national revenue, consumer and corporate affairs, industry, trade and commerce, and the treasury board.

When the Tories were in power, he spent six years as Opposition House Leader and nearly a year as Leader of the Opposition after John Turner stepped down and before Chrétien was chosen Liberal leader.

In 1993, following the Liberals' victory, he was named Leader of the Government in the House as well as solicitor general.

Gray always wore a kippah and clutched a silver-clad family Bible, purchased at the Montreal Judaica shop Rodal's, whenever he was sworn into cabinet.

A member of Windsor's Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue, Gray believed that what was good for Canadians as a whole was good for the Jewish community, and he was a strong advocate for human rights and freedom of conscience.

* * *

Canadian Jewish Congress is studying the cabinet shuffle, says Eric Vernon of CJC's Ottawa office. Congress will soon seek a meeting with the new justice minister, Martin Cauchon, to review communal priorities such as Nazi war criminals, hate crimes and hate on the Internet, Vernon said.

Continued on page 23

LETTERS:

Premier Praises Our Jewish Citizens

There is not a vestige of racial antagonism or bigotry in Newfoundland, Premier Smallwood has declared. In a letter to a national Jewish organization, the Premier expressed his pride in the fact that "Newfoundlanders are tolerant and broad-minded." He was commenting on the great, and universal respect that all residents of this province have for members of the Newfoundland Jewish community. Here is the full text of Mr. Smallwood's letter to the Chairman of the Canadian Jewish Literary Foundation:

The Government of the Province
of Newfoundland
THE PREMIER
St. John's

Dr. E. Gottesman,
Chairman, Editorial Board,
The Canadian Jewish Literary Foundation,
186 Adelaide Street West,
Toronto 1, Ontario.

18 January, 1962.

Dear Doctor Gottesman:

It is difficult to write something special about the Jewish people who are in Newfoundland, because they have blended so perfectly into our Newfoundland life as to form part of it and to be indistinguishable from it. We never notice whether a man is Jewish or not, in Newfoundland. We have such a distinctive Newfoundland viewpoint of our own, which is in so many ways different from anything to be found in the rest of Canada, and is so pronounced and different, that anyone coming to live amongst us quickly falls into place as one of us, sharing in our special viewpoints and accepting our special tastes, likes and dislikes. This is true even of so distinctive a people as the Jews. That is why we find so many cases, in Newfoundland, of Jews being amongst the leaders in the expression of our distinctive Island culture.

I am intensely proud of the fact that Newfoundlanders are tolerant and broadminded. There is not even a vestige of racial antagonism or bigory here. In every walk of life Jewish people are regarded and treated as just so many more Newfoundlanders. They are universally respected knd liked, for the sufficient reason that they are good people.

With best wishes.

Sincerely yours,
J. R. SMALLWOOD,
Premier.

THE HERALD is glad to endorse Mr. Smallwood's sentiments and knows that all Newfoundlanders will do likewise.

FROM THE ARCHIVES: A letter from Premier Joey Smallwood to Jewish Newfoundlanders 40 years ago. ***Thanks to L. Nathanson of Toronto.***

WARMING UP WINTER: Senior kindergarten students at the United Synagogue Day School's Bathurst campus recently raised more than $600 to buy jackets, snowsuits, scarves and mittens for Jewish children in need. Each student made a tzedakah box and collected money for one month. Proceeds were presented to Jewish Family & Child Service communications manager Karen Paikin, centre. With Paikin are students Yael Matlow, left, and Joshua Nash.

CJC to take up issues with new ministers

Continued from page 22

CJC is seeking amendments to the Criminal Code to beef up the government's recently passed anti-terrorism law, Bill C-36. The law considers attacks on houses of worship and cemeteries to be hate crimes, but CJC would like the law expanded to include attacks on communal property, schools and community centres.

Vernon said Congress is "concerned" that the multiculturalism portfolio has been folded into a larger post: labour, status of women and multiculturalism, now held by Claudette Bradshaw.

The new citizenship and immigration minister, Denis Coderre, will also hear from CJC on the continuing need to strip Nazi war criminals of their Canadian citizenship should they be found to have lied about their past.

Congress also seeks "a fair and compassionate" immigration policy, but one that keeps terrorists and modern-day war criminals out, Vernon said.

At the Canadian Heritage ministry, still held by Sheila Copps, CJC's priorities remain the enactment of a federal statute that would set aside a day to commemorate the Holocaust, as well as the establishment of a free-standing Holocaust museum in Ottawa.

At foreign affairs, now held by Toronto MP Bill Graham, Congress's agenda includes anti-terrorism measures, recognition of Israel's Magen David Adom, anti-Semitism in Europe and the former Soviet republics, and the use of international forums to attack Israel.

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Canada to send 19 delegates to World Zionist Congress

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canada will send 19 delegates to the World Zionist Congress, to be held in Jerusalem June 17-20.

That's up from the 16 delegates Canada sent to the last congress in 1997.

Canada was originally allotted 16 representatives for the 2002 congress, but the Canadian Zionist Federation (CZF) petitioned the World Zionist Organization (WZO) to boost the number, based on a larger, and more active, Canadian population.

World Zionist Congresses are held every four or five years and bring Zionists to Israel from around the world to hammer out priorities and policies of the WZO.

The breakdown of the Canadians is as follows:

- United Torah Coalition (Orthodoxy's Zionist arm, comprising Mizrachi and Emunah): Four delegates;
- Arza Canada (Reform): Four;
- Mercaz Canada (Conservative): Three;
- Labor Zionist Coalition (comprising Labor Zionist Alliance of Canada, Na'amat, and Friends of Pioneering Israel): Three;
- Herut-Likud Canada: Three;
- Zionist Organization of Canada (ZOC): One;
- Gesher Mizrachi, a Sephardi Orthodox group: One.

Each delegate is entitled to bring at least one alternate.

As expected, the CZF did not hold nationwide elections for delegates, saying they would be too costly and potentially divisive.

In the United States, elections to fill the 145 seats allotted to the American delegation are almost always marred by public barbs between Reform and Orthodox groups.

Norman Stern, the CZF's national vice-president, as well as president of Mercaz Canada, said no election is necessary in Canada "as long as there's 100 percent agreement" on the delegation's makeup.

There were no Canadian elections to the last two congresses either.

Stern said elections would have been expensive. As well, "in an election, there's mudslinging and words that shouldn't be said. That's the last thing we needed given the situation in Israel."

Traditionally, Israel receives 40 per cent of delegates, and the United States about 30 per cent

The makeup of the Canadian delegation is based on membership in each group, Stern said. "Is everyone happy?" he asked. "Probably not." Some 500 delegates are expected at this summer's congress, the 34th.

Traditionally, Israel receives some 40 per cent of delegates, and the United States about 30 per cent, with the remainder from the rest of the world.

The WZO shares responsibility for the $350 million annual budget of its organizational partner, the powerful Jewish Agency, with most of that money earmarked for immigrant absorption and education. A large chunk of those funds comes from North American United Jewish Appeals.

Stern expects the congress will discuss major issues such as tourism to Israel and how to get young people more committed to the Jewish state, despite the current turmoil.

In the United States, Reform and Orthodox groups are again trading sharp words over election tactics.

In the last U.S. election five years ago, ARZA/World Union, the Reform movement's Zionist arm, emerged as the clear victor, winning nearly 48 per cent of the American ballots.

That translated into 70 of 145 seats, and led to twice as much funds for its programs – $2 million – from the Jewish Agency.

– With files from JTA

Record sales of Israel Bonds in 2001

TORONTO — Sales of Israel Bonds last year, both worldwide and in Canada, were by far the highest in history, said the executive vice-president for Israel Bonds in Canada.

Last year, worldwide sales rose more than 20 percent to $1.09 billion. This surpassed a previous high set during the Gulf War year of 1991.

Canadian sales were up by more than 50 percent over 2000 and there was a 12.5 percent rise in the number of clients, said Lawrence Waller.

Specific numbers were not released, but in a typical year, Canada accounts for 10 percent of worldwide sales, and in 2001, the figure was closer to 15 percent.

Waller said many things contributed to the success of Israel Bonds in Canada. "Certainly, the intense support for Israel in times of crisis is a major factor. But we are also benefiting from vastly improved customer service, a wide range of investment options, and most especially, above-average market rates."

The announcement of the Canadian results came after the Israeli Ministry of Finance said it will permit the sale of Israel Bonds to reach an unprecedented $1.25 billion (US) in 2002.

Gideon Patt, president and CEO of Israel Bonds, worldwide, said "the exceptional results in 2001 demonstrate Israel Bonds' ability to inject capital into Israel's development budget and maintain contacts with an increasing number of people and entities.

"Israel Bonds account for over half of the external, foreign loan needs of the Israeli Treasury in a calendar year," he said.

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רעדאַגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

דער באַטייט פון חמישה־עשר (טו) בשבט

פון אַלעק סילווער

אַחוץ דעם חודש חשון האָט יעדער אַנדערער חודש אין ייִדישן קאַלענדאַר אַ ספּעציעלן טאָג אַדער ספּעציעלע טעג, וואָס זייַנען ספּעציפיש פאַר דעם חודש. צי עס איז אַ פייערונג, אַ יום־טוב אַדער אַ תענית, וויסט מען, אַז עס קומט אויס אין באַשטימטן חודש. איצט זיינען מיר אין חודש שבט, וועלכער האָט איין ספּעציעלן טאָג אין גאַנצן חודש. דאָס איז חמישה־עשר (טו) בשבט — דער 15טער טאָג אין חודש שבט — וועלכער מאַלט אויס תּו״ר דעם 28סטן יאַנואַר.

וואָס איז דער טאָג אזוי ספּעציעל? וועגן מיד גייַען צוריק צו די רעליגיעזע מקורות געפינט מען, אַז דער טאָג ווערט באַצייכנט ווי „ראש השנה לאילנות״ — דער נייַיאָר פאַר די ביימער. פאַר וואָס אַ ראש־השנה פאַר ביימער? פאַר וואָס פונקט דעם 15טן טאָג אין שבט? אין פאַר וואָס זעפּיזט זיך דאָס אין דער משנה (משנה ראש השנה, פּרק א), וואָס איז אונדזער קלאַסישער מקור פאַר די ייִדישע געזעצן?

דעם ענטפער קען מען באַקומען פון זעלבן מקור. עס איז פאַרבונדן מיט אַן אַנדערן אַספּעקט פון ייִדישן געזעץ — דאָס געבן מעשר פון די ריפּע פרוכטן. דאָס מיינט, אַז ווען אַן אייגנטימער פון אַ בוים אַדער אַ סאַד זאָמלט אויף אַלע ריפּע פרוכטן, וואָס זיינען גשמיותקען אין משך פון יאָר, מוז ער אָפּטיילן מעשר, אַ צענט־חלק. דאָס ווערט אויסגעגעבן ווי אַ שטייער צו די רעליגיעזע אינסטאַנצן. דאָ איז אויפגעקומען אַ לעגאַלע פראַבלעם: וואָס קען באַסטאַנדט ווערן ווי אַ „יאָר״? אויב מען מוז צאָלן שטייערן פאַר אַ יאָר, איז גוט פון פאַרשיס צו וויסן ווען דאָס יאָר הייבט זיך אָן און ווען עס עדזיקט זיך.

סו בשבט איז באַשטימט געוואָרן ווי דער אָנהייב פון יאָר צו געבן מעשר. אָלע פרוכט־ביימער צעוואַקסן פאַר סו בשבט זיינען גענוען צוגערעכנט צום פריערדיקן יאָר. דאָקעגן די פרוכט־ביימער, וואָס האָבן אויפגעבליט נאָך סו בשבט זיינען גענוארן צוגערעכנט צו די איינגעמאַכטע פרוכטן פון קומענדיקן יאָר. צוליב דעם ווערט חמישה־עשר בשבט אָנגענייכנט ווי דאָס נייַיאָר פאַר ביימער. עס איז אַ וויכטיקע דאַטע פאַר ייִדישע געזעצן אין עס קומט פון דער משנה.

ייִדן אין די תפוצות פּייַערן דורך עסן אַן מחנה זיך אַנדערע מיט פרוכטן, וואָס וואַקסן אין ישראל. אויב דאָס איז טייל מאָל נישט צוגענגלעך, ווערן אַרויסגעשטעלט אויפן טיש די מינים פרוכטן, וואָס די תורה אידענטיפיצירט מיטן לאַנד פון די אָבות — ווייַנטרויבן, מילגרוימען, פייגן, באַקסער, טייטלען. אַן ספּק זיינען פאַראַן בי ייִדן פארשיידענע מנהגים, וועלכע פרוכטן צו עסן אין דעם טאָג. אין אַ צאָל קהילות עסט מען פונדעסטוועגן פון לאַנד.

מחוץ לאַרץ איז אפשר שווער צו פארשטיין די וויכטיקייט פון דעם טאָג. אָבער אין מדינת ישראל ווערט פּמעט יעדעס קינד אַדער יונגעלעכער אַריינגעצויגן אין דער צערעמאָניע פון פלאַנצן ביימער, וואָס זיינען נויטווענדיק פאַרן לאַנד. הונדערטער אויטאָבוסן מיט קינדער פאָרן אין ספּעציעלע געגנטן צו פלאַנצן ביימער. טויזנטער פּאָרן אין ספּעציעלע געגנטן צו פלאַנצן ביימער. טויזנטער ביימער זיינען שוין פארפלאַנצט געוואָרן, וואָס האָט שטאַרק געעדערט די גאַווירטשאַפט פון לאַנד.

די בידגערס פון ישראל שאַצן זייער אַף דעם ווסק פון ביימער אין דאָס ווערט אַרויסגעוויזן אויף פארשידענע אופנים. ספּעציעל קומט עס צום אויסדרוק ווען עס קומט אונטער אַ געלעגנהייט צו באַערן אַ נעוויסע פּערזענלעכקייט. אַנשטאָט מעדאַלן אוך „פלאַקס״ ווערן גפלאַנצט ביימער אַדער וועלדלעך אין זיין נאָמען. בכּ־אַן בת־מצוות ווערן באַערט דורך פלאַנצן ביימער אין זייערע נעמען. דאָס זעלבע ווערט געטאָן אין אַנדערע פון באַקאַנטע מענטשן אוך פאַרטיכטעטע ייִדישע קהילות. אייניע פון די איז דאָס באַערן מיט ביימער די העלדן פון די „חסידי אומות העולם״.

איז עס טאַקע אין מדינת ישראל וווּ די וויכטיקייט פון דעם קליינעם יום־טוב קען אַמשטאַרקסטן באַווייזן ווערן.

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Irwin Cotler, Professor of Law at McGill University and Member of Parliament for Mount Royal.
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Thomas Lutz, Memorial Section, Topography of Terror Foundation, Berlin
Myra Novogrodsky, Faculty of Education, York University
Piotr Trojanski, History Department, Krakow Pedagogical University

If you would like to reserve a light kosher dinner for Sunday night or for further information, please call the Centre for Jewish Studies at 416-736-5823.

Implications of Karine-A affair

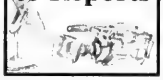
Among the limited media attention devoted to Israel's seizure of the Karine-A cargo ship carrying fifty tons of heavy weaponry, there was some carping about how Israel had used the incident to mount a propaganda victory over Yasser Arafat.

Much of the western media, however, has ignored the important story concerning the growing alliance between the Palestinan Authority (PA) and Iran.

Robert Satloff, executive director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, has written an article called "Karine-A: The Strategic Implications of Iranian-Palestinian Collusion" (*Policywatch*, Jan. 15) that should be required reading for all journalists concerned with the Middle East. Satloff argues that the Iranian-Palestinian-Hezbollah collusion to smuggle heavy weapons from Iran to the PA has "profound strategic implications for the Middle East."

After outlining the traditional animosity between the fundamentalist Iranian regime and the secular PA, Satloff argues that Karine-A proves that, at least on the tactical level, both parties have set aside that animosity in order to join in a military confrontation against Israel.

According to Reports



Satloff is furthermore troubled by the United States' acceptance of this collusion. It has, Satloff says, so far refused to deal with its implications for two reasons: first, because the Karine-A represents "the worst nightmare scenario of the Arab-Israeli peace process" and second, because "dealing with the implications of the Karine-A will, in the short term, threaten the tranquil U.S.-Arab ties that the administration sought so assiduously to preserve."

It is irresponsible for some journalists to underplay the significance of the PA's intentions by romanticizing their arms acquisition as either "justified resistance to occupation" or as being equivalent to how the Jews in the Yishuv acquired arms for use against the British.

Missing from media coverage of the Middle East conflict is any serious discussion of Iran and Iraq's rapid proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The top priority for the United States – in fact, for all western powers, including Canada – should be efforts to check Iran's weapons of mass destruction (WMD) program. Former Iranian president Hashemi Rafsanjani's recently declared nuclear threat against Israel highlights how much of a danger Iran's weapons of mass destruction can pose.

Instead of campaigning against Israel's nuclear weapons (developed solely for defensive purposes), some leading intellectuals and artists should be raising alarm bells about Iran – and Iraq's – nuclear campaign, the declared purpose of which is offensive and hence destabilizing, not only for Israel but for the entire Middle East and beyond.

Prepared by Paul Michaels of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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U.S. to review relations with PA

By ALUF BENN and NATHAN GUTTMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — U.S. officials will meet soon to review relations with the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the aftermath of the capture of the Karine A weapons ship earlier this month.

During the discussion, which is to be held when U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell returns to Washington, D.C., from his Asian tour, U.S. officials will decide whether special peace envoy Anthony Zinni is to be sent to the region.

After the meeting, U.S. President George Bush will brief Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon about his administration's decision.

Powell made clear earlier this week that the U.S. has not withdrawn its demand that the PA furnish explanations about the Karine A affair. Interviewed in Tokyo by ABC, Powell said "I hope that [Arafat] will take us very seriously, and supply answers" to the U.S. questions about PA involvement.

Despite criticism stirred by the Karine A affair, it does not appear the Bush administration will sever relations with the PA and Chairman Yasser Arafat. U.S sources say the Bush administration will continue to demand Arafat "reduce the threat" of future attacks by dismantling the terror infrastructure maintained by Hamas and Islamic Jihad.

Top U.S. officials who met in recent days in Washington with IDF Chief of Staff Shaul Mofaz acknowledged that the loading of weapons by Iran on a boat headed for the PA has strategic implications for Israel and the region. But, the U.S. officials told Mofaz, it is not clear whether this new strategic reality requires a change in U.S. policy.

In his ABC interview, Powell refrained from criticizing steps taken by the IDF in retaliation for the terror attack last week in Hadera. But he did note that in a vicious circle of violence, "when one response leads to a counter-response," there is "no progress."

IDF takes over Tulkarm

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Palestinian Authority will file a complaint to the United Nations Security Council and demand the council immediately convene to discuss Israel's actions in the territories, Nabil Abu Rudeineh, Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat's senior advisor, said Monday.

Dozens of tanks backed by helicopters took over Tulkarm before dawn Monday, imposing a curfew and arresting dozens of suspected militants. The incursion marks the first time Israeli troops have taken control of an entire Palestinian city since the start of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza.

In gunfire between IDF forces and armed Palestinians Monday, a 19-year-old gunman was killed and a 42-year-old civilian was critically wounded, Palestinian doctors said. Seven more were also wounded in the clashes.

At least five Palestinians were arrested in house-to-house searches in Tulkarm, most of them suspected Hamas activists.

The IDF said the operation was ordered because Tulkarm was "a focus of terrorism" and that many terrorists had launched their operations from there. At the beginning of the operation, authorities announced that the IDF measures were directed against "terrorist infrastructures" and not the PA.

Responding to Palestinian charges that Israel had re-conquered and re-occupied the town, IDF Colonel Yair Golan, commander of the Nahal infantry brigade said, "We have not come to settle in Tulkarm, but we will sit here for as long as we feel that we have further preventive policies that we should carry out within the city."

The raid came in reprisal for a string of shooting attacks, including one by a Palestinian on a banquet hall in Israel last week. The assailant killed six Israelis before being shot dead by Israeli police.

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IDF, civilian experts divided on Iran

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Comment

A lack of quality intelligence hampers Israel's ability to assess the threat posed by Iran. Intelligence agencies find it almost impossible to penetrate Iran – even countries friendly with Tehran's Islamic regime lack adequate intelligence on developments there. Israel has only a fuzzy picture of what goes on inside the regime.

"I've never heard of any agency that pretends to have information about what's happening there," says one well-placed Israeli official. "Most of the information that we get is technical in character, about capabilities." The source admitted Israeli officials are held at a disadvantage by the paucity of information about Iranian intentions.

The only real information Israel gets about Tehran's plans "comes from the regime's public declarations – this could itself be an [intelligence] failure since it's not always clear whether declarations can be taken at face value," the source said.

As Israel Defence Forces (IDF) intelligence officials see it, Iran has for years advocated Israel's destruction and has systematically devised policies geared to this objective. To reinforce this bleak view, IDF officers point to a long list of incendiary declarations made by Tehran's leaders over the years, calling for Israel's annihilation. They believe the Iranians mean what they say. As they accelerate efforts to procure nuclear weapons, the IDF warns, Iranian officials see Israel as a potential target.

Also, the IDF claims, Tehran sees the Palestinians' "terror campaign" as an opportunity to advance the strategic goal. Iran has shown increasing readiness to back the intifadah, as exemplified by Tehran's sending the Karine A ship, loaded with weapons, to the Palestinian Authority.

IDF intelligence analysts keep tabs on internal tensions in Iran, but do not believe proponents of reform pose a serious challenge to the hard-line Islamic leadership. At most, the IDF experts believe, some thaw in Iran's Islamic regime could occur after a five- or six-year period. For now, they say, the reformers have not exerted any influence on Iran's foreign policy, which is crafted by Ayotallah Ali Khameini's religious leadership.

IDF military analysts and other intelligence officials stress other aspects of Iran's systematic offensive against Israel:

- Hezbollah has 8,000 missiles in Southern Lebanon, 300 of which are long- range weapons controlled directly by Iran.
- In addition to support for Hezbollah, Iranian links with Hamas and Islamic Jihad continue.
- The Iranians try to radicalize Israeli Arabs, particularly by influencing Israel's Islamic movement.

This dark picture painted by IDF officers is not shared by well-placed civilian figures. Non-military Israelis who have met with Iranians believe popular pressure will bring change in the country. They say there are important, dissident voices in Iran that must not be overlooked.

Though Israel and Iran do not have official contacts, semi-secret discussions have been held in recent years ostensibly between academics, in what are called "Twin-Track" channels sponsored by western research institutions.

Participants in these contacts have included Brig. Gen. (ret.) Shlomo Brom from the Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies at Tel Aviv University and ambassador Oded Eran, who has been a senior member of Israeli negotiation teams with the Palestinians.

As Brom and Eran see it, Israel is not a main item on Iran's foreign policy agenda. The regime adopts a militant stance toward Israel, Brom and Eran believe, mainly for internal, domestic purposes. Iran's major strategic concerns are much closer to home, and involve Iraq, the Gulf states, Afghanistan and some republics in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Brom and Eran's view partly resembles that of Mossad head Ephraim Halevy. Last month, Halevy referred somewhat elliptically to "hidden signals about the possibility of reconciliation" with Israel that can be heard in Tehran. These signals, the Mossad chief stressed, are not as significant right now as the "harsh, stridently" anti-Israel noises in Iran, and yet the more moderate voices exist nonetheless. Halevy's remark was interpreted by Israeli sources as a reference to moderate elements in Iran, who can be contacted by sources in Israel.

In Israel's Foreign Ministry, officials say the anti-Israel hostility of the Islamic revolution in Iran remains intact and Iran's President Mohammad Khatami upholds the anti-Israeli position despite his reputation as a moderate. If there are voices calling for reconciliation with Israel, they are on the margins of the Iranian regime, the officials stress.

Recently, several senior Foreign Ministry officials proposed that Israel take steps to reduce tensions with Tehran and send a message to reform-inclined members of the Iranian leadership that Jerusalem has no intention of threatening their country, meddling in its internal affairs or taking steps to topple the Islamic regime.

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Jan. 14

• The head of the Fatah militia, Raed Karmi, was killed in Tulkarm by an explosion the circumstances of which were unclear.

• Palestinians killed an Israeli and wounded another in a drive-by shooting in the West Bank.

Jan. 15

• A 72-year old Israeli was ambushed and killed when he drove into the Bethlehem area. He was shot 20 times.

• An Israeli woman was killed in a shooting near Givat Ze'ev on the outskirts of Jerusalem.

Jan. 16

• Israel will not join a planned international war crimes court because the treaty establishing the court defines the settlements in Gaza and the West Bank as a war crime, according to Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit.

• A prison parole board refused to grant early release to former Shas Party leader Arye Deri, who petitioned the board after serving half of his four-year jail sentence.

Jan. 17

• A Palestinian gunman killed six Israelis and wounded 33 others in a banquet hall in Hadera.

• Nearly two-thirds of Israelis support house demolitions and targeted killings in the current conflict with the Palestinians, according to a survey by Israeli Radio.

Jan. 18

• IDF troops returned to positions in Ramallah that they had held until a few weeks ago, and IDF planes destroyed a Palestinian security post in Tulkarm. Palestinian hospital officials said one police officer was killed and at least 18 people – 12 police officers and six civilians – were wounded in the IDF attack, which came in response to a shooting the previous night in Hadera.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

Vatican calls Nazareth mosque 'unacceptable' to Christians

By ORI NIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — In an unprecedented public attack, the Vatican representative dealing with the controversy surrounding the Shihab al-Din mosque in Nazareth described the construction project as "a clear provocation."

Addressing the special ministerial committee convened to assess the dispute among the Christians and Muslims in Nazareth, Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa said that the initiative to build the mosque in close proximity to the Basilica of the Annunciation "is unacceptable to the Christian world."

He added that "the mosque, at this site, is solely meant to interfere in one of the holiest places of the Christian world."

For its part the committee, which met last Thursday for the first time under the leadership of Housing Minister Nathan Sharansky, is unlikely to meet the two-week deadline set by the kitchen cabinet last week, for presenting its recommendations on the issue.

The committee heard from the two disputing parties, representatives of both the Christian churches and of the Wakf Muslim religious trust, about the complexities involved in the sensitive issue.

After the presentation made by each side, the committee chairman, Sharansky ruled the committee must experience the issue first-hand by visiting the construction site at the heart of the dispute.

He also concluded the question surrounding the construction of the mosque needs to be addressed anew for two reasons: the failure of the Muslims to meet their obligations in an agreement signed with a committee headed by then public security minister Shlomo Ben-Ami; and the fact that this is the first time that the position of the Christians is being adequately voiced.

First to present their case were the Christian representatives, who described Nazareth as the "cradle of Christianity."

Pizzaballa stressed the issue at hand was the character of the city and that "from the start, the Muslim's intention was not one of coexistence but the opposite."

He emphasized the Wakf's plans to construct a mosque that was large enough to obstruct the Basilica of the Annunciation, which dominates the Nazareth skyline.

Some of the committee members questioned why this is the first time the Christian representatives presented their case clearly and assertively.

Pizzaballa explained that the reluctance to go on the offensive stemmed from a wish "not to offend the Muslims," on the one hand, but also because of the numerical inferiority of Christians in the area.

Wakf representatives, including its head in Nazareth, Ahmed Salah Hamouda, and one of the leaders of the Islamic Movement, Salman Abu-Ahmad, argued their side has already given up more than half the area on which the mosque was due to be constructed.

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Muslims are the new anti-Semites, UK rabbi says

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — Britain's Chief Rabbi Jonathan Sacks says Muslims are the archetypal anti-Semites of the new millennium, while the State of Israel plays the role of the classically persecuted Jew.

"It's moved from Europe to the Middle East, from Christian culture to Islamic; from the individual Jew to the Jews as a sovereign nation. But essentially it remains the same: the inability, or at worst refusal, to grant Jews a space," Rabbi Sacks said in an interview with *Ha'aretz*.

Sacks sees this as the backdrop to a current, two-track surge of anti-Semitism in the United Kingdom – among the country's two million Muslims and among the left-liberal media. Uninhibited disparagement of Jews has become rampant, and even acceptable, at London dinner parties, and Jewish community leaders are voicing concern.

"The anti-Israel media have taken the Arab propaganda line on board," says Lord Greville Janner.

But others warn against against the tendency to regard every criticism of Israel as an expression of anti-Semitism.

Across the Channel, meanwhile, a wave of Jew-hatred seems to be inundating France, eliciting grave concern in the 600,000-strong Jewish community there. Synagogues have been fire-bombed, schools have been attacked and individuals have been cursed and harassed on the street.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Israel woos French Jewish emigres

By ANDREW DIAMOND
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — The Israeli government has stepped into the fray of Jewish politics in France.

Following the latest anti-Semitic attack – the firebombing of a Jewish school in the Paris suburb of Creteil in the early hours of the new year – Israel's deputy foreign minister, Michael Melchior, sharply denounced the French authorities and French society for tolerating such violence.

"France is the worst Western country concerning anti-Semitism," Melchior told the French daily *Le Monde*.

Referring to the 320 acts of anti-Jewish aggression reported by the Jewish community in 2001, Melchior condemned "French society" for not reacting forcefully enough when the incidents began.

"The political leaders and intellectuals did not take them seriously enough," Melchior said of the dramatic rise in anti-Semitic violence that began with the outbreak of the Palestinian intifadah in September 2000.

Melchior's comments came at the same time that Israel issued a communique stating that, in light of "the wave of anti-Semitism in France," French Jews emigrating to Israel would receive the best aid package offered by the Israeli government.

This aid status is also granted to immigrants from Russia and other countries of the former Soviet Union. It also was recently granted to Jews emigrating from Argentina and South Africa.

The aid allocation allows newly arrived immigrants to live for seven months without having to spend any of their personal savings. The sum ranges from about $4,500 dollars for a student to $13,000 for a family with two children under age 4.

The communique justified Israel's decision by stating that 40 per cent of France's 600,000 Jews live surrounded by Muslim hostility.

"The wave of anti-Semitism that strikes in France offers an opportunity to the state of Israel to bring in thousands of Jews," Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said in the communique.

In their immediate responses to Melchior's remarks, top French Jewish leaders criticized Israel's reading of French anti-Semitism.

Jean Kahn, the president of the Consistoire of France and an instrumental figure in lobbying the Israel government to give French *olim* enhanced benefits, called Melchior's statements "a bit over the top."

"There is in France a wave of anti-Semitism, different from the old anti-Semitism of the Dreyfuss affair," he explained. "Its authors are of Maghrebin origin and somewhat on the left."

Roger Cukierman, president of CRIF, the umbrella group of secular French Jewish organizations, took a similar perspective.

"The traditional anti-Semitism of the extreme right is not as serious in France," he said. "The anti-Jewish acts committed in the last year here are very clearly localized in communities where Jew and Maghrebin live side by side."

Most surprising, perhaps, was the reaction of Eli Barnavi, Israel's ambassador to France.

Interviewed on Israeli radio, Barnavi said that "all the polls reveal a state of increasing integration for the Jewish community."

The polls also "show that only some 10 per cent of the French population manifests any anti-Semitic feelings," Barnavi said.

French President Jacques Chirac refused to comment on Melchior's criticism. But he said in a recent meeting with French religious leaders, he reconfirmed his "severe condemnation of all anti-Semitic acts."

Sharon, who formally has retained the post of absorption minister since his government took power last March, hopes to take advantage of the ferment in the French Jewish community over the Socialist government's refusal to take a hard line against anti-Semitic violence.

One of Sharon's priorities as prime minister has been to increase the Jewish population in Israel. The number of olim, or immigrants, from France – which has Europe's largest Jewish community – has been flagging during the past few years.

In 2001, some 1,200 French Jews emigrated to Israel, a 20 per cent drop from the previous year. The decline might reflect concern about rising Arab terrorism in the country.

Such concerns persist in many Jewish communities here, particularly in Paris and its surrounding suburbs, but signs are beginning to appear of a revived interest in aliyah, or immigration to Israel, among French Jews.

Last fall, the French office of the Jewish Agency for Israel reported a sharp increase in the number of Jews requesting information about aliyah.

According to Dov Puder, the Jewish Agency's director, many of the potential olim were "bothered" by the problem of anti-Semitic aggression.

"They are motivated by the situation in France as much as the situation in Israel, but they are more concerned than in the past with the situation in France," Puder said.

Melchior's polemic against France, leaked to French correspondents in Jerusalem to coincide with the release of Sharon's communique, appears intended to give a boost of encouragement to such people who may be considering aliyah.

Israel's new financial incentives may be enough to motivate families of Sephardi Jews from the working-class suburbs of the Paris region.

Many of the most recent anti-Semitic acts have struck schools and synagogues in subsidized housing areas inhabited both by Sephardi Jews and Maghrebins, Arabs of North African descent.

France's sluggish economy has made it difficult for many Jewish families to put aside the kind of savings that relocation would require.

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Participants rave over Birthright Israel experience

Continued from page 1

Altogether, $210 million U.S. over five years has been earmarked to the program, with a goal of bringing 100,000 young people to Israel.

With varied schedules that ran the gamut from Shabbat at the Western Wall to a Saturday night disco party, Birthright offered its most recent participants a broad exposure to the Jewish State.

Approximately 6,000 young Jews – including 800 Canadians – from around the world took part in the latest Birthright trip, which ran from late December to early January. They were divided into dozens of groups of 30 to 40 each, travelling together on buses and lodging in hotels, kibbutz guest-houses and even in Bedouin tents.

The groups travelled from Metullah in the north to Eilat in the south. They hiked mountains, traversed nature reserves, dunked in the Dead Sea and prayed at the Western Wall.

A mega-event at Binyanei Ha'uma brought together thousands of participants for an evening program that included comedy, music and dance. The night culminated in a disco inferno that saw hundreds crowd a dance floor.

Numbers were down from earlier trips, when as many as 12,000 young people participated and interest was so strong that participants were chosen by lottery. There were virtually no new bookings following the Sept. 11 bombings, said U.S. Birthright spokesperson Joe Wagner.

Bronfman, a Montrealer, said in a news conference that organizers feared a "weak showing" but were gratified 6,000 chose to participate.

Given the uncertain security situation – several Birthright participants said family and friends raised concerns over their safety in Israel – this year's group was no doubt highly motivated, perhaps more so than in previous years.

At Binyanei Ha'uma, the Canadians raved about their Birthright experiences, but they saved their most emotive comments for their Israeli counterparts, IDF soldiers who joined them on their bus for a couple of days of touring.

The mifgash – the meeting – provided "unfiltered" exposure to average Israelis, said 19-year-old Yair Rabinovich, a student at Toronto's Seneca College. "We look at everything on the sidelines, but they live it," he said. "They tell it to you like it is."

Moshe Sakal, 22, agreed. "They don't live in fear or anger. The way they function in the army is through love of the country.

"In Israel, you get the feeling of family… Everyone knows someone who's been affected by terrorism."

"It's like an injection of reality," chimed in Marcos Benaim, 19, a student at York University in Toronto.

Still, he said, "you feel nurtured when you come here. When you see soldiers, you know they come to protect you."

Roman Marants, 19, agreed. A visit to an army base "really grabbed my heart. I'm thinking, I should be in their shoes."

A native of Moldova in the former Soviet Union, Marants spent 2½ years in Israel as a child before moving to Toronto with his family. "When I came to Israel on the plane, I felt I was home," he said.

A different, somewhat older busload of young people from across Canada repeated many of the same sentiments during a tour of Jerusalem.

For David Nataf of Montreal, the Birthright trip marked his first visit to Israel. A financial services officer with National Bank, Nataf, 25, grew up in an observant home. For him, touching the Western Wall was a particularly emotional experience.

"I wanted to have that moment of discovery," he said. "Jerusalem is very beautiful, the most beautiful place I've ever seen."

The mifgash with Israeli soldiers was also memorable. Expecting them to be "harsh," Nataf was surprised to find "they were very much like us, but I think they enjoy life more."

Marissa Sidel, a native of Montreal, thought the visit to Israel was particularly important as a demonstration of Jewish solidarity. Though Birthright marked her first trip to Israel, she plans to return in the summer to get a better idea of the day-to-day lives of ordinary Israelis as a possible prelude to aliyah.

Sidel, 26, felt energized by Israeli society and its life "on the edge… Here, no matter what the topic is, Israelis launch themselves into it wholeheartedly… They care, they don't just roll over."

Sharonne Katz, a Winnipegger who now lives in Fredericton, was one of 15 Maritimers in Israel with Birthright. Although she lived in Israel for three years between the ages of 10 and 13, the Birthright trip allowed her to share the experience with contemporaries and to see Israel "through their eyes."

Her group, which began its tour in Europe with an "anguish-to-hope" itinerary, visited the death camps where Jewish life ended and then witnessed its rebirth in Israel, she said.

A highlight for her was visiting the synagogue at Masada, which was used 2,000 years ago and which still hosts services today.

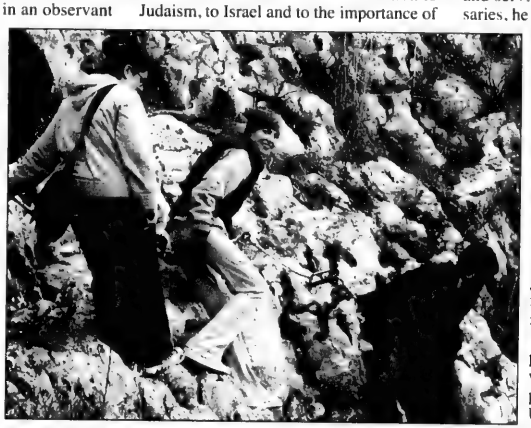
* * *

Leonard Saxe is a social psychologist and professor at Brandeis University. He and his team have been studying the Birthright program to determine its long term impact on participants.

Based on pre- and post-Birthright interviews with a large sample of participants, as well as the responses to questions by a control group that did not go on the trip, Saxe's preliminary conclusions are that "the program works.

"As you can see, the kids are turned on by it. It's an extraordinarily powerful experience for them.

"Those who go look different than those who don't in terms of their connection to Judaism, to Israel and to the importance of Judaism in their lives. Their behaviour did not change as much as their attitudes have."



[Dafna Lorber photos]

Findings from Canadian participants diverge somewhat from those of the U.S. group, Saxe said. Generally, the Canadians are older and more seem to be "already committed to Judaism and more likely to be immigrants or first-generation groups."

The American participants mirror the broader U.S. Jewish population, exhibiting a lower level of affiliation to Jewish life.

Nevertheless, "across the board the program has attracted an interesting mix of people. It's not just the Orthodox, but also those who had no connection" to Judaism, Saxe said. One bus, he noted, had young people wearing kippot, while others on the bus did not know what a kippah was.

Saxe said Birthright participants return home thinking Israel and Judaism are important in their lives, and some go on to increase their involvement in Jewish activities, whether through university courses or in community activism. That behavioural part of the equation is limited at this point, he added, pointing out many are still focused on their careers.

Rabbi Reuven Poupko, chair of the Canada Israel Experience Centre, the national organization that coordinated participation in Birthright for most Canadians, agreed that "the responses of the kids are breathtaking." Participants return to their communities raving about the experience and serving as the program's best emissaries, he said.

Ariela Cotler, president of Hillel Montreal, acknowledged numbers were down from previous trips, but those who do participate often return extremely motivated. One group of Birthright alumni helped organize a fashion show that raised almost $10,000 for the families of IDF soldiers, she said.

"In every Jew there is a seed," Cotler said. "In some, it's nourished. What we're doing here is giving it some nourishment. How it opens is unknown, but I'm sure it opens."

Forty per cent of the participants in the winter 2002 program were from the United States, 26 per cent from the former Soviet Union, 15 per cent from Canada, 10 per cent from Latin America, six per cent from Europe and three per cent from Australia. Students from Paraguay, Hungary and Morocco participated for the first time.

Birthright is a partnership between Jewish philanthropists, the government of Israel and local Jewish communities through United Jewish Communities, an umbrella group representing local federations.

Paul Lungen participated in the program as a guest of Birthright Israel.

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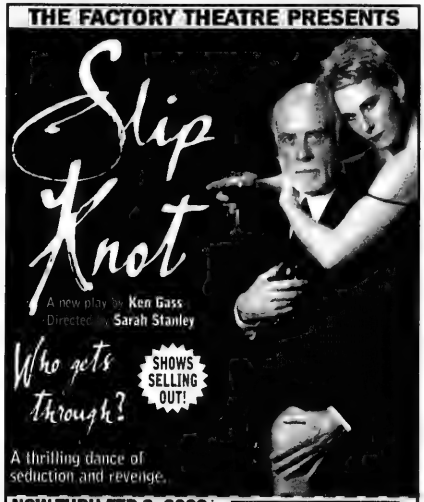
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Arts & Travel

Slip Knot *actor finds art imitates life*

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Ironically, Ukrainian born, Toronto based actor, Dmitry Chepovetsky, 31, shares some similarities with the character he portrays in Ken Gass' production of *Slip Knot*, running until Feb. 3rd at Toronto's Factory Theatre's Mainstage, 125 Bathurst Street.

Both Chepovetsky and the fictional Jonathan Kruger have worked in the film industry and are sons of immigrant engineer fathers who live in Vancouver. Luckily, for the Chepovetsky clan, their future is much brighter.

"*Slip Knot* is about redemption," Chepovetsky says. In short, the play is about two men, Fritz and William, Jonathan's father, who spent time in Dachau together as officers and confront one another much later in Vancouver. One has a secret over the other. "William has moved on and created this great life and Fritz has still been harbouring it for 50 years, or so," explains Chepovetsky.

Dmitry Chepovetsky

"It is all about faith and coincidences," he adds. "My character is a movie gaffer, who has always had an intense relationship with his father. The father comes from a Germanic background. In the process of my character coming back for his father's birthday, we end up at Fritz's funeral, where I meet Fritz's daughter, everything evolves from this."

Chepovetsky can relate to being unaware of one's roots. "Being a child of an immigrant, there are so many things you don't know. Then you get to a certain age, as Jonathan does, when he is confronted on certain issues by Fritz's daughter, he starts to defend his father's background without actually knowing why," states the actor.

Chepovetsky moved to Regina when he was 7 years old and was performing in theatricals by the age of 14. He thinks as he gets older the memories of coming to Canada are fewer and far between, but he remembers having to learn a new language – he's fluent in Ukrainian and Russian, learning a new culture and freely practicing his religion.

"In the Ukraine, the synagogue in Livov was closed down in '29, so you really couldn't practice Judaism. My grandmother had separate dishes for Passover, but it was used behind closed doors. When we came to Saskatchewan, there was only one synagogue at the time and it was Orthodox. I was immersed in Hebrew school and bar mitzvah lessons," he says.

After graduating from Ryerson University's theatre school and travelling to places like Israel and Turkey, in 1993 Chepovetsky followed his parents to Vancouver and shortly thereafter landed an agent.

"At that time the film industry was just starting up in Vancouver. It was a good time to build a resume and get in on the ground floor. I had really never done film before because theatre was my first passion," he says.

While in Vancouver, Chepovetsky wrote and produced one-night cabarets. Leaving Vancouver in '96 to appear in *Picasso At The Lapin Agile* at the Manitoba Theatre Centre, he then headed farther east to act in Toronto and Halifax. During a stay in England, he wrote the play *Bloodline*, about children of immigrants.

The play was later produced in Vancouver, during his two-year return to the West Coast City before arriving back in Toronto in the summer of 2000. In *Bloodline*, Chepovetsky played a parent – the experience gave him insight into his own parent's prospective.

Chepovetsky's credits are impressive. On stage his work includes *Unidentified Human Remains...*, *Jacques Brel Is Alive & Well* and *Orphan Muses*. In film and television he has appeared in *Blue Murder*, *Haven*, *Stargate*, and three episodes of *The X Files*, to name a few.

In the spring, his latest offering, *K-19: The Widowmaker* with Harrison Ford will grace the silver screen. Chepovetsky plays a submarine sonar operator Sergei Maximov. He was hired because he can speak with a Russian accent, but was asked to "Anglophy" it, to sound like his castmates' accents.

"Harrison Ford was great," he says. "I grew up with this man through *Star Wars* and *Indiana Jones*. He's very impressive, with a lot of integrity."

For tickets to *Slip Knot*, call 416-504-9971.

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Jewish soccer player becomes latest TV Survivor

By ADAM WILLS
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LOS ANGELES — What started out as a joke between friends fast became a million-dollar goal for a retired Jewish soccer player.

Ethan Zohn emerged as the sole survivor of the TV show *Survivor* during the two-hour Jan. 10 finale, defeating Kim Johnson, a 57-year-old retired teacher from Oyster Bay, N.Y.

"I was happy to do our tribe proud," Zohn said.

Survivor: Africa was recorded last summer in Kenya's arid Shaba National Reserve. Sixteen contestants faced off in a variety of contests over 39 days, braving scorching heat, wild animals and conspiracies.

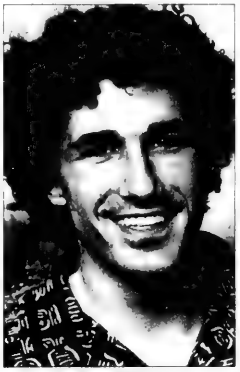
Throughout his life, the curly-haired 27-year-old has held tightly to his Jewish faith, traditions and culture, seeking out synagogues to pray in during Jewish holidays when the soccer teams he played with were on the road. "It's a huge, huge part of my life," he said.

A committed soccer enthusiast, Zohn's journey into the harsh African terrain had a lighthearted beginning.

Zohn played goalie for soccer teams in Zimbabwe, Hawaii and Massachusetts and with the U.S. team in the 1997 Maccabiah Games. Realizing that he wasn't going to be the next soccer superstar, Zohn hung up his cleats in 2000 and took a job with a product-naming firm.

But a sudden hiring freeze ended his foray into full-time employment a day before he was scheduled to start. When he asked friends for job advice, they joked that he should try out for *Survivor*.

"We made the [audition] video, sent it in and the next thing you know, I got on the show," said Zohn, who earned a reputation for being a nice guy and an introvert as the series unfolded.



Ethan Zohn

Like the winner of *Survivor: Australia*, Tina Wesson, Zohn emerged victorious without a single elimination vote.

"I'm not the guy who is going to stand up and bark orders and tell people what to do," Zohn said. "I'm more the guy who is going to sit back, observe things – and then based on my observations I'm going to make my moves."

His win wasn't a total surprise. Las Vegas sports book manager Andy DeLuca had Zohn 6-1 odds to win early in the game.

Zohn has nearly gained back the 26 pounds he lost during the show's filming and is getting back into shape. His rugged looks, reticence and honesty made him a fan favourite throughout the season.

For Jews, Zohn's pride in his faith and culture was a refreshing change from some of the evangelical Christians cast in the show's previous seasons.

One of this season's most controversial moments involved what appeared to be an anti-Semitic comment directed at Zohn.

Contestant Tom Buchanan, a goat and cattle farmer from Rich Valley, Va., called Zohn a "Jew boy" after their team won a challenge. Instead of taking offence, Ethan saw it as an opportunity to educate.

"He didn't mean any harm by it and didn't mean it in a derogatory term and he wasn't being a racist," Zohn said. "Tom had never met a Jew before," said Zohn, who also was the first Jew that contestants Clarence Black and Frank Garrison had met.

"It was almost like a blessing. I got the opportunity to educate someone about Judaism. I'd tell him what it's like to be Jewish. He'd tell me what it's like to live on a farm, how to herd goats and sell cattle. It was a learning experience," he said.

Zohn, who attended the Conservative congregation Temple Emunah while growing up in Lexington, Mass., recalls his Jewish upbringing fondly.

And despite the harrowing challenges thrown at Zohn by *Survivor*, none could rival the challenge this newly minted millionaire faced growing up. It's something Zohn hasn't talked about publicly – the loss of his father to cancer when he was 14.

"I went and I did minyan for the year after," he said. "It was important for me."

In 1997, Zohn qualified to play for the men's U.S. soccer team in the Maccabiah Games. Playing soccer in Israel was a dream come true, Zohn said.

"In my mind it was probably was one of the biggest accomplishments I've made in terms of my soccer," he said. He was slated to play in 2001 until the soccer portion of the games was cancelled when the Maccabiah was scaled back because of the Palestinian intifadah.

Zohn has visited with other *Survivor* contestants since the series wrapped up. His visit to Buchanan in Virginia made an indelible impression. "It was crazy. I tripled the population of Jews when I walked into that place."

The Canadian Jewish news

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Eye on Arts

By BILL GLADSTONE

YIDDISH BOOK CENTRE COMPILES LIST OF 100 GREAT JEWISH BOOKS

In a bid to promote notable Jewish books of the past 150 years, the National Yiddish Book Center of Amherst, Ma., has announced a list of The 100 Greatest Works of Modern Jewish Literature.

The list includes works in all languages and will serve as a "re-definition of the Jewish canon," said centre president **Aaron Lansky**, who described the results as "a fascinating, challenging, sometimes surprising list with books ranging from Mendele to Maus."

He said the "goal is to carry the Jewish story forward – from the Torah, Talmud and other traditional texts to the Jewish literature of our own time."

A distinguished international panel took two years to develop the list from an initial compilation of nearly 600 titles, plus additional recommendations. The list includes novels, plays, poetry and memoirs in English, Yiddish, Hebrew, Russian, French, Spanish, Italian, German and other languages.

Famous and widely-read titles take their place beside lesser-known but equally important, works. The books are listed alphabetically and are not ranked.

Reports indicate that only two titles – Yiddish writer **Shalom Aleichem's** short story collection *Tevye the Dairyman* and **Henry Roth's** *Call It Sleep* – were included by universal acclaim. Much deliberation surrounded most of the other choices, even apparent "shoe-in" works by **Isaac Babel**, **Franz Kafka**, **Cynthia Ozick** and **Philip Roth**.

As it happens, only two Philip Roth novels made it onto the list: *The Counterlife* and *The Patrimony*. Similarly, only two works by **Isaac Bashevis Singer** were included: *Satan in Goray* and the *Selected Stories*.

Canadians? **Mordecai Richler**, **Leonard Cohen** and **Adele Wiseman** are all absent. The only Canadian represented is **A.M. Klein** for *The Second Scroll*.

The final list reflects "a mighty literature," said Harvard **Prof. Ruth Wisse**, author of *The Modern Jewish Canon*, who was one of the judges.

To view the full list on the Internet, go to www.yiddishbookcenter.org.

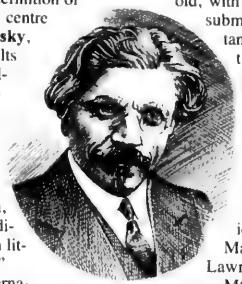
* * *

Mural Contest: Lawrence Square, at Lawrence Ave. W. and the Allen Expressway, invites young artists to submit ideas and sketches for two murals, each approximately 20 feet wide by 10 feet high, to be painted at the mall.

The theme of the murals is "Community – All for One, One for All." Designs should depict a loving and caring community, a happy neighbourhood and "an inclusive community where everyone plays an important role."

Submissions are invited from artists in two age groups, 7 to 12 and 13 to 17 years old, with preference given to group submissions. Winning contestants must be ready to paint their murals in mid-February with all materials supplied. Prizes will be awarded to winning contestants and their sponsoring agencies, organizations or schools.

Deadline is Jan. 26, 5 p.m. Submit sketches and ideas to Lawrence Square Mall, Suite 305, 700 Lawrence Ave. W., Toronto M6A 3B4. 416-256-0256.



Shalom Aleichem

* * *

Documentary Delivers: The London Institute of Contemporary Arts last week began screening the prize-winning documentary *Promises*, which, according to the *London Jewish Chronicle*, offers "compelling insights into the Israeli-Palestinian conflict… (by) drawing viewers into the hearts and minds of the children of Jerusalem."

The seven children spotlighted in the film live no more than 15 minutes apart but are locked into mutually exclusive cultural worlds. Filming occurred before the current intifadah erupted but was "prophetic of the period of violence that has followed," the *Chronicle* said.

Apparently, the Israeli and Palestinian children in the film initially had no intention of meeting each other, but became curious after seeing each others' pictures. "When they saw the photos, somehow they became more comfortable about meeting a child on the other side," said the film's American co-director, **B.Z. Goldberg**.

Promises won an audience award last year at the Rotterdam Film Festival.

* * *

Alon Nashman

Arts Briefs

•Cantor **Tzvi Taub** presents a program of music by 19th-century synagogue composers **Lewandowski** and **Sulzer**. Free. Shabbat Shirah, Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. Friday Jan. 25.

•*Kafka and Son*, a reading of a new play based on **Kafka's** letter to his father, starring **Alon Nashman**. Free. Miles Nadal JCC, Thurs. Jan. 31, 8 p.m. 416-924-6211.

Classic Wayne and Shuster video available from CBC

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Many Canadian cultural and entertainment icons of the past are dying off. First it was Johnny Wayne and then Al Waxman. Now the final curtain has dropped on Frank Shuster.

Shuster and his longtime friend and partner, Johnny Wayne, gave Canadians one of the great comedy teams of all time. Although Wayne and Shuster enjoyed a great deal of popularity and success in the United States, appearing on the *Ed Sullivan Show* more times than any other act, the two comedians never abandoned their native Canada.

And until Wayne died in 1990, Wayne and Shuster continued to produce new television specials for the CBC every year.

Wayne and Shuster could be schmaltzy and they often incorporated slapstick into their humour, but they were also the most literate comedians on television. They were both well educated and it was obvious they had a solid background in English literature.

In 1986, the CBC released a video called *Wayne and Shuster At The Movies* that featured three of their greatest Hollywood spoofs, the skits "Kwai Me A River," "Citizen Wayne" and "Dr. Jekyll and Mrs. Hyde."

It should come as no surprise that their first video is devoted to movie spoofs. Shuster spent a large part of his childhood in his father's movie theatre, watching some of the best that Hollywood produced.

In 1996, the CBC released a second video, *The Wayne & Shuster Years*. This retrospective contains some of the all-time great Wayne and Shuster skits, including the classic "Shakespearean Baseball" and "Rinse The Blood Off My Toga."

This video won me over wholeheartedly and should be in every Canadian's video collection. It is a gem.

The passing of Shuster brings an end to an era of comedy.

Wayne and Shuster started writing and performing their comedy in school and perfected it in the army during World War II. They then spent a number of years performing on radio and later took on the new medium of television, where they scored their biggest successes. Fortunately, we have a few videos that preserve their genius and can entertain us for years to come.

Although *Wayne and Shuster At The Movies* is not available at the moment, *The Wayne & Shuster Years* is available for $19.95 from the CBC and can be ordered as follows: Telephone: 1-800-255-7711; Fax:416-205-2139; Mail: CBC Boutique, P.O. Box 500, Station A, Toronto, Ont., M5W 1E6; and on the Internet at www.cbc.ca.

Play explores memory and sorrow

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Jonathan Garfinkel is off to a promising start.

His first play, *Walking to Russia*, at the Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace until Jan. 27, is a poignant meditation on the nature of thwarted ambition, identity, memory and sorrow.

Set against the backdrop of two topical and interlocking themes, global warming and famine, *Walking to Russia* turns on a quarrelsome retired Jewish couple who mourn their daughter, Masha, 30 years after her death.

Masha Berck (Ruth Madoc-Jones), who died on a cold winter day during an hallucinatory fit, flits in and out of the play like a ghostly dybbuk, tormenting her parents.

Ben Berck (Aron Tager), a prescient scientist, and his wife, Bella (Anne Tager-Page), plan to retire to warmer climes in California.

But when he is offered a dream job in Churchill, Manitoba – the land of the polar bears – he accepts without even bothering to consult his wife.

The new post, offered by a former student, will transform him. It will enable him to work on a prized pet project, supposedly let him save the world from environmental disaster and give him a shot at the Nobel Prize.

At 76, Ben will be reborn, as he exults in a moment of euphoria.

Bella is none too keen, and much to Ben's chagrin, she announces her intention to remain in Winnipeg, where the play, skillfully directed by Jennifer Capraru, unfolds in a series of strong vignettes.

Although she is long gone, Masha, a tense figure in a white terrycloth robe, still exerts a profound influence on her parents.

Through her impassioned soliloquies and a number of wrenching flashbacks, we learn telling details about the their respective relationships.

In an explosive scene, Ben, a diehard atheist, is indignant when he discovers that Bella turned to religion and began attending synagogue after her daughter's death.

What, he asks with barely suppressed outrage, has become of the old Bella, the woman who used to be a committed Bundist?

Then, in a painful conversation, Ben and Bella engage in recriminations. Ben maintains that Masha could have been a scientist, like himself, but threw the chance away to study art.

At this juncture, Masha appears, and she and Ben argue fiercely about her career choice.

The upshot is that Masha, at 19, leaves home and cracks up, with fatal consequences.

Garfinkel's play, which runs for 90 uninterrupted minutes, crackles with tension and bursts of verbal fireworks.

Here is a writer who can animate a small, unadorned stage with the joys and tragedies of life.

The performances match the script. Tager shifts seamlessly between mood swings. Tager-Page is a study in stoicism and anguish, while Madoc-Jones plumbs deep emotional depths.

Walking to Russia is a play that rivets attention and enlists empathy.

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Solomon's new show a response to post-Sept.11 world

CBC show will aim to expand the concept of television itself

By LARA RABINOWITZ
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — "I was sort of the Duddy Kravitz of the place," says Evan Solomon, host of CBC Newsworld's *Hot Type*, of his days as a student at McGill University. Instead of taking the usual four years to complete his BA (in English literature) and an additional two years to complete his MA (in film and religious studies), Solomon finished both degrees in less than five years, because, he says, "I wanted to do things in the world... I was in a fever pitch."

At 33, Solomon has yet to slow down. McClelland & Stewart published his first novel, *Crossing the Distance*, in 1999 and he is currently working on his second. He has written for such magazines and newspapers as the *Globe and Mail* and *The South China Morning Post*.

As host of CBC Newsworld's *FutureWorld* for four seasons, Solomon was nominated for three Gemini Awards (for best host). He is a regular contributor to CBC's *National Magazine*, as well as CBC Radio's *The Arts Tonight*, *Morningside*, *This Morning* and *Ideas*.

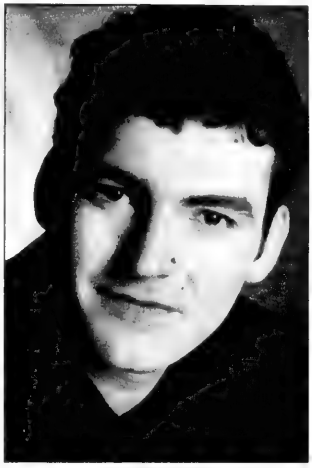
On *Hot Type*, his popular show about print culture, Solomon has interviewed authors Elie Wiesel, Salman Rushdie, Margaret Atwood, Susan Sontag, J.K. Rowling and Naomi Wolf, among others. And as a graduate student at McGill, he and his friend, Andrew Heintzman, also at McGill, founded *Shift*, a magazine about digital culture.

"We were both going nowhere, and our parents were keenly aware of our irrelevance," Solomon says.

"We were young and poor and stupid and ambitious... I like to say we had academentia," he jokes.

The magazine quickly became a hit as the technological revolution created a new medium for cultural expression and exchange.

"We were the first people [in Canada] who started setting up electronic bulletin boards systems, e-mail," Solomon says. "We were just kids who were excited, and who were not afraid to change... We rode the tail of the dragon."



Evan Solomon

Although Solomon is no longer directly involved with *Shift*, he remains passionate and on the pulse about digital culture.

"The revolution is now an evolution," he says. "Ten years ago we didn't know what e-mail was... The digital age is here, and it's becoming ubiquitous. And when it's ubiquitous, you don't realize how involved you are.

"Advanced digital culture is not just what you have in your laptop. It's how we fly our planes, how we drive our cars, how we build buildings, how we design architectural plans."

Television, Solomon adds, is part of the digital culture he speaks of and works within.

"The idea that television is not good for conveying ideas, that it is unable to convey ideas, is wrong... It is my goal to be able to see if television can convey ideas of a more complex nature than a 40-second sound byte.

"Television is young. It's a medium that is only 50 years old. It's a very young palette. People should be experimenting with it all the time."

Solomon's latest Newsworld show, *CBC News: Sunday*, aims to expand the very concept of television itself. The two-hour show co-hosted by Solomon and Carole MacNeil will air Sunday mornings from 10 a.m. to noon (beginning Feb. 24), and promises to present an "alternative" view.

"We have a critical eye," Solomon says. "We're designed to be able to take a broader and more in depth view than most shows. We're about adding perspective."

The show will include documentary pieces, interviews, out-in-the-field shooting and more traditional news pieces. Contributions from a variety of people will air regularly.

"[The show's] mandate is politics, media, culture, ethics and spirituality," Solomon explains.

"It's a response to the post-Sept. 11 world, where we have to take into account more factors to determine how the world works. If you want to talk about politics, you have to talk about ethics and religion... You have to take into account spirituality because it's central to how you orient yourself in the world.

"Our show is about the line between the personal and the political, where they cross."

Many of the pieces will be "hard- news investigations," with topics ranging from budget politics to lobbying in Ottawa and suicides in Native reserves. Rabbi Gunther Plaut will air in one segment.

"I've been visiting him every month, just to talk," Solomon says. "That's the whole show. He's amazing. I love speaking with him: just to talk to someone about love and the crisis of spirituality – it's wonderful."

Love is a central theme in Solomon's novel, *Crossing the Distance*, as two brothers struggle with their differences. The novel also questions the nature of television and its implicit effect on society and ourselves, Solomon says.

"What I wanted to do was design the book around the multiplicity of the cultural mindset," he says. "One moment we're very serious and we're watching Osama bin Laden, and we go, 'I can't watch this anymore'– click – and the *Simpsons* is on, and then we laugh. And then that's over – click – and the news comes on and a bomb goes off in Jerusalem, and you're crying. And then – boom – you switch channels and *Seinfeld* is on.

"I thought, 'How can people negotiate between these emotional extremes so easily?' We're used to it... So I kind of designed it around this chaotic culture where you go between one state of mind into another."

Solomon describes this emotional channel surfing through a Maimonidean analysis: "This is kind of a Maimonides thing: if I'm not for myself, who am I for? But if I am not for others, what am I? And if not now, when?... It is about finding yourself first. Before you can take action, you've got to find out who you are. In a world of multiplied meanings, you have to decide, make your call."

As Solomon crosses between print and digital media and culture, a strong voice in contemporary Canadian culture emerges, one that we are sure to tune into.

Toronto doctor's autobiography details dark era of restrictive Jewish quotas

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Barnet Berris, born in Toronto in 1921, became the first Jewish doctor appointed to the full-time staff of the University of Toronto's department of medicine in 1951.

In *Medicine: My Story*, a recent publication of the University of Toronto Press, Berris tells the story of his career. The book elegantly details the changes he observed in medicine during 46 years of practice, and illuminates the history of Jewish doctors in Toronto from the dark era of quotas to the present, when merit is the key criterion for doctors securing a staff position.

Although Berris graduated in the mid-1940s as one of the top 10 students in a class of 126, none of Toronto's teaching hospitals would accept him as an intern. He was the only student from his class who had not been "matched" to an appropriate position.

Through persistence, he was permitted to see the Toronto General Hospital's list of candidates – and was "stunned" by what he saw.

Beneath the Toronto General's list of acceptable candidates, another three names appeared under the heading "Hebrew list." His own name appeared in yet another category called "Alternate Hebrew."

The Toronto Western Hospital's list was even more restrictive, he writes. It contained only one Jewish name, belonging to the gold medalist of the graduating class.

After a year interning at St. Joseph's Hospital and a stint in the army, Berris joined the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis for a three-year residency. Then, with excellent references and credentials, he re-applied to the University of Toronto's department of medicine.

The university-affiliated Toronto General refused him a full-time position but offered a temporary fellowship, perhaps as a means of getting around the unspoken restriction against Jews, Berris writes. But the old cultural barriers were indeed breaking down: he eventually rose to become chief of medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital.

"You might ask why I tacitly accepted overt anti-Semitism from a medical school without taking any action," he writes. "The reason was that in the 1940s, there was no mechanism available to bring about any change in this area.

"Bias against not only Jews, but also other ethnic and minority groups and women, was common. It was difficult to go public, there were no laws prohibiting such activities and minority groups at that time had very little influence, political or otherwise."

Berris writes that the accepted stance among Jews was to keep quiet and not make waves. He tells an old story about two Jews, facing a firing squad, who are asked their final wish. When one requests a cigarette, the other says, "Shh, don't make trouble."

Medicine: My Story details the opening up of the medical community in Toronto over the last half century and is a chronicle of an illuminating and multi-faceted medical career. It is a welcome addition to the historical record of both the Jewish and medical communities.

Copies of are available for $32.99 in the gift shop of the Mount Sinai Hospital. All proceeds go toward the medical research fund of Mount Sinai's department of medicine.

ROM raising funds for neurodegenerative disease

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Most programs to raise funds or awareness of health issues are designed for adults – balls, parties, draws, golf tournaments, bazaars.

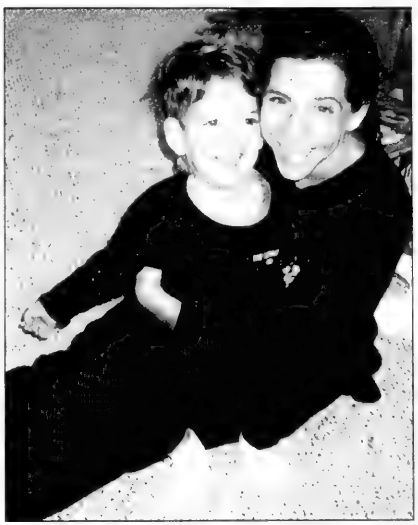
Jacob's Ladder, the Canadian Foundation for Control of Neurodegenerative Disease, is taking a different tack.

On Feb. 10, the organization is sponsoring An Adventure with Polkaroo & Jacob's Ladder at the ROM, an all-day event at the Royal Ontario Museum that will feature popular television personality Polkaroo presenting an interactive show in the ROM Theatre, helped by Hidee the Clown; guest entertainers Kayla and her infamous dog Ralph; Al Bowers; clowns Bumbledee and Mel-o-dee; Rylan Firby and face painting.

There will be two treasure hunts – one in the morning and one in the afternoon – around the museum, complete with prizes and loot bags for every child with a ticket.

Admission is $20 for adults and seniors, and $18 for children up to 11. Babies get in for free.

Jeff Schwartz, who is organizing the event with Wendy Peters and Rhonda Wolfond, remembers telling *The CJN* in an interview last April that it is a good day for him and his wife Ellen if the only bad thing that happens is that they lose their keys.



Jacob and Ellen Schwartz two years ago, before Jacob's symptoms became more severe.

Their son Jacob, 4, has Canavan's disease, a progressive, genetic disorder that affects the production of myelin, which acts as a conductor of signals between the brain and the nervous system, and attacks the brain, spinal cord and nerves.

Jacob cannot speak, has no trunk or head control, and eats through a gastric tube. He no longer smiles. Most likely, he will not see his 10th birthday.

The Schwartzes were tested for Tay-Sachs disease, as many other young couples have been in the city since the early 1970s. Until very recently, however, there was no screening for Canavan's disease in Canada. It was also only very recently that a test was available for familial dysautonomia, another rare genetic disorder.

There are many similarities between Canavan's disease, Tay-Sachs and familial dysautonomia (FD). All three result from a recessive gene, meaning that both parents must carry that gene. All are relatively rare, but catastrophic when they appear. They are most prevalent in Ashkenazi Jews – familial dysautonomia, in fact, has been found only in Ashkenazi Jews.

Tay-Sachs leaves the body unable to metabolise fat in the nerve cells, producing central nervous system degeneration. It is characterized by progressive mental deterioration, blindness, paralysis and epileptic seizures. Death usually occurs between ages three and five.

Familial dysautonomia is a disorder of the autonomic and sensory nervous systems, which are responsible for such basic functions as blood pressure, breathing, swallowing and digestion. Symptoms include difficulty swallowing, poor temperature control, wide swings in blood pressure, vomiting, sweating, decreased or no reaction to pain, and spinal curvature.

The goal right now, Schwartz said, is to foster awareness and create educational programs in the community.

"Screening and prevention are more important than therapy."

While the conditions are indeed rare, one in 30 Ashkenazi Jews carry the gene for FD, a similar percentage for Tay-Sachs, and one in 40 carry the gene for Canavan's disease.

With genetic screening and counselling, a couple may choose to terminate the pregnancy, adopt children rather than have their own, or at least prepare themselves for what they will have to face. If the testing is done during the engagement period, a couple may decide not to marry.

"We want to educate the public, rabbis, schools, universities, even wedding planners on what these diseases are, how people can be tested, and why it is so important that they be tested," Schwartz said.

Canavan's, FD and Tay-Sachs are seen so seldom, compared to other diseases that affect children, that many doctors haven't seen a case, and so don't diagnose it. Schwartz wants to approach them – particularly, he suggested, obstetricians and gynecologists.

Jacob's Ladder is not doing this on its own. Schwartz is pleased that National Tay-Sachs and Allied Diseases of Ontario and Toronto chapter, Ontario branch of the Dysautonomia Foundation are co-operating fully.

"At the moment, we are concentrating on Toronto, but we hope to spread out to Ontario and eventually nationally."

The ROM program typifies the growing community involvement with these rare diseases. Students from CHAT are fulfilling their community service obligations by volunteering at the event. The loot bags and prizes have been donated. An anonymous benefactor has donated a block of tickets to be distributed to Jewish Family & Child Service clients and those from the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health.

"It shows the community working together for a common goal," said Schwartz.

For tickets or more information, call the ROM programs department at 416- 485-5797.

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Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce
The Sixth Annual
Passover Literary Supplement.

We invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works. The works must be previously unpublished, original fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words.

We must receive your submissions
no later than Feb. 15, 2002
at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4.

If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so. *The editor.*

CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our seventh annual Purim Art Contest.

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 21. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However, they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colourful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2002. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of colour, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 8, 2002.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 21, 2002.

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women seeking men

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female,35 yrs old, 5'2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1198**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also. She is looking for an honest relationship **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5'5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions Desires a complementary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship **AD#1028**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent and semi-retired I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1136**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious about romance She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family Please reply **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1106**

LET'S MEET
Single female, late 60's , retired professional, attractive, healthy, happy, personality, enjoys a variety of interests, seeks simular male **AD#137**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5'-11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere Please call **AD#1184**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 & 55 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life. **AD#1041**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family **AD#1067**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive Jewish female, single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs Please call, will meet for coffee **AD#1431**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5'3", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun lobe with, trustworthy, considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games. **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated Looking for love in all the wrong places Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years Would like a photo **AD#1577**

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress in a good 1940's film, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile Together we will make for an award winning performance **AD#1446**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes, loves music, dancing, movies. Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1514**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim, blonde, blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive and emotionally available, seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times, She likes quiet times, playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories **AD#1045**

REACH FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big" Single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important. Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, caring and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoy walks, travel, dancing, dining, conversation. Seeks male, 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship. **AD#1432**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive female, seeks friendship first with a successful man, preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and secure. If you are tall and dark it's a bonus, you'll be happy you made the connection. **AD#1073**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 48 yrs, enjoys a good wine, dinner, movies, travel, theatre, and skiing, seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring Share laughter, fun and friendship **AD#1021**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis, skiing, movies, restaurants, going for walks Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere **AD#1134**

WARM & AFFECTIONATE
Jewish, South African widow, 60 yrs, attractive, slim, 5' 5", warm, affectionate, seeks down to earth Jewish male, 55-70 years who are compassionate and caring **AD#1110**

DINING AND SPORTS
Attractive, professional Jewish female, enjoys sports, dining and movies, seeks a cute man, who is handsome, honest and trustworthy **AD#1333**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Attractive, professional female, sexy with class, enjoys hiking, biking, tennis, water skiing, long walks, with dog, seeks male, with similar interests **AD#1425**

SINGLE FEMALE
43 yrs, 5' 9", brown eyes, attractive, honest, sincere, likes sports, dancing, dining, movies, seeks active, romantic, honest, established male, 40-50 yrs of age. **AD#1082**

LOOKING LONG TERM
Single, 47 yr old female, who positive, giving, outgoing, very attractive, and has a good sense of humour, seeks life partner for long term relationship She likes music, dining and dancing **AD#1229**

55, DIVORCED
Many interests, dining, sports, dancing, 5' 1", easy to be with seeks interesting male, to celebrate, birthday in December **AD#1430**

DANCE WITH ME
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 4", a non smoker, thoughtful, caring, enjoys theatre, walks, dancing, seeks male, 48-63 yrs, who enjoys life to the fullest, and is financially stable for a long term relationship Must be loving, a kind hearted, warm and honest **AD#1015**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Very attractive, intelligent, 51 year old modern orthodox lady, who likes cooking, nature, travel, and the theatre, seeks possible long term relationship with a warm caring, healthy, sincere, 60 plus man **AD#1040**

ART LOVER
Attractive female, single, early 60's, enjoys sports, arts, good music, travel, and dining. Seeks independent, caring, and affectionate male, who is single **AD#1120**

LOTS TO SEES AND DO
Very attractive, Jewish female, 5' 7", almost hair, blue-green eyes, medium build seeks a Jewish male, above average looks, tall or over, a full head of dark hair, a good personality, upbeat and fun to be with. Someone who can make me laugh and be a mensch overall. If this sounds like you, and you wish to meet me, call. We can do a wide variety of things **AD#1148**

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS
Female, mid 40's, 5' 7", brown hair and eyes, enjoys candle lit dinners, a good glass of wine, is playful and quiet. Seeks male, non smoker, 40-58 yrs old, who wants what the good life has to offer. **AD#1273**

CALL ME
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs young Loves theatre, dining, travel, and music. Seeks male, 66-73 yrs, with similar interests **AD#1262**

KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR
Divorced mom, 35 yrs of age, attractive, honest, sincere, good sense of humour, seeks modern, orthodox man, who is romantic and positive and someone who will slay dragons for me. If interested call me **AD#1331**

BE MINE
Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, and good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 55 yrs young, who is 6 feet tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, a non smoker, and one who loves life **AD#1052**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of humour, seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday **AD#1399**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5'6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1036**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me. **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking. **AD#1267**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 58 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1208**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour. **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5'9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1393**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Single female, with kids, Russian/Israeli descent, looking for someone who likes to dance and go to the movies, loves outings and has similar qualities. **AD#1556**

SHARE LIFE'S ADVENTURES
Single mom, mid 40's, brown hair, and brown eyes, seeks male, 40-45 yrs, to share life's adventures, let's have coffee, dinner and wine **AD#1581**

LIFE IS TO BE SHARED
Single mom, 43 yrs old, 2 teens, believes in sharing life to the fullest, outgoing, compassionate, family oriented, great new opportunities for a joyful life exists. **AD#1330**

SHARE HER WORLD
Single, pleasant, romantic, 60 years old, who likes music, dancing and travel, seeks someone to share her world with **AD#1218**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Smiling redhead, hazel eyes, senior, loves holding hands, enjoys music, sunshine, theatre, the arts and companionship, please give me a call. **AD#1315**

LIKES NATURE
Single female, 45 yrs, 5' 4", slim, non smoker, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, country drives, nature, travel, seeks male, kind, honest, great sense of humour, confident **AD#1086**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer, things in life, emotionally and financially stable, seeks female, with similar qualities **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children **AD#1502**

BLUE DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1245**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-38 yrs, 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see. **AD#1540**

CALL ME
Male, 48 yrs, humourous, good natured, friendly, enjoys stock markets, dancing, many other things, if interested, please leave me a message. **AD#1004**

PRICELESS
"Attention bargain shoppers!" Male, reduced for quick sale. Makes an extraordinary gift! Item shelf for 44 yrs. Contents include: Kindness, passion, sincerity, romance, adventure, sense of humour, communication. Product use: Weekend getaways, dancing cheek to cheek, long walks, dinner and movies. Any buyers? **AD#1083**

SHY ONE
Shy male, 6' 3", 220 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeks 30-40 yrs, who enjoys dancing, playing sports, surfing, the internet, and spending time with family if this interest you, get back to me. **AD#1108**

SPECIAL LADY
Intelligent, funny, active, romantic, 5' 4", lady with brown hair, green eyes, seeks an established, confident and generous man She is self-employed, loving and loveable, and likes travel, antiques, wine tasting, dining, theatre and music **AD#1039**

CALL ME
Jamaican female, 55 yrs, flexible, down to earth, enjoys dining, dancing, music, reading, seeks male, nice, kind, likes sports, reading, walking, dining, long drives, if you think I am the person, you are looking give me a call. **AD#1560**

FEELING LUCKY
Female, single, Jewish, 43 yrs, works in special education, loves arts, antiques, flea markets, auctions, gardening, cooking, films, time with family/friends, enjoys life, seeks male, with health and happiness, and your soul and mind in the right spot. **AD#1389**

CALL ME
Jamaican female, 55 yrs, flexible, down to earth, enjoys dining, dancing, music, reading, seeks male, nice, kind, likes sports, reading, walking, dining, long drives, if you think I am the person, you are looking give me a call **AD#1560**

FEELING LUCKY
Female, single, Jewish, 43 yrs, works in special education, loves arts, antiques, flea markets, auctions, gardening, cooking, films, time with family/friends, enjoys life, seeks male, with health and happiness, and your soul and mind in the right spot. **AD#1389**

FRIENDS FIRST
Divorced female, 42 yrs, no children, brown hair, brown eyes, 5' 2", medium build, enjoys movies, music, sports, long walks, travel, cooking seeks male, kind, hearted, trustworthy, respectful, for long term relationship. **AD#1827**

FUN LOVING
Female, looking for male who is fun loving, enjoys movies, dancing and travelling **AD#1257**

men seeking women

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1268**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale Attention car buffs' '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty. Interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance Let's have a wonderful life together. **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 48 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female **AD#1851**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous. "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight. She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done. And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue" **AD#1448**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than he years, handsome, successful male, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids Casual to long lasting relationship **AD#1288**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and tradtionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969 Waiting for you call. **AD#1572**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks a Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile. **AD#1195**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic. **AD#1458**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5'10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs seeking great romance and marriage **AD#1304**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decant, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, and outdoors A traditional male, works a a financial consultant Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female. **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who likes to talk. **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and theatre. Must give her undivided attention. **AD#1427**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc... seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1329**

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A JEWEL
Single female, attractive, slim, classy, seeks Jewish man, 50-68 yrs, non smoker, healthy, positive outlook on life. **AD#1635**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single attractive, Jewish mom, 5' 5", intelligent, single, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks single Jewish male, over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind loves responsibility, must be over 6 feet tall. **AD#1264**

CALL ME
30, single female, Jewish, born in Russia, lived in Israel, seeks man, 36-38 yrs old, weight factor not a problem She is a plus size woman, looking for a tall man **AD#1642**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Single female, with kids, Russian/Israeli descent, looking for someone who likes to dance and go to the movies, loves outings and has similar qualities. **AD#1556**

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LIKES NATURE
Single female, 45 yrs, 5' 4", slim, non smoker, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, country drives, nature, travel, seeks male, kind, honest, great sense of humour, confident **AD#1086**

DOWN TO EARTH
Single male, 53 yrs, enjoys sports, dining and dancing, long walks, flea markets, antique shows, ride to country, loves animals, seeks female, 43-45 yrs, weight not important, must enjoy the same interests. **AD#1421**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Grouchy male, 75 yrs, enjoys Florida sunsets, movies, fine food, classical music, social activities, seeks female, attractive, loves to hold hands for companionship. **AD#1369**

EASY TO LOOK AT
31 yrs, 5' 5", associate producer, lives in central Toronto, brown hair and eyes, down to earth, affectionate, handsome, enjoys dining, movies, outdoors, long drives in the country, flying, gliders, seeks female, 25-33 yrs, down to earth, affectionate, not too hard to look at. **AD#1012**

QUALITY TIME
Single white male, 59 yrs, romantic, warm,caring, self employed, enjoys movies, music, travel, romantic, evenings, seeks female, easy to talk to, good sense of humour, with similar interests **AD#1354**

LOOKING AT
Single Jewish male, 36 yrs, 5' 11", gray green eyes, brownish hair, enjoys travel, music, movies, coffee houses, sports, seeks female, 25-40 yrs, warm compassionate, caring, good sense of humour, non materialistic. **AD#1245**

GIVE ME A CALL
Male, early 40's, professional, tall, fit, athletic, divorced Dad, likes to work and play hard, seeks female, over 30 yrs, 5' 4" to 5' 9", great shape, athletic, fun loving, responsible, playful, self sufficient, looks good in towel or dress, single mom's welcome, enjoys wine, beer or martini's. **AD#1250**

HONEST & TRUE
Single male, handsome, fit, 5' 10", independent thinker, compassionate, warm, creative, good sense of humour, eclectic tastes, seeks female, honest, ethical mentally and physically and spiritually evolved. **AD#1362**

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Stunning house 6 bdrms, 7 baths. 81x465'. 3 car garage. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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5 + 2 BDRM. FAM. RES. Stunning living / dining room combo, granite floors, main floor library & laundry, fin. bsmt., sep. ent. to apt / in-law suite, walk to shul, schools. A true gem at $645,900!

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Private prime loc. Arnold Ave., Thornhill. 100'x155'. Flexible. $619,900. Call 905-881-6965.

Thornhill-Centre/Bathurst detached, vacant, brick, 3+2 bdrms., fireplace, excel. cond. private. $10,000 down. 416-724-5454.

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Looking to relocate? Executive homes and condo's avail. for sale or lease in the Metro TO area. Call 416-483-2435.

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Bath./Steeles. Brand new executive 2 bdrm., 2 bath condo. Bright, all major appliances. 4th flr. 1 indr. pkg., pool & gym. $1800 pm. 905-717-8169.

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60 SHARED ACCOMODATION AVAILABLE

Bath./Steeles, female apps. only. Sep. bdrm., bath, close to all amen. 416-650-0082.

62 SHARED ACCOMODATION WANTED

Jewish male student, non-smkr. to share apt. or house near UofT campus or near subway. friedlr@pathcom.com

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Eldorado, 2500 Bathurst, lux. apts., large suites, reno'd., immed. 416-783-0542 or 416-787-9451.

34 Carscadden Dr. accepting applications for our beautiful bldg. in a ravine setting. 3 bdrm. apts. avail. March 1. 416-636-0137 or 416-633-1495.

Central Toronto, two apts., exec . home, bsmt. apt. = large, well reno'd, major furniture incl. + 4 appls., etc. 1 yr. lease; avail. March 02, 3rd flr. = exquisite, spacious, hardwood, amen. Ready occup., long or short term, fully furn., 1 year if taken unfurn. Laundry, pkg., util., 1 blk. to Yonge bus. Easy walk to Lawr.-Egl. subway. Phone 416-480-0026.

Bath./Wilson, 1 bdrm. bsmnt., $700. inclusive, Feb. 1, suits 1, n/smkr., n/pets. 416-322-3227.

Bath./Glencairn, bach. apt., furn, close to TTC, no pkg, no lndry, no smoking. $650/mo. 416-789-2427.

1 bdrm. furn. bsmt apt. avail., n/smoke, sep. entr. Sheppard-Wilmington. 416-635-7349.

Bath./Chabad G., Avail. Mar 1, 2 bed. bsmt. apt., sep. entr, kit., bath, 1 pkg. 905-886-6305.

Bath/Shep., large 1 bedroom's available immediately and Feb. From $1000/mo including utilities. 416-635-1664.

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Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
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RENT SPECIAL!
1 & 2 bedroom avail. immediately. Fully renovated and very spacious 1000-1300 sq. ft. Now from $1399-$1599/mo.
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Thornhill, 1 bdr. bsmt. apt., sep. entr., lndry & pkg, no smoking. Feb. 1, $825/mo. 905-660-5493.

Clark/Bath., 2 bdrm bsmnt apt. Fully furn., close to all amenities. Shomer Shabbat. No smoking. 905-764-0986.

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Bathurst/Lawrence, 5 bedroom, 4 bath home. Beautiful hardwood & skylites. Close to shuls. Avail. March 1-Sept. 1, 2002. 416-565-4554.

Bathurst/Wilson, Feb. 1-May 31, 3 bdrm, 2 storey, close to shuls. 416-414-2777, 905-731-8470.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Nazi documents show death camp totals

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — Recently released documents that have gathered dust in British archives for more than half a century reveal long-hidden information about the Holocaust, two researchers say.

The researchers' findings appear in the latest edition of the journal *Holocaust and Genocide Studies*, which is co-published by the Oxford University Press and the Washington-based U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

According to authors Stephen Tyas of England and Peter Witte of Germany, the recently declassified and decoded Nazi radio dispatches show "for the first time" the Nazis' own accounting of the numbers of Jews killed in 1942 in four Nazi camps.

In that year, a total of 1,274,166 Jews were killed in the extermination camps of Belzec, Sobibor and Treblinka, as well as in the Majdanek concentration camp.

The decoded document indicates that 24,733 were killed in Majdanek; 434,508 in Belzec; 101,370 in Sobibor; and 713,555 in Treblinka in 1942.

Tyas and Witte studied two coded messages broadcast from occupied Lublin, Poland, on Jan. 11, 1943.

One message, which was not completely recorded by British intelligence agents, was addressed to a SS Lt. Col. Eichmann in Berlin.

The second message, sent five minutes later by Lublin police leader and SS Maj. Hermann Hoefle to SS Lt. Col. Heim, deputy commander of the SS and the SD in Krakow, Poland, is "much more complete," the authors write.

The documents indicate a lower number of deaths in Belzec for 1942 than previous estimates.

Adding the new Belzec figure to totals for the other camps published in the latest edition of *The Holocaust: A Short History* by German historian Wolfgang Benz, the result is a total of 1,644,508 Jews killed in the Reinhardt camps and in Majdanek.

One German historian, Wolfgang Scheffler, appears to have come remarkably close to the revised Belzec figure back in 1973, when he gave an estimate of 441,442.

Asked if he thought the revised accounting for murders in Belzec would fuel Holocaust denial, Witte said, "Holocaust deniers have always concentrated on Auschwitz. They never dealt with the Reinhardt camps. They do not exist for them. And there is no doubt that in those camps more were killed all together than in Auschwitz."

Historians generally agree that about 1 million people, mostly Jews, were killed in Auschwitz.

The decoded document indicates the total for the four camps matches a known number from a 1943 report by Richard Korherr, statistician to SS head Heinrich Himmler, Tyas said.

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Bubba Berenzweig getting noticed for more than his name

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — His mom can't stand it when people call up and ask for Andy. That's because Mrs. Berenzweig knows her son has been going by his nickname, Bubba, for as long as he can remember.

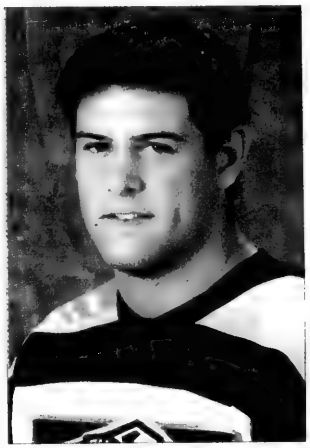
While the 24-year-old rookie defenceman for the Nashville Predators has been attracting attention in the hockey world for his name, the 1996 fifth-round draft pick of the New York Islanders knows it will be his play on the ice that determines whether he has a future in the National Hockey League.

An uncle from Texas gave Berenzweig the nickname when he was two years old because he was a large and rambunctious kid. At age five, his father put it on the back of his hockey helmet and it has stuck with him ever since. Now his mom has gotten so accustomed to it, even she calls her son Bubba.

In 16 games after being recalled from the IHL's Milwaukee Admirals on Dec. 19, the 6-foot-1, 215-pound blueliner saw quite a bit of time on the first power play unit and played solid defence. But he left the ice midway through the first period against the Maple Leafs on Jan. 8 after lacerating his thumb on his skate blade and has been sidelined for more than a week.

"I hope the injury doesn't set me back," said Berenzweig, sporting the cut that required 14 stitches, following the game in Toronto. "I told myself (after being recalled) just to go out and try and do the things that made me successful at every other level. I hope when I do come back, I play as well as I was before I hurt myself."

So far this season, Berenzweig has scored three goals and added four assists. He is even in the plus/minus column.



Acquired in a trade from the Islanders in 1999, Berenzweig started the season in Milwaukee but was called up at the end of October. He scored his first NHL goal in Ottawa on Nov. 12 and saw action in six games, then sat as a healthy scratch for three weeks before being returned to the minors on Dec. 4.

"He just wasn't ready," said Predators coach Barry Trotz. "There were some areas of his game the coaches didn't have confidence in.

"He sort of won us over. I just think every time he comes up he's more comfortable. He's playing with some confidence, he's carrying the puck and his battle skills are much better in terms of playing at this level on a consistent basis."

After a two-week return to the IHL, Berenzweig rejoined the Predators lineup and shortly afterwards was selected to play in February's IHL all-star game.

So far, his development as a defenceman has followed a classic path. In his first season as a professional in 1999-2000, he ranked second among Admiral defencemen and IHL rookies with 27 points (four goals, 23 assists). He led Milwaukee defencemen, and rookies, in playoff scoring with three points (one goal, two assists) and was named the IHL's McKenzie Award winner as the top U.S.-born rookie in the league.

In college, he was captain at the University of Michigan from 1997 to 1999, helping to lead the Wolverines to the 1998 NCAA hockey championship.

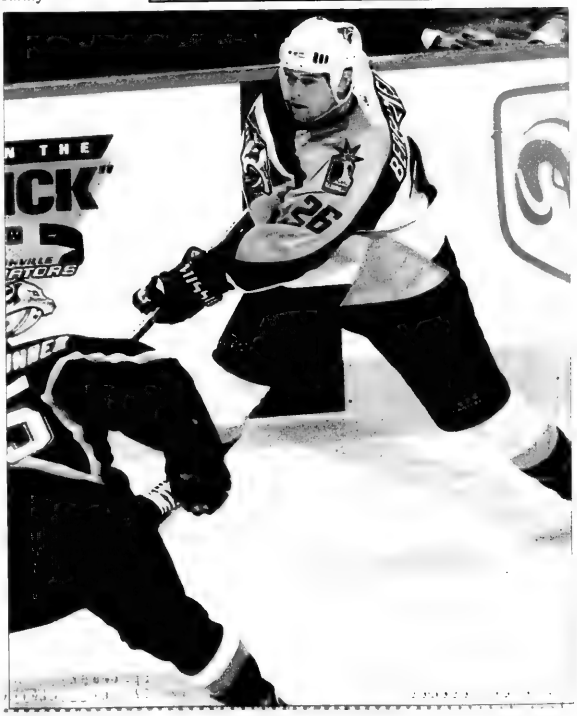
A two-time winner (1998-99) of Michigan's Vic Heyliger Trophy as the team's outstanding defenceman, he was named to the Central Collegiate Hockey Association's Second All-Star Team in 1998 and to the 1998 NCAA Championship All-Tournament Team.

Berenzweig grew up in a primarily Jewish neighbourhood in Arlington Heights, Ill. and attended the University of Michigan for four years.

A huge Red Wings fan in those days, he whooped it up with his housemates when Detroit won the Stanley Cup. Ironically, he enjoyed a breakthrough game in late December against the league-leading Wings.

"I couldn't have asked for a better game to do that in," said Berenzweig, who set up two third-period goals in the final five minutes to tie the game, and then scored the overtime winner on Dominik Hasek. "I got pretty wrapped up in that whole (Stanley Cup-winning) scene. It meant a lot that I played that well against that team."

U.S.-born Bubba Berenzweig has made the jump from college hockey to the NHL, with a stop in the International Hockey League, where he is an all-star defenceman. [Photos courtesy Nashville Predators]



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• ***Flights of Love***, by Bernard Schlink, Pantheon Books, $33, HC.

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• ***Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Short Stories***, edited by Norman Ravvin, Red Deer Press, $18.95, SC.

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• ***The Shape of this Dying: Remembering Alexander Bercovitch***, by Harold Heft, Mosiac Press, $15, SC.

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• ***Henry Ford and the Jews: The Mass Production of Hate***, by Neil Baldwin, Public Affairs, $41.50, HC.

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• ***Jewish Portraits, Indian Frames: Women's Narratives From a Diaspora of Hope***, by Jael Silliman, Brandeis University Press, $38.95, HC.

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Although the characters are fictional, this adventurous story – set in Toronto in 1954, the year of the devastating Hurricane Hazel – is based on historical truth. Illustrated by Avril Woodend.

• ***One Hundred and One Jewish Read-Aloud Stories***, edited and retold by Barbara Diamond Goldin, Black Dog & Leventhal Publishers, Inc., $21.99, HC.

This wonderful collection includes biblical and talmudic tales, midrashic folklore, holiday stories and literature from Israel and around the world by beloved authors such as Isaac Bashevis Singer and Y.L. Peretz.

• ***Mendel Rosenbusch: Tales for Jewish Children***, by Ilse Weber, Herodias, Inc., $19, HC.

The author of these loveable tales, who perished in Auschwitz in 1945, accomplished most of her creative work in the Theresienstadt ghetto. Translated by Ruth and Hans Fisher.

Ages 3-7

• ***The Littlest Pair***, by Sylvia Rouss, Pitspopany Press, $22.50, HC.

A cute Noah's Ark story with a lesson on respect and co-operation. Lovely illustrations by Holly Hannon.

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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2 tblsp sugar	1/2 tsp instant coffee powder
2 tsp baking powder	1 egg
1/8 tsp salt	1/2 tsp vanilla
8 tblsp (1 stick) unsalted butter	butter, for the skillet
1/4 cup cocoa powder	1 cup whipped cream
1/2 cup milk	1 pint raspberries or blackberries

Mix flour, sugar, baking powder and salt in bowl. Set aside.

Melt butter in small saucepan. Stir in cocoa until smooth. Gradually stir in milk and heat to lukewarm. Off heat, whisk in brown sugar, coffee powder, egg and vanilla, stirring until mixture is smooth. Pour contents of saucepan over flour mixture and stir until dry ingredients are completely moistened.

Heat skillet over low heat until hot and coat pan with butter. Pour 3" pancakes and cook over low heat until bubbles form around edges. Flip and cook until lightly coloured. Crush raspberries or blackberries lightly with fork to resemble caviar. Serve pancakes with whipped cream and berries. Yield: 18-20 3" pancakes.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I am a non-observant Jew and I have gone to a secular public school all my life. I have never been active in the Jewish world, except for going to synagogue on High Holy Days. I never really thought about becoming more active or observant until recently. Now, I have suddenly realized that I know little or nothing about Hebrew, the Torah, or anything else. I feel as though Judaism is something I would very much like to bring into my life, but I don't even know how to start. What can I do to get more involved?

Enthusiastic

Dear Enthusiastic,

It's definitely not hard to become more observant or more active in the Jewish community. If you go to synagogue on the High Holy Days, then try going to the same synagogue on Saturday morning for a Shabbat service. You will be pleasantly surprised by how much you can learn from going on a weekly basis, or even from going to a single service. Mark down on your calendar when all the Jewish holidays are and make an effort to go to synagogue, or at least to celebrate it somehow. Also, see if you can get somebody else interested – becoming observant will be more fun and you'll be more likely to stick with it if you're doing it with a friend.

Another good place to go is your local Jewish community centre. Ask about Hebrew language courses, Jewish studies courses or whatever else interests you. These courses are also a great way to meet new people. Hebrew will be difficult to learn if you are not very committed, because it is a language and requires practice, but it can definitely be done. In addition, try to find out about a Jewish course or group that involves discussion. This will give you huge insight and will allow you to understand the complexity of Jewish issues.

Many public schools have some sort of Jewish club or activity council. Find out if your school has something like this. If it does, join it; if it doesn't, start one! When it comes to learning more about the Torah and Jewish traditions, the best thing you can do is research on your own. Look up any facts or traditions you're unsure of or want to know more about in the Torah. This will be difficult at first, and you'll probably need to ask someone for help, but eventually you'll get the hang of it and will be able to look things up more quickly.

Whatever you choose to do, I hope you have found this helpful and that you will learn as much as you want to. Good luck!

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

Crossword Puzzle

The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 34.)

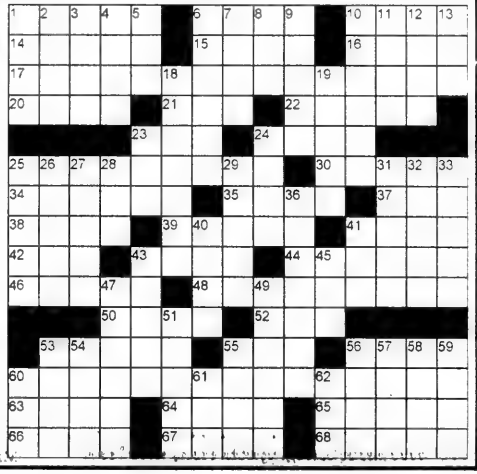
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Moshe's predecessor and successor
6 Arnold and Selleck
10 Zodiac creature
14 Have ___ to eat
15 ___ law
16 Fly off the handle
17 Russian Knesset party
20 Command to Fido
21 Fleur-de-___
22 Speak in a monotone
23 1950s politico Landon
24 Achilles' was weak
25 With 48-across, 1999 Philip Roth book
30 Chicago ___ (Abbie Hoffman, et al.)
34 "Would you ___ dance?"
35 Levin and Gershwin
37 Teacher of Samuel
38 Kosher cookie, now
39 Not our
41 Navy prison
42 Diarist Anais ___
43 Without a date
44 *Mizrachi* Party rival
46 Didn't bother to help
48 See 25-across
50 Actor Estrada
52 Spy novelist Fleming
53 Sheer material
55 Eerie Geller
56 Boyfriend
60 Kramer's portrayer
63 Frightening fellow
64 Northern Pale of Settlement city
65 Photog Leibovitz
66 "A Boy Named Sue" writer Silverstein
67 Overflow
68 Panetta and Spinks

Down

1 Av has 30
2 Somewhat
3 Refusenik's goal
4 Coy response to "Very impressive!"
5 Narcotics-fighting grp.
6 *Fiddler* tune
7 Heavenly bodies
8 West of Hollywood
9 Try to reach base safely
10 Louisiana dialect
11 "Singin' in the ___"
12 Actress Bancroft
13 Heat measurement
18 Streisand's ex
19 Lock of hair
23 Buchwald or Carney
24 Mata ___
25 Temple no-nos
26 Bernstein classic
27 "___ we all!"
28 Rock group ___ Speedwagon
29 San ___, California
31 *La Traviata* composer
32 Jewish Literature Nobelist Canetti
33 Wiesel's best-known book
36 Biblical tongue
40 Cabbie
41 Hamburger component
43 Peace Process participant
45 Uzi, for one
47 Common temple name
49 Harvey Weinstein's mother (for whom he named his company)
51 Like neon
53 Defeated utterance
54 Northern Israeli port
55 Desire
56 Archenemy
57 Cube inventor Rubik
58 Game point for Paul Goldstein
59 Employs
60 Adar and Tammuz: abbr.
61 "Don't ___!"
62 Linden born Lipshitz



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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

Infant girl needs bone marrow donor. *Page 3*

CJC seeks apology from Toronto radio station. *Page 5*

On Campus

Hatred must be exposed, York students told. *Page 22*

Special Report

Poverty becoming more entrenched, says Ryerson professor. *Page 24*

Arts & Travel

Sarah Bing, 21, determined to be successful. *Page 32*

The gratitude of soldiers at Beit Guvrin National Park. *Travel Talk.* *Page 34*

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www.cjnews.com

Agony and joy in one week

A little boy and his mother stand at his father's gravesite last week. Aharon Ben-Yisrael Alis was among the six people killed by a Palestinian gunman who burst into a bat mitzvah celebration in Hadera. Below, Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon greets a number of children newly arrived from Argentina.

[RNS/Reuters and Israel Sun photos]

New group formed to fight anti-Semitism

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler is leading an effort to attract prominent non-Jews to a new international body that will "sound the alarm" over what he describes as "an exploding new anti-Jewishness" in the world.

The International Commission to Combat Anti-Semitism held its founding meeting in early January in Jerusalem with Cotler, a longtime human rights lawyer, and Per Ahlmark, a former deputy prime minister of Sweden, agreeing to serve as its interim co-chairs. Ahlmark is also European co-chair of UN Watch, a group promoting the fair application of the UN Charter.

Irwin Cotler a leader in the effort

At a press conference announcing the commission's formation, Cotler said the new anti-Semitism hides behind denunciations of Israel and Zionism and is best defined as "the discrimination against, or denial of, the national particularity and peoplehood" of Jews.

"In other words, the singling out of Israel and the Jewish people for differential and discriminatory treatment in the international arena."

Cotler told the commission's founding meeting that this latest form of "the world's longest enduring hatred" is not confined to Israel's enemies, but is increasingly finding legitimacy in international forums, including the United Nations.

Continued on page 17

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For details see page 36.

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Police presence in Jerusalem increased after latest attack — see page 27

The News in Brief

Canada

Cut Ties: Israel

OTTAWA — A top Israeli official has urged Canada to sever all ties to the radical Islamic group Hezbollah. Canada, like the European Union, has listed the military wing of Hezbollah as a terrorist organization, but says the group's political and social wings carry out "humanitarian work." The distinction allows Canadian charities to fund the groups as long as the money is earmarked for social programs in Lebanon and the Palestinian areas. By contrast, the U.S. considers the whole Hezbollah apparatus to be a terrorist organization. Alan Baker, chief legal advisor at Israel's foreign affairs ministry, said last month in an interview with the *National Post* that Canada should reverse its policy, saying Hezbollah has massed huge amounts of weapons along Israel's northern border. Canada recently cut all ties to Hamas.

Israel

Auschwitz Album

JERUSALEM — Yad Vashem has published an expanded version of the *Auschwitz Album*, the only surviving visual evidence of the process of mass murder at Auschwitz-Birkenau, on its Web site, (www.yadvashem.org) to coincide with the 57th anniversary of the liberation of the camp (Jan. 27, 1945). The on-line album shows 58 photographs documenting the day-to-day functioning of Auschwitz, taken in early summer 1944 by SS men responsible for the identification and fingerprinting of newly-arrived Hungarian Jews.

New Exits

JERUSALEM — Israeli police are building seven new emergency exits in the Western Wall Plaza. Security forces say the new exits will help evacuate people from the plaza in case of an emergency.

World

Israeli Leader

NEW YORK — The Conservative movement's rabbinic arm is to be headed by an Israeli for the first time. The Rabbinical Assembly, which represents some 1,500 Conservative rabbis in North America, will name Rabbi Reuven Hammer president at its convention this month. Rabbi Hammer is a professor of rabbinic literature at the Schechter Institute for Jewish Studies, the Conservative seminary in Jerusalem.

Boys Charged

PRAGUE — Two 16-year-old boys have been charged with hate crimes after police seized a videotape of young people attacking gravestones at a Jewish cemetery in a Prague suburb last fall. Police said a group of youths filmed themselves damaging more than 50 gravestones, giving Nazi salutes and chanting anti-Jewish slogans.

Holy See Change

VATICAN — The Vatican says the Old Testament validates Jewish waiting for the Messiah. In a document that appears to show a shift in Catholic thinking, the Holy See declared, "The Jewish wait for the Messiah is not in vain." Now part of official church doctrine, the document also calls on Catholics to recognize the "moral value" of the Old Testament. The document reportedly was released last month with little fanfare.

'Day of Judaism'

WARSAW — The Roman Catholic Church in Poland has marked its fifth annual Day of Judaism. The church held a series of events Jan. 17 devoted to commemorating the Holocaust. Catholic officials stressed that anti-Semitic attitudes are against church teachings.

Mass Bar Mitzvah

MOSCOW — Fifty-one boys celebrated their bar mitzvah at a Moscow synagogue last month. The ceremony at the Marina Roscha synagogue celebrated the 51st anniversary of the late Rabbi Menachem Schneerson's assuming the leadership of the Lubavitch movement.

Jews Rally

BUDAPEST — About 2,000 people rallied outside Hungary's parliament on Jan. 17 to mark the anniversary of the 1945 liberation of the Budapest Ghetto. Participants also called for an offensive against anti-Semitism. This was the first time the annual commemoration, usually conducted inside the Dohany Street Synagogue, took place in a public space.

City Redresses Barring of Jews

LONDON — Churches in the city of Derby have presented the Jewish community with $4,300 (US) after rescinding a 700-year-old charter that barred "any Jew or Jewess from ever living" in the city.

Last March, a service officially renouncing the charter was held in Derby Cathedral, and an appeal was made to raise money for a symbolic donation to a Jewish cause.

Officials checked records at the Public Record Office in London, as well as local records in Derby, and found a reference to the charter, which local Christians had underwritten for 10 marks.

The record of the king's revenues for the year 1260 referred specifically to the payment of 10 marks for the charter banning Jews from the city.

The Bank of England was asked how much the sum would be worth today. Calculations produced £2,980, so a cheque for £3,000, equal to $4,300, was made out to Great Britain's Zionist Federation.

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WANTED: bone marrow donor

11-month-old Makayla born with rare genetic condition

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — What do you do when your grandchild has a life-threatening disease, one that keeps her in a hospital isolation room for months, while a search is made for a bone marrow donor?

If you are North York family physician Brian Sheffield, you try to make sure no other family goes through what you and your family are going through.

Sheffield's granddaughter, Makayla Goodman, now 11 months old, was born with a rare genetic condition, cartilage hair hypoplasia.

This condition is "characterized by short stature, thin wispy hair and a lowered immune response," Sheffield said.

It gets worse. Makayla also suffers from SCIDS, severe combined immune deficiency syndrome. She has no immune response at all. Sheffield said that she is only the third case of this kind in the history of the Hospital for Sick Children.

When she was eight months old, Makayla was admitted to an isolation room at the hospital. "There is a crib, a rocking chair and a mat for her to crawl around on, as she cannot come into contact with the bare floor, for fear of infection," Sheffield said.

Sheffield's daughter, Melissa Goodman, is with her daughter seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., saying that she wants her face to be the first one she sees in the morning, and the last one at night.

Only four caregivers are allowed to spend time with the baby – her parents, Melissa and Ian, and Sheffield and his wife Annette. (The other grandparents, Len and Maryan Goodman, were originally among the four caregivers, but stepped aside when Len had a heart attack. They will not see Makayla until

Continued on page 16

Makayla Goodman

Dr. Barry Sherman makes major Israel Bonds donation to the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto.
Value of Gift to Double in Ten Years

The Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto benefited from a substantial gift that will almost double in value in ten years, thanks to Dr. Barry Sherman and the unique attributes of the State of Israel Bonds Zero Coupon Bond. The Jewish Foundation is UJA Federation's Bequest and Endowment Fund.

"Barry Sherman has done something truly remarkable again," said Neil Nisker, Chair, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto. "This gift is a significant contribution to the future of our Jewish community. It will ensure that we can nurture and cultivate critical social service and cultural programs in Toronto, Israel and around the world."

"State of Israel Bonds plays a key role in supporting the infrastructure in Israel. Also, UJA Federation needs to build its Endowment Fund to secure the future of our local community. By buying Israel Bonds and donating them to UJA Federation's Endowment Fund, we can support both Israel and the future of our local community at the same time," stated Barry Sherman.

"Israel Bonds and The Jewish Foundation—in fact, foundations in general—are a perfect match. All foundations have a place in their investment inventory for long-term bonds. And the donor still gets a tax receipt. You help our community, you help Israel and you help yourself. It's win-win-win," noted Larry Waller, the Executive Vice-President of Israel Bonds.

(L to R): **Neil Nisker,** *Chair, Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto;*
Ted Sokolsky, *Vice President, Fundraising, UJA Federation;*
Eric Slavens, *Treasurer, Assistant Secretary and Vice President, Canada-Israel Securities Ltd.;*
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Failures of responsibility

So much of the news we report contains variations on a constantly recurring theme. For example the theme of responsibility, more specifically, failed responsibility – in one form or another – has been often discussed in the pages of this newspaper. I bring to readers' attention two further illustrations from last week's news

* * *

Political responsibility.

The point has often been made that one of the key responsibilities of elected and other public officials is that of example.

They are watched very closely, perhaps too closely sometimes, perhaps even unfairly at times. But how politicians behave in public is very much a legitimate subject for scrutiny and for discussion. That behaviour, willy nilly, becomes the de facto standard for the public and very often an influence that is absorbed osmotically in slow doses, and ultimately emulated, by the younger members of the public.

In that light, therefore, I point out the egregious statement last week by Alberta Premier Ralph Klein regarding doctors.

He and the other premiers of Canada met for two days in Vancouver to discuss strategies for improving the quality of health care across the country. Without the premiers' favourite whipping boy, the federal government, at the conference, it was a rather mild-mannered gathering.

The centerpiece of the conference was Klein's blueprint for health-care reform, the report he commissioned from Don Mazankowski and which he had released to the public some days earlier.

No sentient being in this country will disagree with the proposition that the national health care system needs to be refined to keep pace with the quickly evolving times and nature of Canadian society. There are simply too many stresses and strains that threaten the system all along its seams.

At a press conference, Klein was making the case for a publicly-funded system that could also accommodate more private enterprise, for-profit components. Whether or not one agrees with the premier's plan, there are any number of arguments that he could have marshalled to make the case, not the least of which is that the costs of the system can no longer be borne by taxes alone. The amounts involved are so great and becoming greater each year, that the delivery of other vital public services may soon be threatened.

Instead, Klein, attempted to justify introducing more for-profit components into the health-care system by pointing to the alleged for-profit motives of the key engines driving up the cost of the health care system, namely, the doctors.

"That's why they go to school for many, many years, so their earning power can increase. I mean how do doctors buy their big houses?" Klein said.

The premier may actually have intended to compliment doctors. Who knows? But it was a demeaning and highly regrettable resort to stereotyping, glibly dismissive of the inordinately demanding pressures under which most doctors work and flippantly ignorant of the ultimate, life-or-death nature of the issues that many doctors face every day.

For most doctors, their work is not about money. But Klein has made it seem so. And now many people will simply agree, having an imprimatur for such a shallow belief in the person, no less, of the premier of Alberta himself.

* * *

Journalistic responsibility.

Something bad must be happening at the *Globe and Mail*. Twice in two weeks, they have singled out Israel in their editorials in a way that fails the most rudimentary tests of fairness and honesty.

Two weeks ago, the offensive editorial in question related to the interception by Israel of the ship Karine A laden with 50 tons of arms. Last week the subject was "The Hobeika file."

Eli Hobeika was the former commander of the Christian militia that actually carried out the 1982 slaughter of the Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Beirut. Last week Hobeika was killed by a car bomb.

The day after the murder, the *Globe* opined in the very first paragraph of its editorial: "There is no shortage of suspects, but dust from the huge explosion had barely settled before a clutch of fingers were pointing at Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon." Fair enough.

But the impression of balance was nothing more than that: an impression, a chimera. The editorialist did indeed identify the other suspects in the murder, but only minimally in the penultimate paragraph of the editorial.

The aim of the editorial was clearly to imply that "the bomb blast was Israel's work designed to silence Mr. Hobeika," a potentially explosive and damaging witness against Sharon in the Sabra and Shatila "human rights" case pending against him in Brussels.

The motive of the editorial is thus transparent. But, alas, so too was its utter disregard for fairness and honesty. For it never once mentions that an anti-Syria, pro-independence, pro-Lebanon group had claimed responsibility for the bombing.

One would think an admission of responsibility, even by a previously unknown group, would not have been a minor detail for the *Globe's* editorialist speculating so pointedly and mischievously about who killed Eli Hobeika.

—MBD

LEADERS OF RELIGIONS MEET IN CAIRO:

Senior religious leaders from the Middle East and Europe met last week in Cairo to highlight religions' universal peaceful messages. From left, Sheikh Mohammed Sayyad Tantawi of Egypt, Anglican Archbishop George Carey, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Michael Melchior and Israel's Chief Sephardi Rabbi, Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron.

[RNS/Reuters photo]

CJC seeks redress over Finkelstein interview

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress is seeking an on-air apology from Toronto radio station AM 640 over controversial remarks made by a recent guest on one of its shows.

Congress's Ontario region also wants air time to respond to statements made by Norman Finkelstein, an American Jewish professor long known for arguing that Jews and Jewish organizations use the Holocaust to gain money and political power, and as an ideological weapon to further Zionist objectives and justify Israel's treatment of Palestinians.

Failing its request, Congress says it's ready to launch "legal action and/or a formal complaint" to the Canadian Radio, Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC).

CJC is particularly upset that Finkelstein described it and the World Jewish Congress (WJC) as "hucksters, hoodlums and thugs," and is angry the program's host, Andrew Krystal, seemed to egg his guest on.

The matter goes back to Jan. 10, when Finkelstein, author of the recent book *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the Exploitation of Jewish Suffering*, was a telephone guest on AM 640, also known as "Mojo Radio" and "Talk Radio for Guys."

He was heard on the call-in show *Cover Your Ass Prime Time*, hosted by Krystal, described on the station's Web site as "a former academic" who "knows his stuff and delivers. Forget spin and political correctness."

Krystal began the show by saying that CJC had been invited to appear with Finkelstein, but declined because it could not "dictate the terms" of the interview.

Among Finkelstein's on-air assertions:

- Of the $13 billion collected in Holocaust reparations and restitution since the end of World War II, only $100 million has gone to survivors, and that Jewish groups have engaged in "blackmail and extortion" in "a complete scam" to get reparations from Germany;
- It's "morally distasteful" of Jews to "rank suffering" by saying they suffered more than anyone during the war, and that the purpose of this "uniqueness claim" is to give Jews "special moral dispensation to marginalize the suffering of others," especially Palestinians;
- There is an "ugly undercurrent" in Jewish thought that "Gypsy life is not as important as Jewish life," and there has been a "determined effort" to exclude the Gypsy experience from the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum;
- Groups like CJC and the WJC use the Holocaust "to behave like a gang of hucksters, hoodlums and thugs;" are involved in "a vast shakedown" of Holocaust-era reparations; and ensure that "all dissent is drowned out;"
- Israel uses the Holocaust "to immunize it against criticism."

As always, Finkelstein pointed out that he is Jewish and the son of Holocaust survivors. Krystal referred to Finkelstein as "the most controversial man in the world right now."

In letters to AM 640 station manager Jim Johnston, CJC Ontario region chair Ed Morgan requested an on-air apology from Krystal and the "opportunity to present a balanced perspective on this matter."

CJC wrote that its refusal to appear on the program was based on its policy that "as a matter of principle, [Congress] does not appear on the same podium as individuals whose views are so extreme that appearing in public with them would provide legitimacy to their extremism."

But Congress is mainly upset that Krystal did not confront his guest with more facts or questions.

For example, CJC pointed out to the station, the total amount that has been negotiated and disbursed to Holocaust survivors throughout the world is $47 billion. And after Finkelstein's remarks about CJC, Krystal "helpfully chipped in that people who join anti-hate groups often do so as a cover for their own hate."

In a letter to CJC, Johnston explained that "in trying to present a variety of views, it is not our intent to offend any particular racial or ethnic group. As a broadcaster, we do our best to ensure a balance of views. Such balance is not always achieved during a particular program – often the other side of an issue is presented on other programs dealing with the same issue.

"We are sorry that the program offended you. However, we are of the view that the program, while controversial, did not breach [Canadian broadcasting] codes. Please be assured that we take our responsibilities as a broadcaster very seriously."

Congress also said Krystal failed to question Finkelstein's statement that he was fired from his job as a political science professor at New York's Hunter College, presumably over his controversial views about the Holocaust.

However, a Hunter College spokesperson vehemently denied Finkelstein was terminated, stressing that he quit.

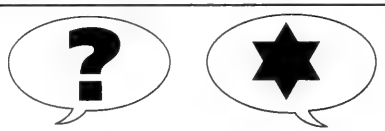
"He was not fired," Maria Terrone told *The CJN*. "He was asked to teach two classes in subjects he had taught before, and he declined to accept the schedule that was offered to him. It wasn't a schedule he wanted."

Terrone said Finkelstein was an adjunct professor, not one with tenure, and that he was not forced out.

"There was no pressure to get him to quit. The chair [of the department] would not have offered him these courses if he was bowing to any kind of pressure."

A recent report in the *Forward* said Finkelstein was one of several adjunct professors let go last summer after Hunter's political science department saw its budget cut in half. Finkelstein currently has a one-year appointment to the political science department at DePaul University in Chicago, the *Forward* reported.

AM 640 station manager Johnston did not return *The CJN*'s calls.



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Kochberg takes over as president of USCJ

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When Paul Kochberg became president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian region, earlier this month, friends asked him jokingly whether they should offer congratulations or condolences.

From behind his desk in the north Toronto office where he practices real estate law, Kochberg, 59, is enthusiastic and positive about his new role and the challenges he is taking on. But, kidding aside, Kochberg faces some issues that exceed the scope of normal day-to-day operations.

For starters, Kochberg's ascension to the presidency was delayed by more than two months because of a concern over what might appear to be a conflict of interest, due to his daughter Tamara being the Canadian region's youth director.

That issue has been resolved, said Kochberg, who succeeded Gabe Grushcow. He clarified that Tamara's status has been changed so that he has no direct supervisory jurisdiction over her, although day-to-day work and programming remain the same. In fact, Tamara reports to the New York office, as do other staff professionals, but "traditionally, the regions also have some supervisory input," said Kochberg.

"Morale [among the executive] was not great the last couple of months," he said candidly. "This just took too long to resolve."

Paul Kochberg

A longstanding issue, toward which some progress has been made, is the relationship of synagogues here to the umbrella organization. In December 2000, lay leaders of seven local congregations wrote a letter to Stephen Wolnek, USCJ's international president, outlining concerns such as the methods by which dues are determined and spent, and accountability of leadership.

Meetings between local and New York leadership to resolve the issues are still going on.

"It's moving slowly, but I think it's [been] a positive step forward," said Kochberg, adding that there is still some bridge building to be done. He would also like to strengthen the relationship between the regional structure and member synagogues. Those items are priorities, he said.

Kochberg is a firm believer in the benefits of USCJ membership. A past president and longtime member of Shaar Shalom Congregation, he first got involved with United Synagogue when Tamara became active in the organization's youth arm, United Synagogue Youth (USY), where she served as an international executive vice-president.

"The best benefit [of USCJ membership], traditionally, is USY," said Kochberg, who agreed to stand for president only if he could continue as youth commission co-chair. "That's my *nachas*. I really get a kick out of it," he said.

"I'm hoping we're going to be able to improve on [USY being the best benefit], so that synagogues and their members can say there's a whole variety of programs."

United Synagogue offers "a massive amount of assistance" to member congregations, he said. The resources, such as educational programs, originate from USCJ's central office in New York, but it's up to the regional office to distribute them, Kochberg explained.

Among his goals for the next two years, Kochberg would like to approach member synagogues in Western Canada, which affiliate with geographically closer American regions, to determine if there is any interest in "a truly Canadian region." (The Canadian region was formed three years ago as the result of a merger between the former Ontario and Eastern Canada regions.)

He would also like to increase the profile of USCJ, promote Israel through the organization (he visited twice last year) and reach out to other Jewish organizations as well as to non-affiliated Conservative synagogues.

Kochberg got his start in Jewish organizations as a teenager in B'nai Brith Youth Organization. He became involved in student politics as an undergraduate student at the University of Toronto, where he enrolled as a mature student before entering law school.

A high-school dropout at 16, he credits his wife Barbara for motivating him to return to school after he worked at a series of dead-end jobs for seven years, and his parents for instilling in him a love of Jewish life and Jewish values. His mother, now 90, still attends synagogue – weather permitting, he said.

Referring to both his own synagogue membership and his involvement in USCJ, Kochberg emphasized how important he feels it is to belong to a larger community. "We face tremendous challenges as a community. We have a better opportunity to deal with these challenges if we're together."

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The 3 brothers not with the family found their sisters in the hospital. Then they came together for the five concurrent funerals which took place on Mount Menuchot in Jerusalem.

The father Mati was a Jewish studies teacher and the mother Tzirel worked with deaf children. They left a small amount of life insurance. The remaining 5 children aged 8 to 21, are destitute and facing a crisis. The youngest girl faces many surgeries and long term therapy.

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Few services available for trauma victims in Israel

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Trauma treatment in Israel is a seriously underdeveloped field, says the director of the Israel Centre for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, a project of the Temmy and Albert Latner Institute of Herzog Hospital.

Danny Brom

"Israeli psychotherapy is backwards in the sense that cognitive behaviour therapy hardly exists. We have to change the clinical stance in the training of therapists," says Danny Brom.

He was in Toronto recently to speak to fund-raisers and raise and awareness about the centre. He was also going on to New York to give a course to social workers who work with survivors of the Sept. 11 terror attacks.

The situation in New York is different from in Israel, Brom says, "because for them it is something that is quite new. At the moment it is a one-time thing, but there is a lot of anxiety that maybe it will happen again."

Part of the trauma treatment in Israel, he says, is having people "revisit" their memories. "If they want to go back living a normal life, they cannot avoid the places where the trauma occurred."

He recently investigated the type of help available for children suffering from trauma and was surprised to learn how few services there were.

"I was under the illusion that the field was covered but when I began looking for professionals I realized there were very few."

If children are looking for help, he says, they have to get into classical psychotherapy, which focuses on a child's development and his relationships with family.

"Trauma therapy is focused on the assumption that trauma throws you off balance and you have to rewrite your mental math.

"When someone goes through a bombing or a traffic accident, they have to answer all types of questions. How did it happen to me? Will it happen again? We can get people functioning without reviewing their whole development."

There are similar services in Israel, says Brom, but his trauma centre is the only one whose mission is to raise the level of services across the country.

"We are also organizing a trauma coalition of organizations so we can begin to see what resources are available and where the needs are."

A wide range of Israelis are exposed to trauma, he says, from youth injured in the Ben Yehuda mall bombing, to the parents who have lost a child, to the children who witness suicide bombings.

"During the actual event, people tend to know what to do. It is when they get to the hospital or go home and see their family that they have their first emotional outburst. That is the start of the whole process in which they go in and out of traumatic memories," says Brom.

"There is a pendulum of having memories and putting them away. This is similar to what happens when people are traumatized during other suddenly intrusive events such as traffic accidents."

The majority of people, however, come out of the process without needing professional help. "There is a lot of resilience. People need information but they do not always need psychotherapy. They do what they need to do. They do not forget what happens, but they function normally."

Some people, though, get stuck in the process, says Brom. "This often happens to people who have suffered previous trauma. People who respond very strongly to an event are at risk for post-trauma stress."

His centre is overwhelmed with requests for help from survivors of trauma, says Brom.

"We were originally set up to deal with victims of traffic accidents and sexual abuse, but those needs got set aside.

"One of my fears is that if there are fewer terrorist incidents in the next number of months, people will forget about trauma. It is popular now because it is in the spotlight. Our work begins, however, when the spotlight is off.

"During a shivah the spotlight is on the mourners. The second week after a death is the worst week. We do not know when our second week will be."

Brom is looking for funds in order to ensure regular trauma services. "One thing we need is a library of trauma information which must be made available to the public.

"There are a sea of needs. These needs are enormous. We have to train people to get out the information in Israel and on the Internet."

There are a lot of crisis programs in schools, he says, but schools also need help months after the incident. "In one school where a student was killed in a terrorist incident, the class was still visiting his grave weekly, six months later. They clearly cannot let go of the incident. They are preoccupied with it."

Brom says there is an association in Israel for people who have suffered from combat stress for many years, but the Israeli mental health care system has given up on them.

"I would like to start a program for them. These people can be helped."

It is difficult to set up these services, he said, because there is little money available. "This is not a one time fund-raising trip. We need money to keep our services going."

CORRECTION

In the story, "ROM raising funds for neurodegenerative disease" (*CJN*, Jan. 24), the phone number for ROM Adventure with Polkaroo & Jacob's Ladder, a program to raise awareness about Canavan's disease, was incorrect. For tickets or more information, call the ROM programs department, 416-586-5797. The event will be held at the Royal Ontario Museum, Feb. 10, from 11:30 a.m. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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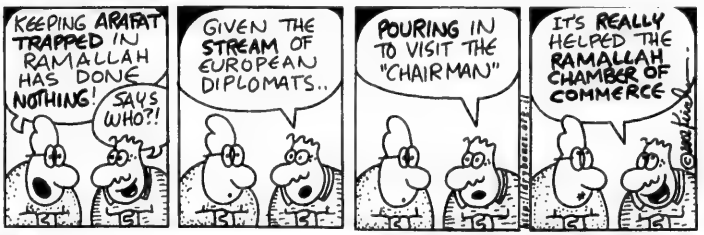
Dry Bones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Western governments must now take notice

Earlier this month, after suicide bombers struck in Jerusalem and Haifa, a senior European official visited Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at PA headquarters. PA cabinet minister Saeb Erekat was also at the meeting. The European official was there, ostensibly, to discuss peace strategies with the Palestinian leader, and in the process, to encourage him in the difficult situation in which he now found himself, stuck in Ramallah, with Israeli tanks parked metres away. To help the European guest better understand Arafat's predicament, Erekat told their guest that the PA leader was not the only one under siege, but so too, was the entire Palestinian people.

Apparently offended by his lieutenant's candid characterization of the situation, Arafat interrupted, "I am not under siege. I am in the middle of a campaign that I will continue until I have obtained victory – even if that means shedding the blood of every Palestinian!"

Not surprisingly, the European was astounded. After the exchange of further pleasantries with his Palestinian host, by then undoubtedly more perfunctory than sincere, he took his leave of the PA leader.

Ze'ev Schiff recently reported on that visit in *Ha'aretz*. In that unscripted, spontaneous blast of defiance, Arafat revealed what he is at the core, and what he will not change despite the hopes – now dashed – of every Israeli who thought Arafat could lead his people to an accommodation with the Jewish state, and it must be added, despite the hopes too of every Palestinian who also yearns to live in peace in his or her own state.

Rather than recoiling at the mere thought of "shedding the blood of every Palestinian," Arafat celebrates in its possibility. Rather than striving with all his might to avoid "shedding the blood of every Palestinian," the PA leader boasts of it as a viable tactic in pursuit of his ultimate goal.

As of this writing, the third suicide attack in Israel in one week, has just been reported. Again, the attack was in downtown Jerusalem aimed at civilian passersby, walking, shopping, stopping for a bite to eat. One Israeli is known dead; more than 100 were wounded.

The condemnation of the attack by the PA was nothing more than routine public relations, cynical, hypocritical and a total fraud. The very day before, speaking to a large crowd of his people, the leader of the PA repeatedly, emphatically called for holy war against the Jews. Jihad was his message, not reconciliation. Three days before, in Nablus, the PA released a Hamas operative from jail to appease a large throng of Palestinians clamoring for the prisoner's liberty.

Unlike Arafat's governing credo, the leaders of Israel will strive with all their power, to avoid "shedding the blood" of even one Israeli. Every government of every democratic, civilized society – including our own in Canada – would do no less.

Yasser Arafat is leading his people to demise not to independence. Western governments must now take notice and do what they can to prevent this. The lives of so many people are at stake.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Messiah controversy correspondence

I

I am amazed that *The CJN* would find it appropriate to print "The messiah controversy" (*CJN*, Jan 17).

To print an essay intimating a comparison between Jews for Jesus and the Lubavitch movement is absurd, perverted and unethical. The Lubavitch movement has been the largest single, most unified and effective force combating Jewish assimilation and raising Jewish awareness and involvement in this country for at least four decades. Any comparison is an abuse of *The CJN*'s important communal responsibility. It is the intellectual equivalent of anti-Semitic and obscene pornography!

Does the editor of *The CJN* truly believe that the folly of an extreme fringe within the Lubavitch community is the problem that faces the general Jewish community today? Does the editor of *The CJN* really expect to strengthen our community by printing diatribes of *sinat-chinam* (wanton hatred and intolerance) against one of the finest Jewish communities this country has?

By publishing this article, *The CJN* has done our entire community a grave injustice and has seriously besmirched its reputation.

Rabbi Mendel Kaplan
Executive Director, Chabad @ Flamingo
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

II

I strongly protest the views in the article "The messiah controversy."

There are much more serious issues in our community to address, such as intermarriage (now at over 50 per cent) and the question of "who is a Jew," which has left things very cloudy.

The fact that no Orthodox rabbi of stature has considered the Lubavitch matter a problem clearly discredits and isolates this attack on Lubavitch and on all Orthodox rabbis.

Yoseph Janowski
Toronto

* * *

III

With due respect to the theological arguments about what might happen with Lubavitch and the rest of the Jewish nation, the facts on the ground tell a surprisingly different story.

After eight years of David Berger's campaign have passed, let's compare the directions Lubavitch and Berger are taking. Lubavitch has built numerous shuls, day schools and Torah institutions, and encouraged untold thousands (probably an understatement) to draw closer to Torah observance. Dare I say that they have almost single-handedly revitalized Torah observance in the former Soviet Union, the Far East and other locations around the globe? And they haven't stopped. Surely they are the envy of all Jewish outreach groups.

Indeed, the very Lubavitch rabbis in Toronto accused of being "messianics" have been working feverishly to build another Torah institution, kosher another kitchen, affix another kosher mezuzah, bring another Jew closer to Torah – in short, everything we have come to expect from the Lubavitchers.

During this time, what has Berger done? Where are the shuls he has built? Where are the men he has encouraged to put on tfillin, the women who should now be lighting Shabbat candles? Instead, he has utilized the past eight years to spread the message that we should alienate, God forbid, a portion of the Jewish nation from Torah and its commandments.

Who, then, is really following in the footsteps of the false messianic movements?

I think the facts clearly show that Berger and his supporters are the real danger.

E. Serebryanski
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

IV

I believe that the answer to the allegations levelled against the Lubavitch movement lies ironically in the second half of Berger's book's title, "the scandal of Orthodox indifference." Don't you think that there must be a good reason why such an eloquent fellow as Berger, after so many years of crusading against Lubavitch, could not successfully influence the Orthodox community? The answer is simple. The Orthodox rabbinate simply can't be bothered with controlling an irrelevant fringe group of Lubavitch messianists. They don't see it as a priority or as a defining issue compared to the burning, current and colossal issues facing the Jewish community like assimilation, intermarriages and continuity.

Furthermore, the Orthodox know Halachah at least as well as Berger. While they are uncomfortable with fringe Lubavitch messianism (as are many other Lubavitchers), they will not go as far as to establish it as heresy. They know that while it might be based on minority opinions or obscure sources, it is still within the framework of legitimate Halachah.

Finally, they know that the serious leadership of Lubavitch in New York and Toronto and most of the emissaries of the Rebbe around the world, are from the severest critics of the messianist group.

I would also like to express my disappointment with *The CJN*. It was unbecoming of your otherwise professional paper. *Es past nisht!* Shame on you!

Rabbi Avraham E. Plotkin
Spiritual Leader, Executive Director
Chabad Lubavitch of Markham

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

The Messiah controversy: another view

By J. IMMANUEL SCHOCHET

Prof. David Berger's new publication, *The Rebbe, the Messiah, and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference* (reviewed in *CJN*, Jan. 17), is the most controversial book in the Jewish community in recent times. It presents an unprecedented attack on one of the most prominent Jewish religious movements, Chabad-Lubavitch, charging it with distorting and destroying traditional Judaism.

Controversy is guaranteed by emotive arguments that use scary terminology, such as "heresy, idolatry, and adoption of Christian doctrines," which are excellent for promoting sales, but camouflage the real issues. Such language tends to enhance stereotypes and becomes the wrestling mat for preconceived notions. I hardly need disclose that I identify with Chabad. My distress with the book, however, rests on the substantive matters of the author's premises and arguments, rather than on ideology. His methodology is profoundly disturbing, careless and reckless.

Rabbi J. Immanuel Schochet

The basic issue is the belief of a number of Lubavitch Chassidim that their Rebbe is the long-awaited Mashiach. They clung to this belief even after the Rebbe's passing in 1994, claiming that in due time the Rebbe would be resurrected and redeem Israel. Berger regards this as a crude violation of Jewish tradition, an import from Christianity and affirming its doctrines. He refers to medieval debates with Christians when the Jewish side argued that the Christian saviour died before accomplishing any messianic prophecies, and dismissed the notion of a "second coming" with a "second chance" as totally unfounded. In Berger's view, this is the fundamental reason for our rejection of the Christian messiah.

Berger then charges that this first offense led to ultimate heresy: "A significant segment of this movement now declares openly that the Rebbe is not only the Messiah but G-d," and that this belief "has entered mainstream Lubavitch." Throughout the book he ascribes the perceived anomalies, perversions and heresies to "large segments," "substantial majority" and "mainstream" of Lubavitch.

Berger provides no evidence whatsoever for his estimates. Occasionally he refers to the notoriously exaggerated or invented reports published in a magazine *Beis Moshiach*, the organ of the messianists' faction. It is certainly strange that he would rely on a magazine that he rightly accuses of publishing obscene and heretical materials. On the other hand, the formal leadership of Lubavitch appointed by the late Rebbe himself, such as Agudas Chasidei Chabad, and Vaad Rabonei Lubavitch, which he admits to be decidedly anti-messianist, is downplayed as insignificant and of "minimal influence."

In one instance, he concedes, "Statistical precision is elusive, dependent partly on the reading of minds." In another instance, he claims, "The percentage of Chassidim who affirm [anomalies] is secondary." Yet he persists in offering categorical numbers. Thus we must conclude that either he is able to read minds or, more likely, he invents numbers to produce an ad hominem case.

No less disturbing is the author's reference to, and reliance on, an abundance of anecdotal material and critical attributions safely hidden behind a cloak of anonymity. Source-material of this kind surely has no place in a serious study. It is devoid of any legal and moral value.

Part of the book's title is based on Berger's failure and frustration in gaining support from the leaders of Orthodoxy for his quixotic crusade. The only exception to this, he notes, is the endorsement received from the Satmar Chassidim, followers of the late Rabbi Schach from Israel, Rabbi Chaim Keller from Chicago and Rabbi Shmuel Y. Weinberg from Baltimore. Berger acknowledges that the Satmar support is suspect because of its long-standing feud with Lubavitch on issues of ideology.

He fails to mention, though, that the support from the rabbis mentioned is even more suspect. Their antagonism to Lubavitch, and Chassidism in general, marked by extremely offensive statements, dates from well before messianism became an issue. Their mind-set goes back 200 years, to the original feud between *mitnagdim* and Chassidim, and would seem to be a desperate attempt to revive it. Rabbi Weinberg's comment, quoted several times within the book and on its jacket, is a typical sample of his repertoire going back as far as the 1950s.

Berger himself quotes "heads of non-chassidic yeshivahs" who shrugged off some of his material "on the grounds that Chassidism in general is idolatry." He dismisses this comment by stating his personal belief that most likely this was not meant literally. From my close familiarity with the Lithuanian yeshiva world, which happens to be my very own root and source of origin, I know firsthand that he is wrong.

As regards the idea of Mashiach arising from the dead, there are explicit sources to support this in the Babylonian and Jerusalem Talmuds, the Midrash Rabba and the Zohar. Berger glibly dismisses these as "a rejected position." In his view, "Even a great rabbi's statement cannot automatically legitimate a theological position against the weight of overwhelming contrary opinion." The author thus negates a basic principle of halachic methodology that in matters of conflicting opinions that do not affect actual practice, one cannot reject one or the other to say who is right or wrong.

The author's major concern is that by accepting the possibility of a resurrected messiah, "one of the defining characteristics of Judaism in a Christian world will have been erased." He builds his case on the polemical debates of medieval times, where the idea of a "second coming" of the Christian messiah was rejected. Thus he commits three fatal errors:

- Judaism is defined by its own tradition, and not by its differences from Christianity or other religions.
- Polemical debates have no authoritative or halachic standing. The rabbis of the Talmud engaged in these as well, and often stated that they rebuffed their opponents with "straw" or "broken reeds," that is, that their responses were polemical tactics.
- Judaism rejected the Christian messiah a priori, already in his lifetime, because he lacked the biblical prerequisites of Mashiach, and not simply because he died without redeeming the world.

Berger's appeal to the fact that Christian missionaries now use the messianists' argument to vindicate their belief in a "second coming" is a total non sequitur. For centuries, to this day, they cited authentic Jewish sources from Talmud, Midrashim, Zohar, Jewish Bible commentaries and other texts, to do the same. Are we now to erase these quotations from our heritage?

The book is filled with numerous other errors and fallacies, too many to deal with here. Least among these are careless or mischievous inaccuracies and misinterpretations. For example, Lubavitch is accused of constructing menorahs of an atypical sort "because every new religion needs a symbol," when that "atypical sort" is the shape prescribed by Maimonides.

Is everything "a-okay" in Lubavitch? To my regret, I must answer in the negative. This should not be surprising. Without a singular authority accepted by all, and living in an open society, it is impossible to control or discipline everyone in a community or movement with tens of thousands of families. There are no membership cards to prevent anyone arbitrarily calling himself a legitimate part of that community.

Thus there are divisive factions who insist on an "in-your-face" propagation of the Rebbe as Mashiach, counter to the Rebbe's own explicit instructions. Their numbers are debatable, but they are certainly not the majority or mainstream of Lubavitch. There is nothing halachically wrong about their belief per se. It is, however, a personal belief that is crudely distorted into a categorical doctrine to be accepted by all.

To be sure, this arrogant triumphalism is a phenomenon not unique to Lubavitch. It hardly differs from the arrogant triumphalism in the non-chassidic yeshiva world where rabbis or rosh yeshivas are propagated as the ultimate authority and oracle for all of Israel. This is a universal psychological frailty that I call the "Snow White syndrome," where you look into the mirror, see yourself, and ask, "Mirror mirror on the wall, who is the greatest of them all?"

It is also true that there have been extremely shocking phenomena. Five years ago, *Beis Moshiach* published an article with idolatrous content, and other articles have appeared there which border upon red lines. These individuals, however, are at most one or two handfuls, and universally denounced (including by the messianists) as a "lunatic fringe" of no consequence, and by now silenced. To condemn the whole movement on their account, and to devote half the book to their aberrations, as if that were the norm, is unconscionable.

Followers of the Rebbe weep as the coffin in which he was carried passed by.

The late Rav. Aaron Soloveichik, a universally recognized halachic authority, stated that the messianist belief in a resurrected Mashiach is "foolishness, but not heretical." Defamation, vilification and calumny is not just foolishness, but tantamount to a compound of "murder, idolatry and incest." It is surely sad and tragic that an otherwise talented academic like Berger confused his targets.

J. Immanuel Schochet is a professor of philosophy and rabbi of Congegration Beth Joseph in Toronto.

Opinions

Charles' Birthright

Some 20 years ago when it was my privilege to be president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, I had the good fortune to count Charles Bronfman amongst my officers. He was then not widely known, but as I watched him at our meetings, it became evident that here was someone of unusual quality, perception, and with the willingness to do important work. Today, of course, he is one of the best-known Jews in the world, the one who is the catalyst of Birthright Isfael, which so far has sent 22,000 young Jewish people on their first educational trip to Israel.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Recently I received a little pamphlet about Birthright Israel authored by Bronfman, and in it he proposes a new approach to Jewish communal organization. His criticism is directed at the fact that, in all too many instances, philanthropic enterprises are run by older people who hesitate to pass the baton to a younger crowd.

Here are some of the thoughts that Charles conveys in his little pamphlet, and I quote him in his own words:

"Somehow, we have to change the perception that is out there, that rich, old guys who write big cheques – guys even older than me – are the only ones who count. Because there are young men and women who may or may not write big cheques, but who may have a wealth of ideas. They may even have a desire to become more involved with the Jewish community. Will we give them the opportunity to lead?

"And let me ask this: if a person in his or her 20s or 30s can lead a major corporation, why can't she or he run a federation project, or an agency, or indeed a federation?"

That, incidentally, is one of the reasons why I have stayed away from participating in communal activities. I do answer the occasional call, but I think that the day-by-day work has to be done by, and should be left to, younger people. They have ideas that have never occurred to me, and their experience is not ballasted by some of the prejudices which are my own.

This is not false modesty, but rather a recognition that the vitality of our communities depends on the entrance and active participation of a new generation. It does not mean that we, the older ones, have done badly – on the contrary, especially in Canada, we have done extraordinarily well. But we want to be sure that tomorrow will be even better, and I, for one, have the confidence that leaving the future more quickly to younger people with new ideas, new vision and new energy will achieve the kind of goal we hope for more quickly and effectively.

Snow job in Jerusalem

There's nothing like the prospect of snow to get Jerusalem buzzing and people's minds off the weightier issues of the day. Earlier this month, the country's meteorological service announced that a winter storm would hit Israel in a few days.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

The country was divided into two main groups – those living in places high enough to get snow and those out of range. The weather folks were quite specific, saying that hilly areas in the north and other locations at least 800 metres above sea level were in for some serious white stuff. Translated locally, this means anything more than light flurries. Jerusalem joined the Golan Heights and the Upper Galilee in the winner's circle of those likely to get snow.

As the storm approached from Europe, much of the country went into a tizzy. Judging from the media coverage, the expected snow quickly became a "major story" – even if it was still no sure thing. In Jerusalem, the sense of anticipation was so intense one would have thought the capital had not seen snow in decades. Snow was all the rage and not a flake had fallen.

Weather was the talk of the town. Would there be school or not? Would companies and government agencies open for business? And if so, how would employees get to work and back home if the streets were blocked? Would a snowstorm bring a temporary lull in Palestinian violence? Free of worry, the city's children knew that at the first sight of even a few frosty flakes, local school boards would cancel classes.

Admittedly, snow is not common in Israel, except on Mount Hermon. In Tel Aviv, it is virtually unheard of. In Jerusalem, there's a snowstorm once every few years and each time residents react as if it were an historic event.

With the countdown underway, TV newscasts showed footage of Greece and Turkey covered in white, proof positive the storm was close to Israel and of the need for contingency plans. Newspapers ran ads listing where, in case of snow, subscribers could pick up their copies. The Israel Electric Company published notices that it was prepared for the storm but included an emergency phone number. On the news, Jerusalem municipal officials readied some 70 snow-clearing tractors as if for a major military operation. The city was on a virtual war footing.

On Sunday, local authorities and the meteorological service warned the public that the snow would finally hit overnight but that emergency measures would keep the city moving. School board officials announced classes might be cancelled depending on road conditions. Children went to bed hoping to wake up to a winter paradise without school, while many adults looked forward to a bonus day off.

On Monday morning Jerusalem awoke to extremely cold temperatures and howling winds, but, disappointedly, not a trace of snow – meaning it was school and business as usual. Like many Jerusalemites, my children felt cheated by the weather man.

That afternoon, just after classes finished for the day, snow finally began to fall and – even better – it was sticking to the ground. Stores and offices closed early, as people feared they would be stranded at work. The entire city turned into a monster traffic jam. By dinnertime, Jerusalem was carpeted in white with the snow still falling and dominating the evening news. All signs pointed to a heavy snowfall and the cancellation of normal life the next day. But it was not to be. Despite the high hopes and advance billing, the snow subsided by late evening and by morning the roads were all open. Many residents, especially the younger ones, felt robbed.

Two days later, a similar scenario unfolded, but in the end rain erased the snow that had fallen earlier in the evening. Despite the disappointment for some, the weather frenzy made for a refreshing change to the recent reality. Capturing the headlines were the forces of nature instead of the forces of evil (read: Palestinian terrorism). It was a welcome, almost festive relief, even if everyone knew it was only temporary. Alas, a few days later, the nation was back to mourning victims murdered in fresh terror attacks.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

Changing facts to fit the prejudice

The evidence from the crime scene could not have been clearer – over 50 tons of deadly weapons and explosives, packed in Iranian containers,were displayed at the port of Eilat.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The crew of the Karine-A, from the Palestinian Authority's navy, were caught red-handed, and the jovial captain spoke quite freely about his mission. Israeli intelligence provided the names of the members of Arafat's inner circle who organized the details and signed the cheques.

Given this overwhelming evidence, why did the "international community" take so long to understand its significance? What factors explain the delay between the ship's capture and the beginning of media coverage? Even the U.S. government, which has the greatest understanding of Arafat's strategy of terrorism and violence, hesitated for many days before blaming the Palestinians. The BBC, which often defines the "conventional wisdom" for the Arabist lobby, kept insisting the weapons ship was bound for Lebanon. (This was a textbook example of subjective presentation of "the news.")

Beyond the orientalist sympathy for Arab victimization, European post-colonial guilt and other factors, the psychological phenomena known as "cognitive dissonance" played an important role in protecting Arafat. Among academics, this disease is known to result from the tendency to cling to explanations and conceptions long after these structures have lost coherence. Cognitive dissonance occurs when information is filtered in a manner designed to fit a pre-conception, and distorted to avoid contradictions that would weaken this framework. In other words, when the facts do not fit the biases and mental images, the lazy way out is to ignore the facts, rather than to alter the conventional wisdom.

As a result of this defensive mental process and the conception of invincibility, Israel ignored the signs that the Arabs were planning to attack on Yom Kippur in 1973. Similarly, and more recently, the U.S. government misread all the indications of Osama bin Laden's plans to hijack airplanes to attack major buildings.

In the case of the Arab-Israeli conflict, beginning in 1967, the dominant conception in the world has been one of a powerful Israel oppressing weak Palestinian "victims." Arafat was embraced by the "politically correct" liberal establishment, while Israel, and Ariel Sharon in particular, was demonized. Whenever the Palestinians launched a terrorist attack, they were excused, while Israel's efforts to defend its citizens were distorted and condemned. Many Israelis and Jews in the Diaspora adopted this mental construct, accepting blame in order to avoid the tension and stress inherent in holding views that were different from the dominant model.

As a result, Arafat's actions in violation of the Oslo agreements – including the development of a terrorist infrastructure and the large-scale smuggling of illegal weapons – have been ignored for many years. After Arafat walked out of the Camp David talks in July 2000 and rejected all efforts to negotiate a "permanent status agreement," the power of cognitive dissonance led to instant revisionism.

The media and diplomatic community, including Canada's, quickly grasped onto articles that put the blame on Israel and then-Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak. An unknown and low-level White House aide by the name of Robert Malley became a sudden media star when he published a series of articles that acquitted Arafat and held Israel responsible for killing the "peace process." Malley could not make his case based on the evidence, but he found a pliant audience that eagerly accepted his analysis, because it allowed them to keep their prejudices intact.

However, as the stress becomes unbearable, the conventional wisdom resulting from cognitive dissonance eventually crumbles, particularly in the aftermath of a catastrophic event.

The events of Sept. 11 forced the United States to rethink its entire security policy. While it is still too early to be sure, the capture of the Karine-A, and Arafat's clear involvement in this massive effort to smuggle illegal weapons and explosives, may also be a breaking point. The images of the deadly missiles displayed on the dock have finally begun to sink in, and, as a result, Arafat is stuck in Ramallah, without visitors or support.

The Kirshner File

Brazilian jeweller discovered lucrative niche

Connoisseurs of fine jewelry the world over are familiar with the striking Gothic logo "H. Stern." In duty-free airport shops, at five-star hotels and in posh neighbourhoods in 14 countries from Brazil and the United States to Israel and Argentina, the Stern chain is synonymous with elegant jewelry.

Sheldon Kirshner in Brazil

Based in Rio de Janeiro, a few short blocks from Ipanema's sparkling beaches and procession of five-star hotels, H. Stern is by far Brazil's largest jewelry enterprise.

It is housed in a 17-storey, 14,000 square-metre building containing showrooms, workshops, labs and a museum exhibiting rough crystals and gemstones. These precious stones are the key to Hans Stern's empire, anchored in 175 outlets.

Now 79, and the patriarch of the company, Stern is one of Brazil's wealthiest tycoons. He had the foresight to realize that coloured Brazilian gemstones – aquamarines, topazes, tourmalines, amethysts, citrines and tanzanites – could compete successfully with Asian precious stones like emeralds, sapphires and rubies.

Before Stern appeared on the scene, snobbish Brazilians sneered at locally-mined gemstones, considering them too common for their supposedly exalted tastes.

Working with newly-arrived European cutters and goldsmiths, Stern blended these under-appreciated gemstones with gold and silver rings, necklaces and brooches. From day one, Stern's impeccable creations were distinguished by originality of design.

H. Stern world headquaraters in Rio's Ipanema district

Several years after starting H. Stern in a modest workshop in downtown Rio, Stern was off and running. Being a private firm, H. Stern does not publish vital statistics like annual sales figures or profits. But H. Stern, he allowed in a recent interview, ranks just behind the big three: Cartier, Tiffany and Bulgari.

When you think of it, this is really amazing.

Stern, a German Jew from the Ruhr Valley city of Essen, immigrated to Brazil in 1939, about six months prior to the outbreak of World War II, with barely a penny in his pocket. Had he stayed in Nazi Germany, he might have met the same fate as his cousins and uncles: death by starvation or murder in a concentration camp.

Instead, thanks to an uncle who had already settled in Rio, Stern and his parents were able to make new lives for themselves in Brazil.

In person, Stern, a trim, somewhat diminutive man neatly attired in a charcoal gray suit, pale blue shirt, blue tie speckled with red dots and black shoes, conveys an aura of openness and friendliness.

Being accustomed to the glare of publicity, he is media-wise, but not slick. Eschewing all jewelry but cufflinks, he strikes a visitor as a down-to-earth, unpretentious person. Fluent in English, he speaks four other languages, including Portuguese and German.

Shortly after the Sterns landed in Brazil, his father, Kurt, an electrical engineer, began managing a power station in Parnaiba, in the northeastern state of Piaui. He and his mother chose to remain in Rio, then Brazil's capital.

Having finished high school in Rio, Stern started working as a typist for Cristab, a small minerals and precious stones exporter. Within two years, he rose to manager.

Being ferociously ambitious, he became a prospector and broker, buying and selling precious stones. His travels, sometimes on horseback, took him to the untamed interior of the state of Minas Gerais. He slept outdoors, and once awoke next to an alligator.

In 1945, he established his own business from the sale of an old accordion and a bank loan obtained with hardly any collateral. His good reputation had preceded him: he was known as someone who paid debts promptly.

In those days, Brazilians usually spoke derisively about coloured stones, dismissing them as merely semi-precious. Stern disagreed with their assessment.

As he likes to say, "Semi-precious stones do not exist, nor do semi-pregnant women or semi-honest men."

Stern's breakthrough came in 1951, when the president of a Latin American country ordered a necklace studded with aquamarines, which appear in more than 35 shades of blue. With this sale, he laid the foundation of a company that has elevated the manufacture and distribution of coloured gemstones into an art.

H.Stern

"I was very lucky," he said. "Things developed."

An innovative entrepreneur, Stern introduced a vertically integrated production and sales system to Brazil's jewelry business. It covers all phases, from prospecting and financing to cutting and retailing.

Hans Stern

Employing 3,500 workers, of whom 2,900 are in Brazil, Stern has an ensemble of 90 shops in Brazil, from Rio and Recife to Belo Horizonte and Sao Paulo (where he maintains another workshop). His flagship store in Ipanema is on 490 Rua Visconde de Piraja.

There are also H. Stern stores in New York City, Miami, Houston, Atlanta, Paris, Lisbon, Bogota, Cartagena, Caracas, Buenos Aires, Lima, Mexico City, Cancun, Santiago and St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands.

There are no stores in Canada. "You can't be everywhere," he said, noting that his "biggest operation" outside Brazil is in Israel.

H. Stern has 35 shops in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Lod and Eilat. "That's coincidental," he claimed, referring to the large number of Israeli outlets. "We started in airports, then hotels, and now we're in the local market."

Although he no longer maintains stores in Frankfurt and Dusseldorf, having pulled out for "technical reasons," he keeps an office in Germany to provide after-sales service to buyers. As a tour of his Ipanema showroom indicated, a good many of his customers are Germans. Sixty-three years after leaving Essen, Stern has mixed feelings about Germany.

On average, H. Stern, with an inventory of 300,000 pieces, turns out 20,000 new items a month, from charms to watches. Ninety percent of his jewelry is produced in-house. "Some things, like chains, are farmed out," explained Stern, whose wife, Ruth, is not partial to jewelry. He approves each and every design. Six to eight months elapse from the design to the production process.

A great deal of his clients are tourists, some of whom are famous. Stern has had the pleasure of hosting sovereigns (King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia of Spain), statesmen and politicians (Henry Kissinger and Robert Kennedy), financiers (Baron Guy de Rothschild), film stars (Charlton Heston, Ginger Rogers, Liv Ullmann, Rock Hudson, Omar Sharif), musicians (Zubin Mehta and Duke Ellington), writers (Albert Camus and Gabriel Garcia Marquez) and dignitaries (astronaut Neil Armstrong and Nobel Prize laureate Linus Pauling).

When he turned 75, Stern handed over the reins to his sons, Roberto, 42, and Reynaldo, 40. Roberto, his designated successor, lives in Brazil, and oversees design and marketing. Reynaldo, based in New York City, is in charge of the overseas market.

"I can be very proud," he mused. "In my lifetime, I have been able to hand over my business to a new generation, my sons. They sometimes listen to my advice." (Stern's third son is an engineer. His fourth is a resturateur).

Although officially retired, Stern is still a powerful presence at H. Stern. He has, however, made a concession to the march of time. "Instead of getting to the office at 8," he chuckled indulgently, "I arrive at 8:30, and leave at 6."

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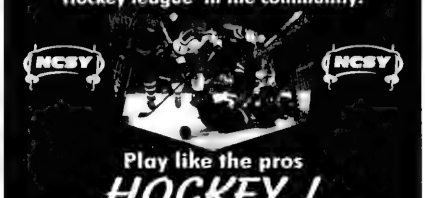

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The passion for politics

***The Life: The Seductive Call of Politics*, by Steve Paikin, Penguin Books, 2001.**

Among my minor claims to fame is that a long time ago I officiated at the bar mitzvah of Steve Paikin. Born and bred in Hamilton, he has over the past 20 years been an astute political journalist, as well as popular co-host of TVOntario's current affairs program, *Studio 2*.

For *The Life*, he interviewed a clutch of politicians to discover why they were attracted to public service. Certainly, the low estimate of politicians generally must have been a drawback.

Machiavelli, as far back as the 16th century, concluded, "Deceit, hypocrisy and perjury are necessary and excusable for the sake of holding on to political power." In our own time Ronald Reagan decided, "Politics is supposed to be the second oldest profession. I've come to realize that it bears a close resemblance to the first." George Bernard Shaw was dismissive of the politician. "He knows nothing, he thinks he knows everything – that clearly points to a political career."

Yet, some men and women – intelligent, unselfish, beneficent – are drawn to the world of politics like drunks to free booze. They are willing to invite public scrutiny, court exhaustion, suffer insult and obloquy and often endanger their marriages and lose their friends.

Books
Bernard Baskin

The politicians Paikin interviewed included Kim Campbell, Frances Lankin, Brian Mulroney, William Davis, Peter Lougheed, David Peterson, Audrey McLaughlin, Lewis MacKenzie, Tom Long, Sharon Carstairs, David Smith, Glen Murray and many others.

The answers they provide for entering the uncertain world of politics are diverse. Some are crusaders, eager to make necessary changes in society. Some are idealists who enjoy the role of pioneers who blaze new trails. Some entered the work unexpectedly and by accident. And for some, of course, there was the allure of power.

William Davis, premier of Ontario from 1971 to 1985 confessed that the private sector didn't compare to the excitement of public life. "There's nothing quite like the sense of accomplishment, the sense of frustration, the sense you may be playing some limited role in the province or the country, and the little things you can do for people."

Along the way, the author reminds us of Herb Gray's long and successful career. He won his first election for the Liberals in 1962 and seven years later became the first Jewish Canadian to sit at the federal cabinet table. Eventually, he became Chretien's deputy prime minister in 1997.

David Croll, one-time mayor of Windsor, was the first Jewish cabinet minister in Canadian society, having served on Ontario Premier Mitch Hepburn's executive council in the 1930's.

The Life is filled with memorable stories and anecdotes that give verve and continual movement and interest to the book.

Paikin, at the end of the trail, confesses that he met politicians who were corrupt, ignorant and incompetent, but, also many who were inspiring. "One can't help but admire them and when they get things done they can change our lives."

Perhaps there is an important message for us in the words of former U.S. Supreme Court justice Felix Frankfurter: "One of the shallowest of disdains is to sneer against the professional politician."

How should teachers portray biblical figures?

By ELLIOT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION
The Next Generation

How to portray biblical figures is a regular concern of Tanach teachers everywhere. Caught between the desire to preserve the status of Abraham, Sarah, Isaac and Rebecca as worthy of emulation and reverence, and the textual evidence of their periodically less than laudable behaviour, the teacher is caught in the horns of a considerable dilemma.

If the patriarchs and matriarchs are to be worthy of respect, then how can this be reconciled with their seeming flaunting of basic moral rules? Incidents like Jacob's deceitful acquisition of his brother Esau's blessings, or the brothers of Joseph cruelly forcing him into a pit and then selling him off to a foreign caravan are but a few of the passages that come to mind in the unflinching lens that Genesis applies to many of its inhabitants.

These honest portrayals are praiseworthy in one sense and perhaps constitute one of the great glories of the Hebrew Bible, as Erich Auerbach and others long ago proclaimed. But it does leave the teacher in an awkward place. How can one defend such acts? And if one concedes that this kind of activity is one that would be condemnable in one's own children, then is the subsequent damage to the reputation of the forefathers and foremothers almost irreparable?

Jewish tradition has long wrestled with these problems in an open and vigorous fashion. One of the more famous debates concerns Abraham's decision in Chapter 12 of Genesis, where he urges his very attractive wife Sarah to announce upon their arrival in Egypt that she is his sister. Abraham fears he will be murdered by the Egyptians when they find out that Sarah is his wife.

What kind of ethical values are being upheld here? Lie at the first sign of trepidation? Risk your wife's virtue to save your own skin? No less a commentator than the Ramban, the famous 13th-century Spanish exegete, asserts that Abraham "unintentionally committed a great sin by bringing his righteous wife to a stumbling-block of sin on account of his fear for his life. He should have trusted that God would save him and his wife."

Six hundred years later, this criticism inspired the perplexity and counterattack of Rabbi Samson Raphael Hirsch, the leader of German neo-Orthodoxy and author of his own formidable commentary on Chumash. But prior to his defence of Abraham in this specific situation, Rabbi Hirsch writes these memorable words: "The Torah never presents our great men as being perfect, it deifies no man... We are never to say: This must be right for did not so-and-so do it! The Torah is no 'collection of examples of saints.' It relates what occurred not because it was exemplary but because it did occur."

Jewish tradition sometimes oddly vacillates between almost hagiographic boosterism of our ancestors and forthright and detailed criticism. But greatness, as Rabbi Hirsch states, does not mean perfection. When human beings are depicted without flaws, they do not inspire, they simply vanish from reality. Larger than life, they become practically unusable as moral paradigms. Brought into the proper perspective they can serve as signposts along the way to God, for that which is virtuous and that which, alas, is all too human.

Jewish Life

Bar/bat mitzvahs – part 3

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Today, I conclude my look at bar and bat mitzvah sites on the Internet with a focus on the very different ways some people celebrate this special day.

The sites that I've visited suggest that there is a general decline in the excess associated with some bar and bat mitzvah celebrations. But you wouldn't know it when you read the article "Bash mitzvahs!" from *New York Magazine* **[http://www.newyorkmag.com/page.cfm?page_id=2343]**. The article was written in 1998 during the stock-market boom and it catalogues quarter-million-dollar, multimedia, themed extravaganzas. Were you thinking of doing something different and booking Natalie Cole for your simchah? Well, it's been done. Natalie has already done a bar mitzvah on the aircraft carrier *Intrepid*. Her fee: $150,000 for 30 minutes.

At the other end of the scale, there are many sites that emphasize how this coming of age is a perfect time to remember others. In "Putting the mitzvah back in bar/bat mitzvahs," several people tell of their genuine mitzvahs. Alexandra Alper collected close to 900 toiletries from neighbours, dentists, supermarkets and others which she donated to a shelter for women. Alison Stieglitz decided that instead of having expensive flower arrangements on each table, she would have baskets of food that would be donated to a local charity **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/340.html]**. You can find some more suggestions at the Mitzvah99 B'nai Mitzvah page **[http://members.aol.com/mitzvah99/mypage/]**.

One popular way to celebrate a bar or bat mitzvah is through a family visit to Israel. The *Jerusalem Post* reports that last year, over 2,000 preteens came to Israel to celebrate their special day – 94 per cent of them from the United States or Canada. Travel planners are becoming quite sophisticated and are offering extended trips with adventures such as a "fabulous bat mitzvah jeep ride" through the dried riverbeds of the Negev desert. However, the most popular spots for the actual bat or bar mitzvah ceremony remain quite traditional: Jerusalem and Masada **[http://www.jpost.com/Editions/2001/05/03/Features/Features.25568.html]**.

After the festivities are over, all that remains are the memories and the videos and the thick photo albums. You can compare how times have (or haven't) changed when you look at snapshots from Detroit's b'nai mitzvah family album **[http://www.mjoe.org/album/index.html]**. (No, your eyes aren't playing tricks on you. People really *did* use to wear those pink psychedelic jackets!)

The bar mitzvah is not only a rite of passage, it is also a favourite Hollywood staple. Fans of *The Dick Van Dyke Show* will remember the classic episode in which Buddy Sorrell begins to act suspiciously. His friends fear he is having an affair when all along he was practising for the bar mitzvah ceremony he never had as a child **[http://classicsitcoms.com/shows/dvd5.html]**.

More recently, Kirk Douglas appeared on the program *Touched by an Angel* as a grandfather who had no use for religion. Eventually he embraced his Jewish heritage and wanted to be "bar mitzvah'd" along with his grandson **[http://www.touched.com/episodeguide/seasonsix/618.html]**.

And finally, a case of life imitating art: although bat mitzvah ceremonies may be common these days, that was not always the case. "Bubbe's bat mitzvah" tells the story of four women who didn't let age get in the way of formally celebrating their connection to Judaism later in life. Marjorie Edenfield of Newton, Mass., began a year of formal studying for her bat mitzvah when she was 75. "It was a wonderful year of learning… I was glad to be able to hold my head up and say I'm Jewish! I've never had such an exalted feeling. I consider it one of the high points of my life" **[http://www.jflmail.com/oldarticles/1785.html]**.

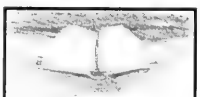
Mazel tov to b'nai mitzvah of all ages.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be contacted at highway@rogers.com.

Giving your best amidst the worst

By RABBI LEIGH LERNER

Doesn't the Torah choose a strange time in Israel's history to offer the Ten Commandments? After 400 years in slavery, what does Israel understand of law? Forty years of wandering remain. Israel is not ready to establish a state. Why the Ten Commandments now? Why not wait until they enter Eretz Yisrael? Because God believes in putting forth the very best amidst the very worst of times.



The Ten Commandments gave Israel vision for their future. Even today, they tell what kind of life we're bringing up our children to lead.

When we hear news of the war against terrorism, we strain our ears to learn whether Israel has endured another attack. We feel a lack of control. Why?

It is partly because Al Qaeda is full of surprises. No one knows what's next. But we are also anxious because we have no idea whether peace will come when Al Qaeda is defeated. We see no vision of a different Middle East coming forth.

Just as the Ten Commandments bring the Children of Israel a vision of what society will be like in their new land, for our own security, we too need a vision of a world operating under rational, ethical laws. Lacking that promise, we feel uncertainty. To get through these "worst of times," the nations must articulate a vision of the best of times, just as the Torah did when it offered the Ten Commandments far ahead of Israel's entry into its land.

The Ten Commandments are also the basic covenant between Israel and God. There is wisdom in causing Israel to come close to God with this covenant. After 400 years of suffering in slavery, Israel is wounded. God has removed the bloody bandages from those wounds to allow them to heal in the open air of freedom. But when bandages come off, the pain is great. Sometimes people make the mistake of running from the one who removes the bandages from the wound, instead of from those who wounded them.

To keep Israel from running, either back to Egypt or helter skelter into the wilderness, now is the time for the Ten Commandments. They bind Israel to the God who freed us, the God who now makes a best effort to provide a framework for mutual responsibility.

Our generation, too, has its wounds, such as the Holocaust and the current loss of life to terrorism against Israel. These wounds make some want to run away from God. We tend to hold God responsible and then desert Him.

An Arab story tells of two friends travelling a treacherous road. One fell into a raging river. The other leaped in and saved him. The friend who almost drowned carved these words on a nearby black boulder:

"Wanderer! Here Nagib heroically saved the life of his friend Mussa."

Months later, the two happened to meet at the same spot. As they talked, a quarrel broke out between them. In anger, the one who had almost drowned was struck on the face by the very friend who only last year saved him.

The one who was struck picked up his stick and wrote on the white sand near the black boulder. "Wanderer! Here Nagib, in a trivial argument, broke the heart of his friend Mussa."

When Mussa's men inquired why he would record his friend's heroism in stone but his cruelty only in the sand, the wounded friend replied, "I shall cherish the memory of Nagib's brave assistance forever. This grave injury he just gave me will, I hope, fade from my memory even before the words fade from the sand."

The tablets of the Ten Commandments are the stones upon which are written, "Wandering Jews, it is God who brought you safely out of the land of Egypt, the house of bondage!" Whatever quarrels we may have with God in this time when Jewish celebrations, malls, and buses are blasted by terrorist attacks, let our distress pass quickly, like words written in sand. As we read again the everlasting memorial of our covenant with God, the Ten Commandments, may we allow them to draw us close to our God. Just as God gave a best effort when we were at our lowest ebb, now, when troubles beset us, may we make a best effort to remain loyal to our covenant.

Rabbi Leigh Lerner is spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El-Beth Sholom in Montreal.

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  Wednesday, February 13, 7:30 pm
- **Dinner: "Who is the Jew: Views of Jewish Identity as Revealed through Changing Conversion Issues"**
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Jewish Life

'Berger's book has no impact on Chabad's work'

By RABBI ZALMAN A. GROSSBAUM

Guest Voice

Years ago while I was discussing human nature with a physician, he shared the following parody with me. A fellow comes to the doctor and asks him to examine a rash. The doctor sees at once that there is no need for alarm, that the discoloration is a trifle, and responds: "It's a good thing you came in today." What he meant but could not say was, if you would have waited another day, the blotch would have dissipated without treatment and there would have been no need for a visit to my office.

So, too, with the essay *The Messiah Controversy* by Martin Lockshin (*CJN*, Jan. 17). Lockshin creates unwarranted hysteria. To this writer, it appeared that Lockshin was using the *CJN*'s prestigious Perspectives page to camouflage an outright sales pitch for David Berger's book, his mentor and object of his admiration for 27 years.

In his crusade for the proper interpretation of the Twelfth Principle of Faith, that is, dealing with belief in the coming of the messiah, Lockshin devotes no less than four paragraphs to Berger's virtues and integrity, yet summarizes the contentious philosophical controversy in a scant three paragraphs. He admits, though, "a one-page newspaper essay cannot do them justice."

Ever since Berger published his manifesto, there have been countless discussions amongst Chabad leaders as to the proper response. The primary challenge we faced was to respond and still not lend any credibility to his baseless claims.

Furthermore, Berger's book has had no impact on Chabad Lubavitch's outreach work. So why bother responding at all, some of the leaders say? I, for one, share that opinion. Why waste precious time, energy and resources on a moot, dead-end issue? And since Berger's book has not hindered our work, why engage in futile dialogue?

However, in his praise for the book, Lockshin has introduced the Canadian angle. Frankly, it is totally beyond belief how a philosophical, theological, hair-splitting debate is of special concern to residents north of the 49th parallel!

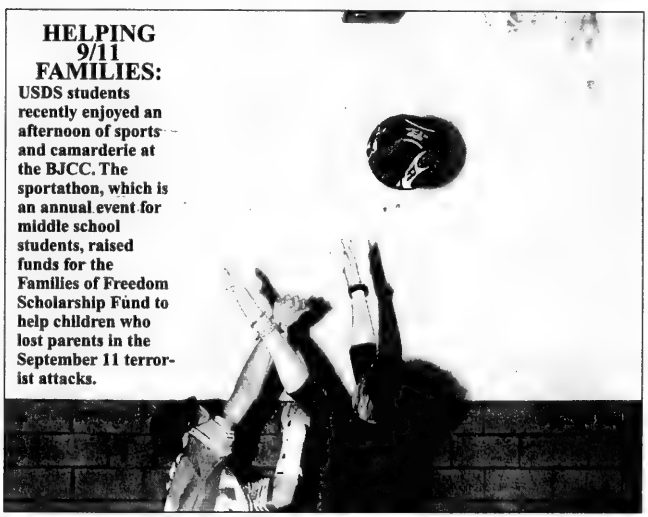
Lockshin also finds it necessary to include Berger's un-Jewish suggestion to "withhold support from the specific institutions." Then he makes two references as to the unique concern to us as Canadian citizens: "But I think that they are worthy of careful reading by all Jews particularly here in Canada," and in conclusion, he writes: "Right here in Canada, Berger would say, serious changes have taken place in Judaism in the last eight years. How are we going to react?"

Having been granted the sacred task to be part of the Rebbe's brigade to bolster Yiddishkeit in Ontario, I can proudly say that Chabad has changed the landscape of Jewish life. This is evident from our Chabad Houses, synagogue centres, Talmud Torahs and Torah institutions across Canada. Right here in Toronto, this would include our most recent outposts south of St. Clair Avenue and north of Major Mackenzie Drive. But why this growth bothers Berger and Lockshin simply boggles the mind.

I could go on, but I know that the Rebbe, while being proud of his 2,000-strong branches all over the world, would say we cannot rest and be satisfied with yesterday's success but must continue to bring Torah Yiddishkeit to every single person, wherever he or she may be. And the sooner we act, the sooner we will welcome Mashiach who will rid the world of conflict, strife and jealousy, and bring peace to mankind.

Rabbi Grossbaum is a senior shaliach of the Lubavitcher Rebbe and heads the Chabad Lubavitch Organization of Ontario.

HELPING 9/11 FAMILIES:
USDS students recently enjoyed an afternoon of sports and camaraderie at the BJCC. The sportathon, which is an annual event for middle school students, raised funds for the Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund to help children who lost parents in the September 11 terrorist attacks.



[Dominique Grundberger photo]

JNF hikes cost of planting trees

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The Jewish National Fund is vowing to plant two trees in Israel for each one that a terrorist destroys this year, and it's counting on the community for additional support despite a 100 per cent increase in the cost of planting one.

Effective Jan. 1, the JNF doubled the cost of planting an individual tree to $18, citing rising costs in Israel for saplings, the labour involved in planting them and the administrative costs in Canada for tree orders.

"We think it's a very reasonable increase to go to Chai, it of course also being symbolic in Jewish tradition," said Ben Prossin, executive director of JNF Toronto, adding that JNF's last price increase was about 12 years ago.

"We're very thankful for the positive attitude and approach that people have taken to the necessary price jump."

JNF's annual Tu b'Shvat telethon takes place Sunday, Feb. 10, when volunteers will call people and urge them to buy trees.

Terrorists have burned down hundreds of thousands of trees and parts of forests in Israel, but JNF won't let them destroy the country, Prossin said.

"We know that people in the community will support this attitude because for decades, people today, their parents and grandparents, have planted trees in order to make Israel a green and productive land," he said.

The JNF has planted 220 million trees since Israel's birth and has saved much of its land from becoming desert, Prossin said.

"People know how important that the program of tree planting is to Israel and the historical sweep of the involvement of the JNF in having planted trees since Israel was created."

Tu B'Shvat, which fell on Monday, marked the beginning of the new year for trees. It is customary to plant trees and partake of the fruits of the land of Israel to mark the occasion. The holiday's purpose is to calculate the age of trees for tithing.

The Torah says that fruit from trees grown in Israel may not be eaten during the first three years. The fourth year's fruit is for God, and following that the fruit can be eaten.

A tree is considered to have aged one year as of Tu B'Shvat no matter when in the year it was planted.

To plant a tree ahead of the telethon, call the JNF office at 416-638-7200.

TU B'SHVAT ARTWORK: Grade 4 students at Associated Hebrew Schools' Posluns branch stand in front of artwork created in honour of Tu b'Shvat. From left: Russell Handelman, Tovi Ander, Dustin Kopman and Michal Lipsitz

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February 27 at 8 p.m.	**Jokes**: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters. With **Dr. Ted Cohen**. Co-sponsored by the Koffler Centre of the Arts & The Albert and Tammy Latner Jewish Public Library. Admission: Free. Location: Leah Posluns Theatre. For more information call ext. 352.
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March 21 at 8 p.m.	Piano Concert with **Alexander Tselyakov** at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Presented by the Koffler School of Music & Na'amat Canada. For tickets or information, call ext. 228.
March 14 - April 28	**Gilbert Boyer**, *<<tefillin.www>>*. Montreal artist Gilbert Boyer commemorates the anonymous, unofficial histories and narratives of everyday life with text-based works on glass. Artist Talk: March 14 at 6 pm. Opening Reception: March 14, 7-9 pm, The Koffler Gallery.
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Bone marrow donor required

Continued from page 3

he gets her bone marrow transplant, and returns home.)

The transplant team at the hospital has told the family that they have several potential donors who match five out of six genetic markers. They hope one of those will be as nearly perfect as possible.

Even if a donor is found, Sheffield said, Makayla will be in the hospital for four more months, and then in semi-isolation – only family allowed to see her, no guests or children – at home for an indeterminate amount of time.

In this best-case scenario, Makayla will be more prone to leukemia and will have to deal with having wispy hair, being short (she will probably only grow to four feet tall) and being, very likely, infertile, due to the radiation treatment necessary to prepare her body for the transplant.

The effect this places on the family is devastating, Sheffield said.

"My daughter and son-in-law don't see each other, except in passing. We all get into stupid arguments about totally unimportant things. Vacations are impossible, and we are always frazzled."

What makes Sheffield particularly angry, he said, is how few people are listed on bone marrow registries. Out of about 10 million people eligible to be bone marrow donors in Canada, only 215,000 are on the Canadian registry. A mere 750,000 are on the American registry, he charged.

There are several private registries, one of which is Gift of Life, the successor to the Jay Feinberg campaign. (Feinberg, 33, from New Jersey, has chronic myelogenous leukemia. Mass screenings for him were held all over the world, including several times in Toronto and Montreal.)

At any of the private registries, including Gift of Life, there is a charge for all stages of the search. If the marrow has to be sent to a different country, there is a fee. In the United States, there is also a fee for the testing.

Sheffield also objects to the fact that many people on private registries are not also on the national registries – although many, he said, think they are.

He said he was astounded to learn that when people are tested in private drives, "only five per cent said that they would be willing to donate marrow to anyone other than the person being tested for.

"Is that just our people, or does it happen in other ethnic groups too?"

Many people also don't understand the process, Sheffield said. First, the initial test is a simple blood test. If you are a potential match, you are sent a kit that you take to your own doctor, who will take another blood sample.

If you are a match, "it takes two weeks of your time. There is some discomfort in the place in your hip where the marrow is withdrawn, but not enough to affect you for more than a couple of days – if that. Also, the marrow is regenerated immediately."

Sheffield said he is not looking for pity. "If I can get one person to join the registry, and that person saves a child's life, I will be successful," he said.

If you are between 17 and 59, and healthy, Sheffield urges you to contact Canadian Blood Services, at 1-888-2DONATE.

"You have to be prepared to do a mitzvah – and save a life," he said.

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FOR EACH SELECTED PROJECT, THE BJE WILL PROVIDE FUNDING FOR MOUNTING THE PROJECT AND SEEING IT THROUGH.
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PROPOSALS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED BY THE BJE FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2002-2003
DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS: MARCH 15, 2002
For Proposal Guidelines and more information please contact Silvia Eilath or Ruth Rohn, 416-633-7770, ext. 257 or 260

Beth Sholom to honour 98-year-old Rabbi Kirshenblatt

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Longtime teacher and spiritual leader Rabbi Jacob Kirshenblatt will be honoured by Beth Haminyan and Beth Sholom synagogues Feb. 16, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m., at Beth Sholom.

The event will include cocktails; a klezmer band led by former student Les Train; a silent auction that will include dinners with *Globe & Mail* columnist Marcus Gee, the *National Post's* Christie Blatchford, or entertainer Amy Sky; and a balloon bust. Proceeds will benefit The Israel Centre for the Treatment of Psychotrauma at Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Kirshenblatt

Rabbi Kirshenblatt, who will turn 99 this Pesach, arrived from Poland via Israel in 1929. He served as spiritual leader in Glace Bay, N.S., and in Ontario in Welland, Peterborough and Toronto. Along with Rabbi David Monson, he was a founder of Beth Sholom.

He has blown shofar during the High Holy Days every year since he was 13, a media release says. Over the years, he has taught thousands of bar and bat mitzvah students, many of whom have shown a huge interest in the tribute.

For many years, Rabbi Kirshenblatt has volunteered at Queen Elizabeth Hospital and Princess Margaret Hospital.

Rabbi Kirshenblatt is a longtime member of Beth Haminyan, a nearly 30-year-old congregation that features a traditional and participatory service, led entirely by members.

Joel Eisen, a co-chair of the event along with Norm Talsky, said Rabbi Kirshenblatt is a tremendous favourite with the children. A highlight of the shul year is Simchat Torah, when all the youngsters gather under his tallit, Eisen said.

The release describes him as a "diminutive [man], pockets bulging with candies [for the children], who speaks at least three languages, usually in the same conversation, and is increasingly frail, but with a sonorous, booming voice."

Eisen described the rabbi as a very humble man. In fact, he refused to allow the tribute, unless the evening would raise funds for the Israel Centre for the Treatment of Psychotrauma.

This centre treats symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder, which may include flashbacks, severe depression and anxiety, emotional numbness, and disruption in relationships, the ability to work or school functioning.

Chronically short of funds, it needs money for therapy, computers and for refurbishing its premises. Cost of the evening is $60, which is partially tax deductible.

For more information, call Beth Haminyan, 416-636-2569.

Cotler-led project seeks non-Jews for global watchdog

Continued from page 1

"This globalized anti-Semitism cannot be fought by Jews alone but can only be fought by an international coalition involving the intergovernmental community, such as the UN, governments and political leaders everywhere, nongovernmental organizations, public intellectuals, academics, and civil society," Cotler said.

The Israeli government has endorsed the project. Michael Melchior, Israel's deputy foreign minister, told reporters the new anti-Semitism needs new strategies to expose and condemn it.

He said that while many Jewish organizations monitor this threat, one composed mainly of respected non-Jews of global stature would have more impact.

Plans are for the commission to be based in Switzerland, with offices in Jerusalem and New York. Details on funding and membership are yet to be finalized, Cotler said in an interview. The commission's board of directors is now being formed and will be announced at a later date.

Cotler told the founding meeting that classical anti-Semitism, which has been waning for years, denied individuals Jews the right to live as equal members of a free society.

By contrast, the new anti-Semitism denies the Jewish people the right to live as "an equal member of the family of nations," he said.

"In a word, Israel is the only state in the world today – and the Jews the only people in the world today – that are the object of a standing set of threats from governmental, religious and terrorist bodies seeking their destruction," Cotler said.

The two strains have a fundamental characteristic in common, he continued.

Both are "an assault upon whatever is the core of Jewish self-definition – be it the Jewish religion at the time of classical anti-Semitism, or the State of Israel as the 'civil religion' of the Jewish people under this new anti-Jewishness."

The "demonization" of Israel today is the contemporary echo of the medieval indictment of the Jew as "the poisoner of the wells," Cotler charged.

"In a world in which human rights has emerged as the new secular religion of our time, the portrayal of Israel as the metaphor for a human rights violator exposes Israel as the 'new anti-Christ' – with all the teaching of contempt for this 'collective Jew among the nations' that this new anti-Semitism implies."

Although the new anti-Jewishness has been percolating for 30 years, Cotler said a number of glaring examples in the last year have made the need for action urgent. These include:

- The World Conference Against Racism in Durban, where Israel was "the only state singled out for indictment."
- The singling out of Israel by the UN Commission on Human Rights as the only country to receive condemnation.
- Israel becoming the first country in 52 years to be specifically indicted by the Conference of the Contracting Parties to the Geneva Convention.
- The exclusion of Magen David Adom, Israel's emergency aid agency, from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

"If anti-Semitism is no longer respectable and anti-Zionism in the form of the 'Zionism-is-racism' resolution has been exposed as a cover for anti-Semitism, what better mask than human rights – and the UN as repository of human rights – to carry out this process of distortion and defamation," Cotler said.

Cotler emphasized he is not suggesting that Israel should not be held accountable for violation of international law or human rights. "The Jewish people are not entitled to any privileged protection or preference because of the particularity of Jewish suffering."

The problem is that Israel has been "systematically denied" equality before the law in the international arena. What's more, he observed in an interview, anti-Jewishness at the highest levels is spawning a resurgence of old-style anti-Semitism in the form of physical assaults against Jews in the Diaspora.

"This pervasive and persistent anti-Jewishness constitutes a standing assault on democracies and human rights everywhere," he told *The CJN*.

This new type of anti-Semitism will have ramifications beyond the Jewish community, he said.

"Genocidal calls for Israel's destruction and racist terrorism singling out Jews everywhere are a clear threat to international peace and security."

The Middle East peace process is also jeopardized because the new anti-Semitism incites terrorism and "undermines the trust of even the most dovish Israelis."

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ש'שאר מ'ינ'ן

גידי קורן וחברים

חקבנן מקרלטון

מאז שהגענו לקנדה חפץ קולטנע קרלטון עבורינו למקום מקלט, לקשר לעולם הגדול. לקרלטון אפשר לחגיע ממש ברגע האחרון ולמצוא סרט זר מאיראן או מיוגוסלביה או מישראל שעבר את האוקיעוס. בדרך כלל מחזיקים הסרטים האלה מעמד שבוע שבועיים, לאור הקהל המצומצם שמעוניין בהם. וכך חפץ קרלטון לחלק חשוב בחוייה שלנו. בפיתוחו של הקולנע יושב היה קבע קבנן ארוך שיעי שנראה כמו סנטה קלאוס. למרות שלא ידענו את שמו, הוא היה מכיר את לקוחותיו הקבועים והיה מברך אותם. לפני סחודש, בתקופת כריסמאס, כצפוי הוא היה לבוש בכובע של סנטה קלאוס.

וחנה, בימים של כניסת 2002, חלכנו שוב לסרט בקרלטון ובמקום שבו ישב הקבנן מקרלטון ניצב שלט קטן מקרטון ולידו מספר זרי פרחים שבישרו על מותו של האיש. קשה לתאר את העצב שירד עלינו. האיש נראה היה בשנות הארבעים- חמישים לחייו, אבל כשאתה חי ברחוב הסכנות גדולות בעשרות מנוים. חשבתי על ילדותו. על זה שגם לו היו חלומות לחיות טיפ חלל או שוטר או רופא, בטח לא קבנן. וחשבתי לי שגם הוא היה חלק מהקהילה שלי, מחנוך שלי, ואיך כל מה שמסביבנו הופך לחלק מאיתנו. ושהסתלקותו כואבת לי כל כך למרות שלא חיכרתי אותו, מפני שהיא מראה לי שוב שאנחנו כולנו כמו ציך השדה, רגע פה ופתאום נגמר. אבל שישאר בינינו.

חופשה בלאס וֶגאס- קָשֶׁ

ככל שהחורף השנה בטורונטו מתון בשלב זה, הוא עדיין מעודד חלומות על חופשה בארצות החום. ואכן לפני שנתיים בסיטואציה חורפית דומה, חוח ואני הוצאנו לפועל חופשה קצרה בלאס וגאס, לאחר היעדרות של 22 שנה מבירת ההימורים העולמית. קודם להחלטה קיבלנו מחברים ובני משפחה המלצות חמות שתמציתן היתה: " ממש לא תכירו את לאס וגאס. זה מקום לא נורמאלי, משגע". משום מה הבשורה שלא אכיר את לאס וגאס לא מצאה חן בעיני במיוחד. באופן כללי כאשר אני מבקר בעיר שאינה מקום מגוריי הקבוע, זה משולב בהעלאת זכרונות נעימים חקשורים לאתרים שבהם ביקרתי בביקורים קודמים. בימים שלאחר מכן חנשתי מחוויח ההימורים, חמופעים המרשימים ושפע האוכל ואיכותו נתנה אישור מחודש להרגשתי שלאס וגאס היא מקום מהנה ביותר.

ואולם חמבנים חבומבסטיים שבנו בשנים האחרונות אינם אלא תפאורה חוליבודית זולה למרות שעלו בליונים. חם ניבנו כדי למלא פונקציה קצרת מועד- למשוך תיירים ולאכסן אותם במשך עשרים שנה, ולאחר שיאבדו את ליחם, אפשר יהיה למחוק אותם ולבנות משהו אחר במקומם, יותר משתלם מבחינה כלכלית. שכן בלאס וגאס לא בונים מוטמנטים מקומים מקוריים לטווח ארוך כמו הפירמידות או פסל החירות, אלא כפילים קצרי חיים. שחרי שלמרות שחצנת ההימורים נמשכת, את התפאורה יש להחליף בין תמערכות. הזמניות היא האספקט הכי מגעיל של וגאס. לסיכום הייתי מגדיר את וגאס כך: תעיר המגעילה חכי מחנה בעולם.

אנטישמיות בטורונטו

חברה קרובה מספרת לי שבמעלית של חבנין שלה חרתו צלבי קרס, ולמרות כל נסיונות הטשטוש אי אפשר להסתיר אותם מעיני יושבי חבנין, רובם חמוחלט יהודים. עוד אזכור קטן לאנטישמיות שגואה למרות שכל מי שעינים בראשו חבין חשנה שהאיסלם חקיצוני הוא חסכנה האמיתית לציביליזציה המערבית.

Screen shot from Hamilton's UJA Federation Web site.

Hamilton federation blazes trail with new Web site

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Hamilton's Jewish community now has a state-of-the-art Web site that is the first of its kind in Canada.

The site – www.jewishhamilton.org – was launched Jan. 16 by Hamilton's UJA Federation using FedWeb, a system created by United Jewish Communities (UJC) in New York, the umbrella organization for 189 Jewish federations across North America.

FedWeb offers pre-designed templates that allow non-technical people in subscribing communities to customize and update their own Web sites. It also offers regularly updated subscription content, such as Jewish news from news agencies around the world.

Wendy Schneider, the editor of the *Hamilton Jewish News* community newspaper who co-ordinated UJA Federation of Hamilton's first foray onto the Internet, said FedWeb "is so wonderful for small federations like us... Unlike many sites that are never updated and only visited once, ours is alive and constantly renewed."

Depending on size, fund-raising capacity and features chosen from FedWeb's menu of options, each federation pays UJC a monthly fee for the tools to create and maintain a site.

Schneider said Hamilton pays $300 (Cdn) per month. She said FedWeb was chosen because it has no upfront costs, which can run into thousands of dollars for a Web designer, not including the cost of maintaining and updating a site.

Conceived at UJC's annual young leadership convention in March 2000, FedWeb was launched last April with an investment by UJC of $4 million (US) over four years. UJC's own Web site was the first to use the service, which has already won a design award from the Web Marketing Association, an American group that recognizes excellence in corporate Web sites.

So far 30 federations are online using the service and 20 more sites are expected to be launched by the spring

Other Canadian Jewish communities and organizations will soon be following Hamilton's lead.

By the end of 2002, UIA Federations Canada and local federations in Vancouver, London, Windsor, Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Montreal and Calgary will all have their own FedWeb-based sites, says Frank Simkevitz, a UIA Federation staffer who negotiated the Canadian federations' deals with FedWeb.

Although about 50 North American federations already had Web sites, most suffered from poor design and were little more than on-screen brochures, said JoAnn Abraham, director of UJC communications projects.

Offers daily late-breaking news

FedWeb is a cost-effective way to create dynamic and easily updated Web sites, as well as save money on mailings and newsletters and reach out to unaffiliated and Web-savvy Jews, Abraham said.

A 1990 UJC survey showed 33 per cent of American Jewish families relocate every five years and need access to a community. It also found more than 70 per cent of U.S. Jews are not affiliated with a synagogue, and that young, unaffiliated Jews are actively online.

To meet these needs, FedWeb offers options for a site's navigation bar ranging from a community calendar and information on local agencies – features found on Hamilton's site – to a local Jewish yellow pages, which Hamilton doesn't have.

Like other FedWeb sites, Hamilton's offers daily late-breaking news, articles on Jewish life and links to other Jewish Web sites.

And FedWeb is constantly tweaking its design and adding features, Schneider said.

Her volunteer committee was "searching for someone to do our Web site when one of our board members heard about FedWeb. As soon as I saw it, I fell in love with it and every other option paled by comparison," she said.

"Because we hadn't yet set up a site, we were in the best position to join up straight away."

Schneider was impressed with the help she had building Hamilton's site.

"We had so much help right from the beginning with technical support through a 1-800 number. Their response was so attentive.

"[Because] we were the first Canadian FedWeb site, the visitors' subscription section was not set up with Canadian provinces. I called the tech people, and within an hour, they had adapted it."

FedWeb also offered advice on generating revenue to pay for the site.

"They helped us set up sponsorships and we hope that eventually the site will pay for itself," Schneider said.

Currently a local sponsor, the Fowler Pearce Partnership, helps offset the site's monthly fee and a search is on for a real-estate company to sponsor the site's section on moving to Hamilton.

In addition to FedWeb's other advantages, being a link on the central UJC site is also a plus, Schneider said.

"Hamilton's Jewish community is looking to grow," said Schneider. "By being featured on the UJC site we hope people will hear about us and see Hamilton as an interesting alternative to a big city."

Gerry Fisher, executive director of Hamilton's UJA Federation, praised the committee responsible for launching the site. "This was a long time in coming and our volunteers did a good job," he said.

"The future of this community is directly linked to our ability to attract Jewish families to move here," said Fisher. "I have been contacted by several families wanting information about Hamilton and the Jewish community, and now 'jewishhamilton' provides us with a very good mechanism to advertise our wonderful quality of Jewish communal life."

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Feb. 4 is deadline for Feb 14 issue and Monday, Feb. 11 is deadline for Feb. 21. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Friday, Feb. 1

ISRAEL AND TERRORISM

Temple Kol Ami hosts **Yossi Tanuri**, a special Israeli emissary from UJA Federation and Keren Hayesod, who is speaking on Israel and the Current Wave of Terrorism, at its Friday night service, 7:45 p.m. at Leo Baeck Day School, 36 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill.

Saturday, Feb. 2

LIBERTY HEIGHTS

Beth Tzedec Congregation's Cine-Forum series with **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** starts off with *Liberty Heights* (1999), written and directed by **Barry Levinson**. The film is about anti-Semitism, race relations, coming of age, inter-dating and fathers and sons in Baltimore from 1945-1955. Call 416-781-3514, ext. 34 to reserve.

TU B'SHVAT SEDER

Kehillat Ahavat Hesed invites you to a Tu b'Shvat seder, services 10 a.m. Zionist Centre, Haifa Room, 788 Marlee Ave. **Lynda** 416-653-9768.

Sunday, Feb. 3

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast program features **Lenka Lichtenberg** who entertains with a medley of songs, 9:30 a.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 530.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Dropped Threads, edited by **Carol Shields** will be discussed by the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network, at 1:45 p.m. at Barbara Frum Library (Bathurst and Lawrence). **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

CONCERT

A concert organized by the Centre for Russian and East European Studies, University of Toronto, with music by Lithuanian composer **Anatolijus Senderovas**, including his oratorio *Shma Israel*. Guest artists are **Cantor Joseph Malovany**, tenor; **Leodkadia Paul-Kanovich**, piano; **Audrone Sharp**, violin; **Daniella Kepowish**, cello. 3 p.m., Music Room, 2nd floor, Hart House, U of T, 7 Hart House Circle. **Janet Hyer** 416-946-8994.

Monday, Feb. 4

CHUG HATANACH

Chug Hatanach meets 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 4 and 5. Led by **Prof. Martin Lockshin.**

Tuesday, Feb. 5

THE JEWS OF VENICE

Beth Tikvah Synagogue series on the history of the Jews of Italy concludes with The Jews of Venice. Interactive discussion follows video and lecture. Presented by **Gerald Ziedenberg** 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 6

JLGBT

Pre-release of *Kissing Jessica Stein*, a 2001 Toronto film festival movie about a Jewish woman exploring her sexual identity. Contact **Michelle** , 416-978-0422 for details. JLGBT-Jewish Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual Transgendered students and young professionals of Toronto, sponsored by Jewish Campus Services.

Thursday, Feb. 7

SIX WAYS TO ASK GOD

Toronto Jewish Healing Project

Continued on page 21

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Continued from page 20

series, Six Rabbis: Six Ways to Ask God continues with Asking God Through Personal Prayer with **Rabbi Daniel Komito-Gottlieb** of Temple Kol Ami, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. **Etta Ginsberg McEwan** 416-944-3359.

And What Else Is New

JEWISH HISTORY

Jewish History, Jewish Texts, Jewish Values: Temple Har Zion welcomes **Howard Adelman** from Hebrew University in Jerusalem for a scholar-in-residence program Saturday, Feb. 8, 9:15 a.m. breakfast and Torah study, Sacrifice, Chosen Death and Martyrdom in Jewish History. Following services and potluck lunch, 12:45 p.m. will be a lecture on Women in Jewish History.

Sunday, Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. breakfast followed by lecture, Jewish Ethics: Are They Jewish? Are They Ethical? To RSVP, call temple 905-889-2252 by Feb. 7.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN

Toronto Hadassah-WIZO annual Women for Women Breakfast Sunday, Feb. 10, at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. Guest speaker endocrinologist **Dr. Nina Wine** will speak on diabetes. Reserve at 416-630-8373.

TORAH: A WOMAN'S VIEW.

Torah Reading Through Female Eyes winter session with **Loretta Tanenbaum** Tuesdays 11 a.m., Feb. 5-19 and March 5-19. For women of all ages. Torah selections read in Hebrew and English from a woman's perspective. Register with **Marlene** , 416-781-3514, ext. 34.

KEEP YOUR LOVE ALIVE

Shaar Shalom Sisterhood invites all singles, husbands, wives and couples to Keep Your Love Alive, brunch and learn, Sunday, Feb. 10, 10 a.m. to noon. Presented by husband-and-wife counselling team of **Louise Dorfman** and **David Rubinstein.** RSVP to **Barbara** 905-889-0751 by Feb. 5.

SINGLES EVENT

Shaar Shalom Singles and Intersynagogue Singles Yuk Yuk's Night with comedians **Tony Krolo** and **James Cunningham**. Sunday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m. at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill, 905-889-4975.

SHOWCASE OF DANCE

Toronto's Dance Machine, a group of young competition dancers from the Koffler Centre School of Dance and the Etobicoke School of Dance, present an evening of new works in a pre-competition showcase at Leah Posluns Theatre, 7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 16. Reserved seating. 416-636-1880, ext. 273 or 359.

TASTE OF KABBALAH

Mystical Moments at Minchah of Shabbat. Join **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** for a Taste of Kabbalah, 1 hour before afternoon services in the chapel, Feb. 5 and 19, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153.

CUISINE WITH NORENE

Jewish Women International of Toronto presents Cuisine with Norene fund-raiser and cooking demonstration featuring Norene Gilletz with her new cookbook *The Food Processor Bible*. Monday, March 4, at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Boutiques from 6:30 p.m., cuisine 7:30. Proceeds to benefit JWI's domestic violence awareness programs. Tickets, 416-630-9313.

MISHNAH CLASS

Mishnah Berakhot, 3-part session with **Rabbi Ed Elkin**, Mondays, Feb. 4, 11 and 18, 8-9:30 p.m. at First Narayever Synagogue, 187 Brunswick Ave. 416-487-4200.

VENDORS WANTED

Vendors are wanted for craft and gift sale being held at Bayview Village Shopping Centre, Monday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Under the auspices of Clubs Beersheba and Aviva, Na'amat Canada. 416-636-5425 (days) or **Malka Mirsky** 416-633-6538 (evenings).

L'DOR VA'DOR

Multi-generational Learning Service for all ages and backgrounds, bar/bat mitzvah celebrants, singles, families, 10 a.m. to noon Feb. 2 and 8, Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153

BASIC KABBALAH

A 6-class course with **Rabbi Moshe Kirsh** Mondays 8:30-10 p.m. starting Feb. 4, at Congregation Ohr Penimi (Orthodox), 51 Elgin St. 905-889-0793.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. To register **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Today's Woman, Tuesday, Feb. 5, at 4600 Bathurst St., 6th floor from 7-9 p.m. for 4 sessions.

Divorce: Will This Feeling Ever End? Tuesday, Feb. 5, at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313 from 7:30-9 p.m. for 8 sessions.

New Country, New Home: Educational and informative workshop for Russian- and Hebrew-speaking women who have been in Canada more than 2 years, Thursday, Feb. 7, 4600 Bathurst St., 6th floor, 9:30-11:30 a.m. for 4 sessions. Register **Tanya Korobchevski**, ext. 204.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Congregation Senior Haverim program, Monday, Feb. 4, 1:30 p.m. Speaker **Gordon Bean**, professor emeritus, Ryerson University. Topic: From the Bowery to Broadway: The Music of **Irving Berlin**, video and talk.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Note: Purim Party with live music and light supper, Saturday, Feb. 23. Regular programs: Feb. 7, bingo; Feb. 14, sing-along with **Yitzchak Argeman**; Feb. 21, video; Feb. 28, literature evening, reading and stories. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Saturday night dances Feb. 2 and 23; Sunday dances Feb. 10 and 17. Casino Rama Feb. 6 and 20; Casino Niagara Feb. 14; Collingwood, Feb. 28; Dancersize classes with **Kitty Cohen** every Thursday, 10 a.m. 416-395-7881.

Join **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

On Tuesday, Feb. 5, **Gordon Kushner** lectures on Cantorial Music in Synagogue Services, 10-11:30 a.m.

Low Vision Group meets Tuesday, Feb. 5, 1:15-2:15 p.m. to review recent articles about eye care in medical literature. **Joan Turner**, ext. 126.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Feb. 5, movie; Feb. 12, lecture; Feb. 19, bingo; Feb. 26, free evening. **Anna,** ext. 110.

Movie, *Unbreakable*, Sunday, Feb. 3, 2:30 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave., 416-924-6211.

Books and Bagels on Sunday, Feb. 3, **Hal Niedzviecki**, editor of *Broken Pencil* magazine, discusses his book, *Ditch*, 11 a.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Learning Experience Tuesday, Feb. 5, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre national director **Avi Benlolo** discusses the work of the agency against intolerance, 1-2:30 p.m., Room 211A.

It's All About Balance, led by **Estelle Altman**, 8 sessions starting Monday, Feb. 4, 1-2:30 p.m. Room 190.

Purim Workshop, Sundays Feb. 10 and 17, noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Museum. Pre-register, ext. 284.

Purim Event, Sunday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Museum, ext. 456.

Free bus tour to North York art galleries Sunday, March 3. Tour includes Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art, Koffler Gallery and Art Gallery of York University. To reserve, call 416-736-5169.

Casino Rama trip Thursday, March 14. Lunch included. Sign up now, **Janet,** ext. 259.

ELIE WIESEL MEDAL PRESENTATION: Gideon Patt, president and CEO of State of Israel Bonds (left) presented the Elie Wiesel Medal to Torontonian Anita Ekstein for her leadership in preserving the memory of the Holocaust at Israel Bonds' recent Elie Wiesel Holocaust Remembrance Award Dinner at the Grand Hyatt New York. Joining them is David Halpern, dinner chairman.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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On Campus

Palestinian students challenge speaker at York University's Israel Week

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The only way to stop hatred is to expose it, said Itamar Marcus at York University's Israel Week last week.

"We don't want to have wars. We want to have peace," said the Jerusalem-based director of Palestinian Media Watch.

But Palestinian and Muslim students who attended Marcus' talk in York's Central Square, accused Marcus of promoting hatred against Arabs when he displayed one example after another, on slides and video clips, of Palestinian media and religious and political leaders encouraging children to follow the example of suicide bombers.

Itamar Marcus

"Ultimately, our goal is education for peace," said Marcus. "We're letting the Palestinians speak for themselves. Hopefully when the world sees what they're doing, there will be pressure on the Palestinians to educate their people."

He said that, while Palestinian schoolbooks are "not yet good," they are less vicious in their anti-Israel and anti-Jewish content than they were before his organization made some of their contents public.

Marcus was in town to speak at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. He also spoke at the University of Toronto, and in Montreal at McGill and Concordia universities.

His first challenger at York identified herself as a Palestinian woman and said she did not condone the messages he was talking about. "Is this [supposed to be] an example of all Palestinian people?" she demanded.

"I'm sure there are many Palestinians who are against what is being taught," said Marcus, "but what's tragic is the message the Palestinian Authority is giving their children."

Other Palestinians or Palestinian supporters accused Marcus of being unfair by showing examples only from the Palestinian world.

"What I'm saying is that Palestinian television is showing children that their role is to seek death. This is a tragedy," said Marcus.

"I don't know what you're trying to do here. If you're trying to promote peace, you're not," said a woman in a hijab. "You're giving a bad name to all the Arabs...saying that all Islam is just bad."

Jabbing her index finger in the air, she pointed at Marcus and accused him of doing the same thing that he said the Palestinian Authority was doing.

"How do you teach a child whose home is being demolished, 'Don't hate these people. Let's be brothers.'?" asked another woman. "It's impossible. You can't, because actions speak louder than words."

"There have definitely been Palestinian victims, but they were never victims because of what Israel initiated," said Marcus.

The discussion, which was intense, continued among Jewish and Palestinian students (or their supporters) for about half an hour after the presentation.

Marcus is concerned that Jewish students may not know how to answer the types of questions that were asked of him during his presentation.

Some of them don't know that the term Palestine originally referred to the Jewish state and are unfamiliar with much of Israel's history. The West Bank, for example, was under Jordanian rule from 1948 to 1967, when Israel won it in a defensive war, he told the students. "The West Bank area, before the Oslo accords of 1993, had never been defined as a Palestinian entity," he said.

Ultimately, said Marcus, he would like to produce materials for students that would give them some of the information and answers they are lacking.

Watch for an interview with Itamar Marcus in next week's issue of *The CJN*.

Concordia student elections annulled

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The question of who is going to run the undergraduate student government at Concordia University remained up in the air last week after the Concordia Student Union's (CSU) judicial board annulled the results of last November's byelection for a new council executive.

The victors, who have yet to take office, were members of a coalition called the Representative Union (RU), which promised a more moderate, less politicized administration than the far-left faction that had controlled the CSU for the last two years.

In a 3-1 vote, the judicial board decided that "irregularities" in the byelections rendered the results invalid, but did not call for a re-vote. What will happen next is in the hands of the CSU's council of representatives. General elections of the CSU, which represents Concordia undergraduates, are due to take place in March.

The judicial board cited the confusion that followed the disqualification of the RU on the first morning of the three-day election by the chief electoral officer Jessica Lajambe. She alleged that an RU slate member had attempted to bribe the leader of another slate.

The RU was cleared of wrongdoing later the same day.

The judicial board found that the byelection results cannot be accepted because the ballots of the 526 students who voted during the few hours the RU was delisted were annulled.

Only 226 of these students voted again during an extension of the election period, the judicial board noted, meaning the other 300 were disenfranchised.

The judicial board found Lajambe to have been incompetent and possibly biased against the RU because of her association with the former CSU regime.

The RU had forced the November CSU election after it collected 3,200 student signatures on a petition.

The RU won the election with 45.5 per cent of the votes, beating its nearest rival, the leftist Umbrella Party. The RU, however, has never been able to take office, having had to wait until a Jan. 9 deadline for challenges to the election. The CSU was led by an interim executive, headed by Patrice Blais, who stepped down Jan. 23.

RU president Chris Schultz said he finds the judicial board ruling unfair but that it would be senseless to ask students go to the polls again before March.

The RU was supported by Hillel, the Jewish students association, which objected to the former CSU leader's anti-Israel position and close links with Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, a highly visible lobby group for the Palestinian cause on campus.

Jewish community organizations, particularly B'nai Brith Canada, had denounced the former CSU leadership after its publication in September of a student handbook titled *Uprising*, for glorifying militancy and anarchy and for its anti-Israel tone.

In dealing with another complaint, the judicial board found Hillel not guilty of illegal campaigning for sending approximately 150 letters to its members in support of the RU.

The board reasoned that "it cannot be proven that the RU was aware of such campaigning on its behalf."

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Special Report

Why do we still have poverty?

The mandate of *The CJN* is to be the very best community newspaper it can be. Our core activity, of course, is to provide the news from around the Jewish world credibly, reliably and as comprehensively as possible, within the limitations of our resources and our weekly format.

The paper proceeds from the conviction that a better-informed Jewish community will be a healthier Jewish community and thus an asset to Canada at large and to Jewish communities around the world.

But our mandate calls upon us to stretch beyond our core activity from time to time.

As a result, more than three years ago, we sought to develop additional forums and vehicles for the exchange of ideas on subjects that are important to the community. Thus, we introduced *The CJN* Roundtable Discussion.

The inaugural roundtable was held in October 1998 and explored the subject *The Jews of Toronto: Who we are and what we can yet be*.

Subsequently, in successive years, we held meetings and published the proceedings on the topics *After bar and bat mitzvah: developing a Jewish life* and *The changing Jewish family*.

Last December, *The CJN* in conjunction with Jewish Family and Child Service (JF & CS) held the fourth such roundtable discussion. It explored the question *Why is there still poverty in our community in the year 2001?*

Leading the discussion was a panel comprised of Gordon Wolfe, the executive director of the JF&CS and Marvyn Novick, professor of social work at Ryerson University.

Wolfe delivered a concise and compelling overview of poverty as it affects the Jewish community of Greater Toronto.

Novick delivered a hard-hitting statement from a social policy perspective that urged the gathering to "challenge the dogma."

That dogma, Novick elaborated, is the traditional approach to poverty propagated by economic, fiscal and labour market analysts that attaches a higher priority to deficit elimination or to finding jobs for everyone than to restoring a public system of supports for the lowest income earners.

An invigorated and secure public support system, Novick said, is the key to reducing, if not eliminating, poverty in both the wider Canadian and the narrower Jewish communities.

To respond to the panelists, we invited an eclectic group of more than 20 guests, all of whom either work in the field, formulate policy related to the field or simply have an abiding and deep concern for issues related to poverty.

As it turned out, more than 20 guests was too many. There was hardly time for everyone around the table to state their opinions for the record, let alone engage in a freewheeling, uninhibited exchange of ideas.

But we did our best to record the essence of the roundtable. What follows is a summary of the discussion that unfolded that day.

—MBD

Wolfe debunks common myths

JF&CS executive director cites alarming statistics

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Despite daily evidence to the contrary, there is still a widespread myth among Jews that there is no poverty or abuse in the Jewish community.

"It would be nice if that were so, but it isn't," pronounced Gordon Wolfe, executive director of Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS) at *The CJN*'s roundtable on Jewish poverty.

Fully one-third of the caseload at JF&CS, or between 450 and 500 cases, receive financial assistance from the agency, and these are individuals who already get other forms of assistance, Wolfe stated.

Other alarming statistics Wolfe cited included:

- Half the financial assistance caseload at JF&CS is made up of singles with disabilities, whether physical or emotional. Some are permanently unemployed.
- One-quarter of the financial assistance cases are comprised of single parents, mostly women, and six out of 10 single mothers are poor;
- The remaining 25 per cent of those receiving financial help from JF&CS are couples with children, or the elderly.

In the previous six months, Wolfe noted, JF&CS paid someone's first or last month's rent in 43 cases. In 18 cases, the agency paid utility bills, and in 19 cases, it had to find emergency hotel accommodation for those with nowhere else to go.

Poor families, Wolfe said, tend to have higher than average infant mortality rates and higher rates of smoking. As well, children in poor families generally have more school problems and suffer from poorer nutrition than children in better-off families.

Gordon Wolfe

The poverty level for a single person in Ontario in 2000 was $353 a month. Welfare brings in $120 monthly, while disability payments total $215 a month. JF&CS tops up financial assistance to $242 a month for a single person – still well below the poverty line, Wolfe pointed out.

For a single parent with one child, JF&CS provides help to a maximum of $332 a month (below the poverty level of $442 a month), while a couple with one child will have their income topped up to $390 a month (where the poverty cut-off is pegged at $549 a month).

So even though Jewish families get help from the community, many are still struggling, Wolfe said.

In addition, "it costs more to be Jewish. The rent is higher on the Bathurst Street strip. It costs money to belong to a synagogue or JCC, and kosher food is more expensive [than non-kosher]," he added.

Wolfe exploded another myth: that the provincial government has made deep cuts to its funding of child welfare. In fact, the Harris government, Wolfe noted, more than doubled funding in this area, from $357 million in 1996 to $748 million in 2001.

Even though JF&CS is an accredited child protection agency, it has never removed a child from a family solely because of poverty, he said.

Wolfe said poverty is "under-recognized" in the community, which cannot shirk its "full responsibility."

And it's not just about money, he said: "Poverty is not just the absence of money, but the absence of power, compounded by unemployment or underemployment."

His agency is opposed to a Jewish food bank for a variety of reasons, including concerns about kashrut, but also because the help JF&CS delivers "is in the best tradition of tzedakah, the highest level of which, according to Maimonides, is to help a person become self-sufficient."

Eva Landa and Cecile Zaifman

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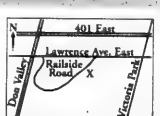

Special Report

Poverty becoming more entrenched, says Ryerson prof.

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It isn't true that the best solution to poverty is a job, says Marvyn Novick. What makes a difference, according to the Ryerson University professor of social work, is public fund transfers.

Novick, whose research focuses on child poverty and whose experience in the local Jewish community dates back to the social policy committee of the then Toronto Jewish Congress, was one of three speakers at *The CJN*'s Round Table on Poverty, held in December at the law offices of Goodman and Carr.

From his early experience, Novick believes that "within the Jewish community, there were high standards of social justice and social care that are carried into the general community."

Using the standard European understanding of poverty – the notion of "relative poverty" which encompasses the idea that it is socially unacceptable for people to be excluded from the prevailing life of their community – Novick explained that, for the Jewish community, low-income Jews could "survive in northwest Scarborough, but you would be excluded, unless you were close to shuls and other institutions." Jewish Family and Child Service (JF&CS) recognized this 20 years ago, he said.

Novick cited the work of British researcher Richard Wilkinson, who has concluded that societies with lower levels of disparity have longer life expectancies, less homicide and crime and potentially, more robust economies. He also stated that relative income and social services – not absolute income and living standards – have the greatest impact on people's health.

In Canada, poverty is becoming more entrenched, Novick said. About 150,000 people a month use food banks in the Greater Toronto Area, with the fastest growing group being the working poor.

In the United States, he noted, a significant number of people go through a "revolving door" from social assistance to work and back again. Sixty per cent of welfare recipients have lower incomes once they go off social assistance than they did on it, he said. "The American 'miracle' in the '90s was to have the lowest unemployment rate in the industrialized world, and the highest poverty rate."

Governments that want to move people from social assistance to other forms of support have to invest in opportunities such as housing, child care, education and income support, said Novick.

In Sweden, he noted, single mothers could be off social assistance by the time their children were two years old, and at that time avail themselves of child care, living wages and shelter allowances.

In Canada in the 1990s, there was a "serious erosion" of public support, said Novick. "It's no accident that homelessness shows up on our streets."

The restrictions on eligibility for unemployment insurance (UI), for example, have been "significant." At the start of the 1990s, said Novick, 75 per cent of unemployed people would have been eligible for UI. By the end of the decade, that number was down to 30 per cent.

Social assistance, Novick explained, does not eliminate poverty, but it maintains people who are living in poverty.

Marvyn Novick

Also, from 1993 until almost the end of 2001, the federal government did not contribute to social housing, and the Canada Assistance Plan, which provided provincial governments with 50 cents for every dollar they spent on income support, was eliminated in 1995.

Toronto waiting lists for child care – a "critical" resource – have 17,000 names, Novick said. "These lives of children aren't placed on hold."

He also noted the emergence of user fees for recreational facilities such as swimming pools in Toronto.

"These erosions of public service for the most vulnerable have been accompanied by erosions of public systems of provision of support for the rest of us," he said, offering the public education system as an example.

Poverty will persist, he said, because the capacity for public systems to respond has been seriously eroded.

Gov't, community must acknowledge poverty, experts say

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Jewish community needs to advocate on behalf of those living in poverty, agreed the participants in *The Canadian Jewish News* roundtable discussion.

"It's a *shandeh* to admit there are Jewish poor and so we intend to ignore it. We need internal advocacy in order to get poverty back on the [table]," said one expert on public policy.

Poverty is not a concern either of the provincial or the federal government, he said. "Health, education, public safety and a whole other variety of items are discussed, but poverty is not highlighted."

The community needs to engage the general public in ensuring that poverty becomes an issue again, "and that means working with politicians. Many of these issues are driven by public policy. If you can't even get an acknowledgement that this is an issue, you are not going to be successful," he said.

The four vulnerable groups, he said, are children, the elderly, mothers and immigrants. "We need to target some strategies specifically to those groups.

"There has to be a more co-ordinated approach on those target groups and we need to look at some specific programming in order to move the yardstick a little bit."

Go forward and plan, he said. "These are the areas we need to engage the community and government in.

"When the issue is not on the table, when the debate is not considered an important one, and when the government has absolutely no pressure on it to raise it on the list of priorities, then these kinds of discussions will not happen. Right now, there are no voices being heard by the government."

Alan Sandler, immediate past president of UJA Federation, said that the Jewish community has not stepped front and forward in its real obligations as Jews, both to the world at large and to our own community.

"I have said for years that we have never come forward as a whole and that is unacceptable. We have enough people in our community to come up with a workable solution," said Sandler.

"We have to come forward on a national basis, and we have to encompass all the faith communities. Internally, we better wake up to what is happening."

Young people in desperate straits will not have Judaism as part of their lives, said Sandler. "We need to work out how we can [provide] them with day care or pre-school and not view it as a handout.

"It is something that has to be incorporated into the community. That means having the synagogues and schools working together," Sandler said.

We also need to be creative in finding ways of providing housing and jobs, he said. "When Jews arrived in any country, the first thing that new immigrants got was a job. That does not exist anymore. How can we create that again?"

Job creation, however, is not enough, said Eva Landa, director of administration and financial assistance services at Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS).

"There also has to be education and childcare provisions. We see daily the frustrations of single mothers who somehow manage to get a job, but it is a menial job because they do not have the skills for anything higher paid. They end up with less money than they had on social assistance.

"They lose the benefits for their children such as dental and drug plans, and if they are lucky enough to be in subsidized housing, their rent goes up. It almost becomes a point of not being able to afford to work."

This situation is frustrating for both the individual and for the social worker who sees the family as being worse off than when they were on social assistance, said Landa.

She said the community needs programs that enable people to be qualified for a higher-paid job.

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl and Ed Segalowitz

Jack Mintz, president and CEO of C.D. Howe Institute, a policy think-tank, said that job creation is critical, but it will not solve the problem.

"We have to advise people how to get back on their feet, and [we have to] put more effort into providing things such as child care.

"We should try not to have significant tax rates when people start working. Marginal tax rates have significant impact on incentive to work," he said.

The big question, he said, is what we do with the tax dollars we do raise. "Our problem is the misallocation of expenditures by the government. We have had cutbacks in the '90s because of decisions made in earlier years."

Although employment programs do not attack the fullness of the problem, they do help people find work a little sooner than they otherwise would have, said Ed Segalowitz, vice-president of community planning and development at UJA Federation.

"Whereas in former years, people might have offered jobs as a mitzvah, it does not happen now. People have to be trained, and they have to add value to the employer.

"For those who are part of the continuing case load, it just won't work. Our response has been targeted based on that understanding," he said.

Pam Medjuck-Stein and Roger Hyman

Rabbi Baruch Frydman-Kohl, senior rabbi at Beth Tzedec Congregation, said he grew up in poverty and he depended on community support. "Some families are unable to move out of poverty; they find it impossible to get out of the crisis. People have to be aware of that and move children out of the cycle.

Continued on page 26

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'Housing an integral part in what a child achieves'

Continued from page 25

"If adults are not capable of moving out, we have to be able to help the children," said the rabbi.

He said the Jewish community has to decide carefully where to advocate, but "clearly, housing is part of the way to break the cycle.

"I have had at least half a dozen congregants come to me [in desperation] because of their inability to find adequate housing. That is a terrible social issue in Toronto."

It is a halachic and moral imperative "to reach out and sustain people as much as possible in relationship to the society in which they live. If we cannot get them to that level, they should at least be able to deal with the bare economic needs," said Rabbi Frydman-Kohl.

Housing plays an integral part in what a child achieves, said Teri Kaye, director of family and community services at JF&CS.

"Many children living in inadequate housing transfer from school to school and cannot settle down to learn," she said. "Their concentration is not on their studies, it is on their home situation. Children cannot have a future without stable housing."

The problem of housing, in which people pay rent and then do not have enough for food, is a $500,000 problem, said Gord Wolfe, executive director of JF&CS.

"The Jewish community cannot take full responsibility for this because there is a limit to volunteer dollars," Wolfe said. "We can top up someone on welfare, but if we keep adding to that, we are suddenly a major supporter to someone in the Jewish community.

"[Without support from the government] we can never respond to this with volunteer dollars. I get very nervous when people depend on us and on volunteer dollars to survive," he said.

Jewish Vocational Service (JVS) does try to help people find jobs, said Wolfe, "but we are not very successful at it. It is a very difficult population to serve. It often doesn't pay people to work and we also don't get the jobs. Jewish employers do not call JVS," he said.

JF&CS sees many families that are "teetering on the edge," said Howard Hurwitz, the agency's director of children's services.

"They have difficulty accessing recreational, psychiatric and homemaking services," Hurwitz said. "I would like to see these families linked to other families who can help them. [There may be] families who want to help by making another level of contribution."

But there are [a number] of Jews who are not accessing the community, are not active in the community and are not comfortable in the community, and not just because they are living in poverty, said Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto.

"There is also the poor middle class. They are taxed, they put their children in day school, and so forth. Freeing up Jewish education is the key to continuity. In England, there are two communities, poor and prosperous; both have access to free Jewish education."

The problem with inviting all Jewish children into the Jewish school system is that many parents will not ask for help if they cannot afford it, said Pam Medjuck-Stein, a member of *The CJN* advisory board.

"There is no way around it unless we make Jewish education a right and there is somehow no request involved," Medjuck-Stein said. "The idea of education as a right, however, is not part of our community thinking."

Renee Climans, a social worker at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care said that the elderly in the community who are economically vulnerable are at a greater risk for developing health problems.

"We can treat them, but if we do not enhance their social situation, it will not help them significantly," said Climans. "We want to maximize seniors' independence, but with the cutbacks in subsidized health care, the lives of seniors are impacted."

Rabbi Arthur Bielfeld, rabbi emeritus at Temple Emanu-El, said that when hijackers destroyed the World Trade Centre, "they also hijacked some Canadian social policy.

"Until then, there was some progress being made about moving the issue of poverty onto the agenda. We have to get back on track, but there will not be a solution within the Jewish community. We have to build coalitions."

Tina Rosenbaum and Alan Sandler

Rabbi Bielfeld has spent a lot of time talking to government officials, "and I have concluded that in Canada, as perhaps in the United States and other countries, there is a significant aspect of denial as to the reality of the problem. We have to join with other communities, [including] the business community, to get them to face up to their responsibilities.

"We haven't even addressed how the next generation of kids can become more aware and more committed to eradicating the problem. It is a long-term project, and governments, as we know, have a short-term agenda."

There are thousands of Jewish students on campuses in the Toronto area alone who are not being educated on issues prevalent to our community, said Ron Somogyi, a University of Toronto student and a member of *The CJN* advisory board.

"These students will soon be leaders in the community; we will have the jobs to provide and we will make the financial contributions," Somogyi said. "There is a strong lack of education [about such matters] in that community."

Finn Poschmann, senior policy analyst at the C.D. Howe Institute, said that when we take a look at who is poor, transition issues are dynamic.

"What really matters is who is poor this year, next year and the year after that."

In a letter written to the *CJN* following the roundtable, Poschmann said family break-ups and formations are leading drivers of entry to and exit from poverty.

The meeting made clear that poverty exists in our community in 2001 owing to a failure by the government to transfer enough money to end it, Poschmann wrote in the letter.

"I think this would be a bizarre message to send either within the community or outside. The message reduces to 'we throw up our hands; it is someone else's problem' and I cannot imagine that would would help anyone.

"The importance of fostering a sense of self-determination, rather than helplessness or powerlessness, is crystal clear to students of human behaviour. I cannot see why community leaders would want to send a contradictory message to their constituents or to anyone else, except by mistake."

It is true, he said, that in the latter half of the 1990s, some provinces started spending less on social assistance and more on other things. "However, the same period has shown a clear downward trend in poverty; if one were to insist on a link, it would have to be between lower welfare spending and lower poverty. Obviously, one should beware of such reductionist views," said Poschmann.

Another public policy expert agreed that unless there is public investment in community services, poverty will persist.

"Polls over six years have shown that when Canadians ask what to do with surplus, more wanted to invest in health education and child poverty than tax cuts.

"There is no problem in terms of public perception. What we have is a problem in who defines imperatives."

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Female suicide bomber kills 1, wounds more than 100

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper staff

JERUSALEM — Police have decided to significantly increase their presence in central Jerusalem following a suicide bombing last Sunday that killed one person and left more than 100 injured.

Additional forces will be brought in from around the country to try to make residents and business owners feel safe and secure again on central Jaffa Street, the scene of Sunday's attack and a shooting attack last week. In August, a suicide bomber killed 15 people when he blew himself up at a pizza restaurant on the busy street.

Hezbollah's television station Al Manar said the suicide bomber responsible for Sunday's attack was 20-year-old Shinaz Amuri, a female student from Nablus.

The dead Israeli was identified as 81-year-old Pinchus Toktaly, a tour guide.

This was the first suicide attack carried out by a woman in the current conflict.

She studied at the A-Najach University in Nablus, defined as a "hothouse for suicide bombers" by the Shin Bet security services. At least six of the 120 suicide bombers who have carried out attacks against Israeli targets were students at the university, which is also considered a Hamas stronghold.

No group took immediate responsibility for the blast.

Of the wounded, two were in serious condition, four sustained moderate wounds and the rest light injuries.

Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy said that there were police officers among the injured.

Levy himself was hospitalized not long after the bombing, complaining of chest pains. He suffered a major heart attack upon arrival at Bikur Holim Hospital and is in serious condition.

This was the second attack in less than one week in the same area. Two Israelis were killed and dozens wounded when a Palestinian opened fire at the lower end of Jaffa Street last week.

The Palestinian Authority (PA) quickly condemned the latest attack. "The Palestinian leadership strongly condemns the suicide attack against Israeli civilians in Jerusalem," the PA leadership said in a statement. It also called for the return of U.S. Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni "to resume the trilateral security co-ordination and negotiations without delay."

The PA statement also called on "the Israeli government to immediately lift the siege imposed on the Palestinian people and their leadership in order to enable the Palestinian leadership to carry out its national and security duties."

But Israel said PA Chairman Yasser Arafat was directly responsible for the attack and warned the bombing would have repercussions.

"Arafat is encouraging terrorism, he's sending [bombers] to Jerusalem," said Ra'anan Gissin, an aide to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "We will continue to systematically dismantle the terrorist infrastructure," he added.

One of those injured in the attack was Mark Sokolow, a 43-year-old attorney from New York, who survived the Sept. 11 attacks on Manhattan's World Trade Center.

Sokolow's office was located on the 37th floor of the WTC's southern tower. He was saved when "one of the workers in my office heard the explosion in the [northern] tower, and told us all to leave the building immediately. That's how we were saved from the second explosion."

Sokolow was in Israel with his wife and two young daughters to visit their oldest daughter, who is studying in Jerusalem.

The family was buying shoes on Jaffa Street when the blast occurred, and Mark sustained an injury to his right eye. A hospital spokesperson said he was suffering from a injury to his eye socket, "but we believe we will be able to save the eye." Sokolow's youngest daughter was also lightly injured in the explosion.

Last Sunday's blast took place some 20 metres from the Sbarro restaurant where 15 people were killed by a suicide bomber in an attack last year.

The scene of the bombing. [Isranet photo]

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Birthright Israel serves to unite young Jews

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

JERUSALEM — Birthright Israel, which brought together 6,000 students from around the world for a 10-day free trip to Israel, was a reminder of how far-flung, yet unified the Jewish people can be.

It was also a reminder that Jews in some parts of the world live under tremendous stress and some look to Israel to alleviate it.

Alexandro Margulis, an Argentine "madrich" with a Birthright group, said bleak economic prospects in his country are pushing young Jews to seek better lives abroad.

For some, Israel presents a land of opportunity, but "I don't think Israel is the first option," he said.

Prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, the United States was the destination of choice for many Argentine Jews. Since then, Spain and Mexico have displaced the United States as the number one destination, though "more than a few come to Israel."

Margulis, who works with the Masorti Movement in Buenos Aires, estimated that 30 per cent of the Argentine Birthright participants were considering aliyah and the Jewish Agency has stepped up its recruitment efforts in the South American nation.

With Argentina's GDP at $12,900 (US) per year (versus Israel's $18,900) and with people merely "surviving" and finding it hard to get jobs, many Argentine Birthright participants will choose Israel, Margulis said.

* * *

A "mega-event" that brought together thousands of Birthright participants was a roaring success, judging from the spirit of the participants and the jam-packed dance floor.

The importance of the event to Israeli leaders was also evident judging by the high level participation in Birthright activities.

Prior to the official kick off of the event, Birthright dignitaries were treated to a cocktail reception at which former prime minister Ehud Barak spoke briefly. The official even itself was addressed by President Moshe Katsav while Prime Minister Ariel Sharon was scheduled to meet Birthright dignitaries later in the week.

Early in the mega-event evening, philanthropist Charles Bronfman, one of the founders of Birthright, whipped up the already exuberant audience with a pep talk and, pointing to a Canadian contingent which had lifted a massive Maple Leaf flag above their heads, shouted: "I am Canadian, I am Jewish and I love it."

Entertainment was provided by a modern dance troupe, a specially assembled choir, a comedian/host, and by an up-and-coming Israeli band, Gaiya, which performed a rollicking version of "od aveenu chai," propelled by a great rhythm section.

* * *

Reporter's notebook

It's been about 15 years since my last visit to Israel and my cousins in Tel Aviv told me, "Paul, you won't believe the changes in Israel."

During my last trip, I visited my cousin Avner in his office in the Tel Aviv "boursa," the diamond exchange. At the time, the exchange occupied two office towers in northeastern Tel Aviv. Today, the area is like a second downtown, with many new office buildings and hotels. The area bustles with activity and the very comfortable Haifa-Tel Aviv train – which I took rather than be stuck in traffic on an inter-city bus – stops a few hundred metres away. A covered above-ground walkway links the area to the train station, and the train has proven very popular among commuters in the last few years.

Rechov Shenken is another interesting area of Tel Aviv. Located near the Carmel Market in central Tel Aviv, it might be considered a Middle Eastern version of Toronto's Queen Street, a run-down thoroughfare that has been trendified with funky shops and restaurants. Bazel (Basel) Street in north Tel Aviv is another thoroughfare that offers interesting shops and good restaurants.

Falafel/shwarma restaurants in Israel seem to have increased their menu, at least as far as side dishes go. As I recall it, 15 years ago you'd get a choice of humus, techina, salads, and chareef (hot sauce) for your pita sandwich.

Today, restaurants feature massive quantities of help-yourself side dishes, ranging from traditional vegetable salads, to spiced cabbage salads, "chippim" (french fries), grilled red peppers, pearl onions, grilled eggplant (outstanding), and more. Yum.

* * *

The Western Wall is the heart of Jewish Jerusalem, but many people are surprised to learn the familiar part of the wall – the part fronted by the large plaza – is only a portion of the Herodian structure that still remains.

Before its destruction by the Romans in 70 C.E., the Western retaining wall of the Temple ran for almost 500 metres in a north/south direction.

Over the years various neighborhoods encroached on the Wall while the ground level gradually rose. Today much of the 500-metre Wall lies within the Muslim quarter and below ground level.

The Western Wall tunnels, opened more than five years ago, skirt the outside (western edge) of the Wall and run from near the plaza to its exit on the Via Dolorosa. When the exit for the archeological tunnels was opened in 1996, Palestinian leaders spread wild rumours that Jews were seeking to undermine the Dome of the Rock, leading to riots.

Eight people were killed in the violence.

Tensions remain and when exiting, visitors are met by guards armed with Uzi submachine-guns to escort them through Arab neighborhoods back to the Jewish quarter.

The tunnels themselves are fascinating, with their underground arched support structures, Hasmonean water tunnel and pool, Second Temple road and scale model.

Our guide was intimately informed about the details of the ancient temple. Midway through the tour, he pointed to a spot that is considered the most holy place on the Wall. The reason for its sanctity, he said, is that it is believed to stand closest to the Holy of Holies, where the Ark of the Covenant stood inside the Temple Mount in ancient times.

A column from Temple times

When the tunnel was being excavated, a well-known rabbi began digging into the Wall, in an easterly direction under the Temple Mount. He was looking for a secret storeroom where some believe the ancient Temple implements were hidden to prevent them from falling into the hands of Romans.

The menorah and other instruments from the Temple that are illustrated on the famed Arch of Titus in Rome are said to be decoys, the guide explained. Illustrations of Temple implements found in recent years in excavated Second Temple-era homes differ in important details from the carved work on the Arch.

That leads some to believe that the real implements were hidden away, he continued.

The guide acknowledged all this as speculation. When Arabs learned of the digging, they "beat up" the rabbi, and the Israeli government sealed the excavation to avoid further trouble. Years later, they opened the tunnel exit in the Arab quarter.

* * *

Tel Aviv remains Israel's New York, a commercial and entertainment centre, and as a result, residents pay New York-like prices to reside there.

Home prices advertised at a Re/Max office on Ibn Gvirol Street in north Tel Aviv told the story. Three-and-a-half and four-*room* apartments – not bedrooms, but rooms – of approximately 100 square metres (1,076 square feet) were priced in the neighborhood of $300,000 (US).

No wonder many young couples, unable to afford Tel Aviv's extravagant prices, are moving to nearby bedroom communities like Kfar Saba.

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Car bomb kills former Lebanese warlord

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A leaflet issued in the name of an anti-Syrian Lebanese group claimed responsibility for the death last Thursday morning of Elie Hobeika, a former Lebanese minister and leader of the Israeli-backed militia involved in the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

The statement said the former warlord had betrayed his country and was a Syrian agent.

Lebanese officials said Hobeika and three of his bodyguards were killed when a Mercedes was blown up by remote control next to Hobeika's luxury sport utility vehicle as he was about to drive away from his home in a Beirut suburb.

The claim of responsibility, made in Arabic by a previously unknown group calling itself "Lebanese For a Free and Independent Lebanon," was faxed to Reuters news agency in Cyprus.

It said the assassination was a message to Syria to leave Lebanon, where Syria has about 20,000 troops and effective political and military control.

But Lebanon's chief military magistrate said the killing could have been masterminded by the Israelis, while Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's representative in southern Lebanon, Sultan Abu al Anian, said "the assassination was plotted and carried out by the Israelis."

Israel denied any connection to the explosion. Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said the allegations "aren't even worthy of a response," and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israel has "left Lebanese territory. We don't want to play [a role] there anymore."

In a statement, Lebanese President Emile Lahoud said Hobeika was killed to keep him from testifying before a possible war crimes trial against Sharon in Belgium. Lahoud did not say whom he believed was behind the killing.

Hobeika, 45, commanded the Christian Lebanese Forces militia, which carried out the massacre of hundreds of Palestinian refugees at Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps after Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon.

The militiamen entered the camps after their leader, president-elect Bashir Gemayel, was assassinated in a bombing initially blamed on Palestinians. It turned out Gemayel was killed by the Syrians, who opposed his alliance with Israel.

Hobeika later headed a number of Lebanese government ministries as part of several cabinets. He said in July he was willing to testify against Sharon and that he had irrefutable proof of his own innocence in the 1982 killings.

Zinni quoted criticizing Arafat, settlement policy

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — U.S. peace envoy Anthony Zinni told American Jewish leaders last week that he believes Israel's settlement policies increase Palestinian frustration.

But he also spoke warmly of some of the leaders of Israel's defence establishment and said he is totally opposed to the right of return to Israel for Palestinian refugees, because it would lead to the elimination of the State of Israel.

He also rejected the Palestinian idea of having a foreign observer force in the territories.

Senior officials in the PA had told Zinni that the "hard core" of terrorist organizations in the territories numbered around 3,000 people and with a "green light" from Arafat, the PA could deal immediately with 1,000 of them and "get rid of the problem" without a civil war.

U.S. officials in recent days have been saying that there "are not many people left in Washington who aren't fed up with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, with his lies, and his inaction."

According to these officials, "the situation is only worsening and could escalate into something much worse."

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The Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal is seeking applications for the position of Director of Marketing and Communications. Working with a dedicated group of professionals, the Director will be responsible for developing and implementing marketing and communications strategies, formulation of print and audio material, overseeing special events and undertaking other initiatives to maximize the profile of the Federation and its affiliated agencies situated on the Asper Jewish Community Campus.

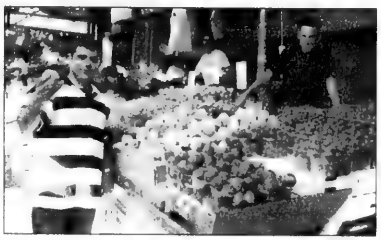
Candidates should have a proven professional track record, good interpersonal and writing skills and knowledge or interest in the Jewish community. Compensation is competitive and commensurate with qualifications.

Out-of-the-box thinkers are encouraged to apply *no later than February 14, 2002 to:*

Robert Freedman, Executive Vice President
Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal
Suite 300 – 123 Doncaster Street, Wpg. MB R3N 2B2
Fax: (204) 477-7405
Email: Bfreedman@aspercampus.mb.ca

Israel's Desert Shopping

Want to buy a camel? How about a sheep? It may be difficult to get them through Canada Customs, but they're definitely for sale at the Bedouin market in Beersheba.



EveryThursday, starting at 6 am, the market offers spices, trinkets, crafts, clothing, baubles, beads, high-tech electronics and yes, even the occasional animal. And while scenes of camel caravans carrying the Bedouin to market are reserved for old movies, this *shuk* (Hebrew for market) is still a colourful tourist attraction.

Today, the Bedouin market is a microcosm of Beersheba's transition from an ancient watering hole to a flourishing city of nearly 150,000. Here, the Torah records history's first peace pact when Abraham made a covenant with Abimelech, the king of Gerar, for access to water wells. It was sealed with Abraham's gift of seven (*sheva* in Hebrew) lambs, accounting for the name *Be'ersheva* or well of seven – translated to English as Beersheba. In 2002, this fascinating Negev desert capital, where it's common to see Jews and Bedouins walking on city streets, is coping with rapid population growth.

But, if haggling at the market isn't what you bargained for, try visiting Beersheba's Museum of Bedouin culture (over 100,000 Bedouin live in the Negev region alone) or the nearby Israel Air Force Museum in Hatzerim, about 6 kilometres west of Beersheba.

Next week: Ten facts about the Dead Sea you may not know.

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Jacksonville, Florida mid-sized conservative congregation seeks energetic rabbi to begin July, 2002. We are an egalitarian congregation in a growing community. Our members are as warm as our weather! Torah reading skills necessary. Please respond by March 1, 2002 to P. Marks, Beth Shalom Synagogue, 4072 Sunbeam Road, Jacksonville, FL 32257 (904) 268-0404.

Authors & Poets

The CJN is pleased to announce
The Sixth Annual
Passover Literary Supplement.

We invite the authors and poets among our readers to submit their works. The works must be previously unpublished, original fiction or poetry that explore Jewish themes. The fiction cannot be longer than 1,500 words.

We must receive your submissions
no later than Feb. 15, 2002
at *The CJN*, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205,
Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4.

If you want us to return the submissions, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so. *The editor.*

CJN Purim Art Contest

It's time again for our seventh annual **Purim Art Contest**.

Who can enter: Children in grades 1 to 6 inclusive are eligible. The children of *CJN* employees are not eligible.

Prizes: The judges will choose one drawing from two different students in each grade. These "winning" drawings will be published in *The CJN* on February 21. In addition, each of the 12 children whose drawings have been selected will receive a cheque for $25.

How to enter: You may submit as many drawings as you want. However, they should not be too small nor too large. Please paint or draw bright, bold, colourful pictures. You may use markers, crayons, paint or pencils. Please send us your name, address, phone number, age and grade along with your drawings.

You may mail or deliver your drawings to: CJN Community Contests, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, Toronto, Ontario M3B 3K4. If you want us to return the pictures to you, please provide a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Otherwise, we will be unable to do so.

The contest closes at 5 p.m. on Friday, February 1, 2002. We will undoubtedly receive many wonderful submissions from children all across the country. But only 12 of the drawings will be chosen as the "winners." The judges will base their decisions on a number of factors such as: the use of colour, the imaginative quality of the drawing and the way it tells an aspect of the story of Purim. The judges' decisions will be final. The chances of winning depend upon the number and quality of submissions received.

How the Winner will be announced: The children whose pictures are chosen will be notified by telephone before the start of Shabbat on Friday, February 8, 2002.

When the prizes will be awarded: The "winning" pictures will be published in *The CJN* of February 21, 2002.

French Jews fed up with anti-Semitism

By ANDREW DIAMOND
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — Jewish comunity leaders in Paris reported last Friday that a bullet had been fired at a bus carrying 60 Jewish children in the French capital. No injuries were reported. It was the most recent incident in what leaders here have called a wave of anti-Semitic aggression.

Jews in the Paris region have stepped up their drive against the hostility that many feel has reached epidemic proportions.

More than 600 people attended a Jan. 20 rally against anti-Semitic violence, held in the Paris suburb of Sarcelles. Among them were representatives of Christian and Muslim communal organizations and high-ranking officials from all the major political parties in France.

It was the third such demonstration in the Paris suburbs in the last three weeks.

In staging these demonstrations, French Jewish organizations have adopted a more assertive approach as they demand that French authorities respond to the increasing violence with more than words.

The demonstrations were prompted by two separate arson attacks against Jewish community sites in the Parisian suburbs of Creteil and Goussainville.

On Dec. 31, in the waning hours of 2001, vandals set fire to a classroom in the Jewish school Ozar HaTorah in Creteil.

Days later, in perhaps the most serious episode, witnesses saw some 30 youths between the ages of 12 and 20 hurl rocks and Molotov cocktails at a Goussainville Jewish home that also serves as the local synagogue.

For more than a year, French Jewish leaders have called on the government to confront the dramatic rise in anti-Semitic violence that began with the outbreak of the Palestinian intifada in September 2000.

Officials from CRIF, the umbrella group of secular French Jewish organizations, counted 320 acts of anti-Jewish aggression last year. Most of the acts involved vandalism and verbal threats.

But after the attack in Goussainville endangered the lives of a mother and her four young children, a feeling of urgency and outrage has spread through the Jewish community around Paris.

Adding to the anger was President Jacques Chirac's recent statement that "there are no anti-Semitism and no anti-Semites in France."

The remark resembles the long-held position of several high-ranking members of the Socialist-led government, including, most notably, the interior minister, Daniel Vaillant.

Vaillant, the man most responsible for the implementation of law enforcement policy in France, has in the past disputed CRIF's statistics on anti-Jewish incidents.

Taking aim at such officials, Moise Cohen, president of the Paris Consistoire, told the audience at the Creteil rally, "If Jews attacked Muslims and their schools, there would be a public outrage, a political and media outrage. So why is it that when Jews are the victims of aggression, our politicians and our media remain silent?"

CRIF president Roger Cukierman was even more pointed in his condemnations of the French government's response to the situation.

"We are told that we exaggerate," he said, "that violence is a general phenomenon, that it is not specific to Jews, that the authors are ill-at-ease young people, that statistics show that anti-Jewish violence has diminished.

"Well no, no and no," he said. "We are not exaggerating."

The French government's perceived inaction has drawn sharp criticism in recent weeks from some Israeli officials.

In addition, several Jewish journalists in the United States have compared the present climate in France to the one in the World War II era, when the Vichy government collaborated in the deportation of 76,000 Jews to Nazi concentration camps.

Sparking the outburst of anger from abroad was a report a month ago that, at a London dinner party, the French ambassador to England, Daniel Bernard, had referred to Israel as "that shitty little country."

This incident raised the question in some circles as to whether the French government's stance regarding anti-Semitic violence is indicative of a broader anti-Semitism throughout French society.

French Jewish leaders have been more ambivalent about the idea that anti-Semitism in France is a widespread problem, choosing to present anti-Jewish aggression as a phenomenon located predominantly in communities where Sephardi Jews and Maghrebins – Arabs of North African descent – live side by side.

Cohen, for example, opened his speech in Creteil with the assertion: "France is not an anti-Semitic country."

He finished the speech with the comment: "For our part, we won't fall into the trap of seeing anti-Semites everywhere, but there is no worse disease than the one that is not diagnosed and acknowledged."

The chief rabbi of Paris, David Messas, echoed these comments, stating, "This is why we are here today, to respond in front of the republic that we love.

"We are democrats," he continued, "because we're French and because we're Jewish."

Such sentiments reflect the rhetorical strategy Jewish leaders have employed as they emphasize the French government's responsibility to protect the rights of all its citizens.

At Creteil, however, there were signs that the mounting anger of French Jews may begin to steer their leadership down a less diplomatic road.

A local journalist who asked not to be named, indicated that some are beginning to provide their own security.

"I live in Boulogne," another Paris suburb, "where we have a lot of problems, and we have to ensure our own security since the police don't want to come," the journalist said. "Almost every week we have incidents – slurs, stones, fights."

Jan. 21

• Israel has intelligence information that Iran is holding captured air navigator Ron Arad, former Mossad chief Shabtai Shavit said in a speech at Tel Aviv University.

Jan. 22

• The IDF killed four Hamas operatives in a raid in Nablus.

• Two women, aged 79 and 56, died from wounds they sustained following an attack earlier in the day by a Palestinian gunman in downtown Jerusalem.

Jan. 23

• *An Nahar*, Lebanon's largest daily, published an editorial in which the paper's editor, Gebran Tueni, says Hezbollah attacks on Israel "could drag Lebanon, Syria and the entire region into war and disaster." He wondered if "it is reasonable that the Hezbollah and its military forces continue to control the destiny of the Lebanese people" and called on Lebanon and Syria to start disarming the organization.

Jan. 24

• Prime Minister Sharon's office announced he will visit Washington Feb. 7 and meet with U.S. President George W. Bush. Sharon will be in Washington at the same time as his defence minister and chairman of the Labor Party, Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, who leaves for Washington Feb. 6.

• Israel killed Bakar Hamdan, 28, a senior Hamas activist in the Gaza Strip city of Khan Yunis.

Jan. 25

• Twenty-six people were injured, three of them seriously, in a suicide bombing near the old central bus station in south Tel Aviv.

•The United States backed Israel's confinement of Yasser Arafat to a compound in Ramallah. "The president understands... the action that [Israel] takes," White House spokesperson, Ari Fleischer said.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

Belgian court to say in March if Sharon to be tried

By YOSSI MELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

BRUSSELS — A Belgian appeals court will decide on March 6 if Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon should be tried for alleged war crimes associated with the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon.

The three-judge panel scheduled the ruling for early March after a five-hour closed hearing last week in which Sharon's attorney, Adrien Masset, listed objections to a war crimes trial. The court will hold one last hearing on January 30 for the submission of final documents.

Israeli officials have objected that war crimes charges against 30 world leaders have been submitted to Belgian courts, yet officials have expedited prosecution only in Sharon's case. The 30 include Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, and Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Masset argued in court last week that Sharon enjoys immunity from prosecution in the same way that Belgian parliament members and ministers have immunity. Sharon's attorney also argued that European law forbids the extradition of a man who has been tried for an alleged offence in another country, whether he was found innocent or guilty.

Sharon's position is that he has already "stood trial" in Israel for Sabra and Shatila in the Kahan Commission investigation. The panel ruled in February 1983 that Sharon (then defence minister) bore indirect responsibility for the massacre.

Masset argued last week that since there is no link between Sabra and Shatila and Belgium, "Belgian law has no jurisdiction."

Michael Verhaeghe, lawyer for the massacre survivors, said his legal team is confident the court will take the case, and override Sharon's objections. Lebanese lawyer Chibli Mallat, who is also representing the survivors, said his team was opposed to moving the case out of Belgium.

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Arts & Travel

Artist determined to be successful

By TAMARA STECYK
Special to The CJN

CALGARY — Determined to make painting her career, Sarah Bing was not upset that her first showing was postponed by the closing of a Calgary gallery that promised to sell her work.

Instead, the 21-year-old turned to the Calgary Jewish Centre to host her exhibit.

"I'm going to paint and I'm going to make money with my paintings," Bing said. "It doesn't appear to be making money right now, but I think that's because this isn't an art atmosphere. People don't come here to buy paintings," she said, referring to the centre's fitness patrons.

The fourth-year University of Calgary fine arts student is just months away from graduating with honours. This year, she is focusing on abstract work.

Sarah Bing with one of her paintings. [T. Stecyk photo]

One series in the centre's exhibit, which ended Jan. 19, uses blues and greys to portray buildings in a city. The series was painted after Sept. 11.

"These ones are the most successful out of all of them," Bing said. "They are like a breakthrough because I was working with the paint and not against the paint.

"I named one of them *Revelation* because I think that's what it is. They could be any city. They are just buildings.

"I think it's better to have them be whatever you want them to be, whatever the audience wants them to be because it's more personal for them."

When Bing put the series in the context of New York's twin towers, she became reflective.

"With everything that happened in New York, that affected me pretty [strongly]," she said. "I was going to call one of them *Aftermath* but someone said it was too direct, so I didn't."

Bing said Judaism has not been a strong influence in her art, but she has always been interested in painting more religious subject matter.

"I've done a piece of my family with a menorah," she said. "My parents love it and they have it in their house and they show everybody when they come in. I did it in second year and I haven't really done anything since then."

The Calgary native grew up surrounded by artwork, including the work of her great-uncle, renowned artist Sam Borenstein, and her grandmother Gella Bing. High school teachers and family members encouraged her to pursue her dream of becoming an artist.

"I was always going to be an artist, a painter. My mom said I could draw better than her when I was two," she said, laughing. "I don't know if there was any truth to that."

In order to paint, Bing said, she needs to be focused and can't be distracted.

"It's the mood... I find if I'm in a bad mood, I can't paint because my mind is on other things. I find when I'm in a good mood, then I can just paint like there's no tomorrow."

While at school, Bing has access to the university's studio. When she graduates, she plans to rent a large apartment and make one of the rooms into a studio of her own.

Bing is counting on a Toronto art company to sell her work or find a market for her to sell her paintings independently. She sold two pieces before the exhibit at the centre and another two paintings during the show, defending her prices of $1,500 and up that she is asking for some of her larger pieces.

"I don't think it's expensive art because you go to a gallery and you can't get a painting this size for the amount I'm asking for," she said.

People, she said, don't want to spend money on art.

"They have what they have and if it doesn't go into their collection, they don't want to have it. I don't think the Calgary market is ready for the work that I have."

But Bing is remaining optimistic and looks forward to showing in Toronto and Montreal.

"I think I will be able to support myself there," she said.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

TORONTO MANDOLIN ORCHESTRA PERFORMS AT LEAH POSLUNS

A unique assemblage of musicians known as the **Toronto Mandolin Orchestra** is scheduled to perform in north Toronto this week. The program includes traditional Ukrainian, Russian and Jewish music, as well as selections by **Rimsky-Korsakov**, **Vivaldi**, **Rossini** and others.

Instruments in the orchestra include every member of the mandolin family (prima, alt, tenor, mando-cello and mando-bass) plus accordion, flute, oboe, clarinet and percussion.

Musicians include soloist **Iraida Erokhina**, a master of the three-string domra, a mandolin-like instrument common in Russia; flautist **Kate Anderson**, a founding member of the **Onyx Wind Quintet**; panflute soloist **Kevin Budd**, who builds panflutes (also known as panpipes) and composes for them; oboist **Senya Trubashnik**, formerly of the **Moscow Philharmonic**; and mandolinist **Eric Stein**, an acclaimed klezmer musician who founded the klezmer ensemble, **Beyond the Pale**. The conductor of this semi-professional community orchestra is **Alexander Veprinsky**.

Leah Posluns Theatre. Adults $18. Sunday, Feb. 3, 2 p.m.

* * *

Books and Bagels: Author-and-editor-about-town **Hal Niedzviecki** reads from his recently published novel *Ditch* at the next instalment of the Books & Bagels literary event.

Ditch is "a subversive, compelling portrait of a young man's plunge into adulthood, set in Toronto, Buffalo and the suburbs of Maryland." Niedzviecki has been dubbed a "guru to a new generation of young writers determined to break the bonds of mediocrity that enslave much of the Canadian book publishing industry."

Miles Nadal JCC (formerly the Bloor JCC). Members free, non-members $8. Sunday Feb. 3, 11 a.m. 416-924-6211.

* * *

History of Yiddish: Prof. Ben Shek, a linguistic scholar and professor emeritus in French literature at the University of Toronto, is preparing to present Mameloshn, a lecture on the history of Yiddish.

Born in Israel, Shek was raised in Toronto, where he both learned and taught Yiddish at the Morris Winchevsky School in the 1930s and 1940s. He has long been active in the **Toronto Jewish Folk Choir**. His lecture addresses the roots of Yiddish as a language and its present-day relevance within Jewish culture.

Presented by the Cranbrooke Friendship Club, the program is $6 and includes lunch. Morris Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Monday, Feb. 11, 12:30 p.m.

* * *

A Taste of Rhubarb: There are at least two items of Jewish content in the 24th annual Rhubarb! Festival, scheduled for Feb. 6 to 24, courtesy of Buddies in Bad Times Theatre in Toronto.

John Demjanjuk is the subject of a play at the Rhubarb Festival.

The Trials of John Demjanjuk, a play by **Jonathan Garfinkle**, focuses on the 1987 Jerusalem trial of the Ukrainian-American who was suspected, and ultimately acquitted, of being Ivan the Terrible, the man who controlled the gas chambers at Treblinka.

Clean Irene & Dirty Maxine, written by and starring **Anna Chatterton** and **Evalyn Parry**, is described as "a modern moral tale of obsession and demise in which a series of distressed damsels all meet their untimely ends as victims of their fashionable fixations."

For prices and times, and more about the festival, phone 416-975-8555.

* * *

Legal Portrait: The University of Toronto Press recently published a full-length hardcover biography of a Canadian lawyer who was an active reformer and civil libertarian in Toronto in the 1930s and 1940s.

Renegade Lawyer: The Life of J. L. Cohen, by **Laurel Sefton MacDowell**, tells the story of Cohen, who was "one of the first specialists in labour law and an architect of the Canadian industrial relations system" as well as a "formidable advocate... on behalf of working people."

A strong trade unionist, Cohen was chief legal counsel for the Communist party from 1927 to 1931. MacDowell is an associate professor in the department of history at the U of T.

Renegade Lawyer features a photographic portrait of Cohen by **Yousuf Karsh** on its cover and is available through major bookstores.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• **Alon Nashman** performs a public reading of *Kafka and Son*, a new play based on a letter **Franz Kafka** wrote to his father. Free. Miles Nadal JCC, Jan. 31, 8 p.m.

• The Art Gallery of Ontario has added new displays to its Henry Moore Sculpture Centre, which re-opened recently. The AGO houses the world's largest public collection of works by the renowned British sculptor.

• March 1 is submissions deadline for the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, at Toronto City Hall July 12 to 14. Web www.torontooutdoorart.org, or phone Jennifer Rudder at 416-408-2754.

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Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

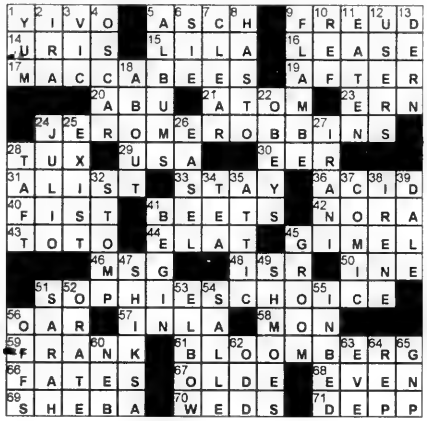
FIVE SMOOTH STONES

We were driving southward through the Shephelah when Mike Rogoff, our guide, pulled the van over to the shoulder and drew our attention to a ridge of hills to the right of us and a roughly parallel ridge to the left.

As the Shephelah consists of numerous low hills and valleys and some of the most productive arable land in Israel, the distinction of this particular locality was not readily apparent. It was, like much of the previous terrain, carpeted in low greenery with plenty of firs and eucalyptuses.

The place apparently did not have a name. We were about a 40-minute drive west and south of Jerusalem, about two dozen kilometres from the Mediterranean, and roughly inland from the southern port cities of Ashdod and Ashkelon, two of the Philistine cities of the Bible.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 43.



It was here, Rogoff explained, that the Philistines and the Israelites camped before the famous battle that brought David, the future king, to national prominence. Rogoff cited the biblical passage from memory: "The Philistines were standing on the mountain on one side and Israel was standing on the mountain on the other side, and the valley was between them" (I Samuel 17:3).

Here, he said, the warring nations determined that one man from each side would fight the contest for them. Young David went to a nearby brook and drew the five smooth stones with which he intended, with the help of the Almighty, to smite Goliath, the behemoth of the Philistines. From the specific contours of the terrain, many biblical scholars are convinced that this is the only spot where, roughly 3,000 years ago, the decisive confrontation could have occurred.

Soon, driving over a crest, our guide bade us look to the west; through a break in the trees, we glimpsed far-off Ashdod on the horizon, its buildings reduced to faded silhouettes in the afternoon sun. We were headed to Beit Guvrin and Tel Morasha, two adjacent archeological sites that are easily accessible from Jerusalem and comprise an excellent destination for a half-day excursion.

In our week of sightseeing in Israel, we had encountered relatively few tour buses on the roads; owing to the current political troubles, many places normally overflowing with visitors seemed sadly deserted. But as we reached Beit Guvrin National Park, two large buses pulled in ahead of us, each carrying soldiers, male and female respectively.

Most of them looked about 18 or 19 years old. Dressed in military uniforms and accessorized with weapons, they were being given the tour of their country that, in Israel, is a perquisite of military duty. As they filed down a staircase into the network of caves for which the area is renowned, they sounded like a happy (and happy-go-lucky) group of high-school students.

When they emerged from underground a few minutes later, we moved to take some photographs. Instantly obliging us, they smiled and waved for our cameras. Noticing our red-and-white maple-leaf pins, a few called out, "Thank you for coming!" They seemed thrilled that we were visiting their country.

Now it was our turn to explore the caves that generations of local residents had dug, eons ago, in the soft rock beneath their homes. These subterranean chambers were intended as storerooms, workrooms, cisterns, underground olive presses, and even a columbarium for pigeons. Many descend the equivalent of several floors below ground. There are an estimated 5,000 caves in the region; the local fields are said to be honeycombed with them; and a small number have been opened to visitors.

The gratitude of young Israeli soldiers made the most striking impression on our travel columnist at Beit Guvrin National Park. [Bill Gladstone photo]

The town flourished in the late Roman era as Eleutheropolis, and became known in the early Arab period as Bet Jibrin (Guvrin); the Crusaders also built a city here. The adjacent Tel Morasha is much older, and dates from biblical times. To cite only part of its remarkably checkered past, it was a Judean-era city that later figured in the Maccabean wars and even later was a capital of the Idumeans, or Edomites, who came from east of the Jordan. Despite all this, Tel Morasha remains a huge mound of earth that has barely been sounded by archeologists.

The caves are certainly impressive. But of all we saw and heard at Beit Guvrin that day, it was perhaps the gratitude of the young soldiers that made the most striking impression on me. By what small act did we deserve their thanks, in comparison to their own immense contributions?

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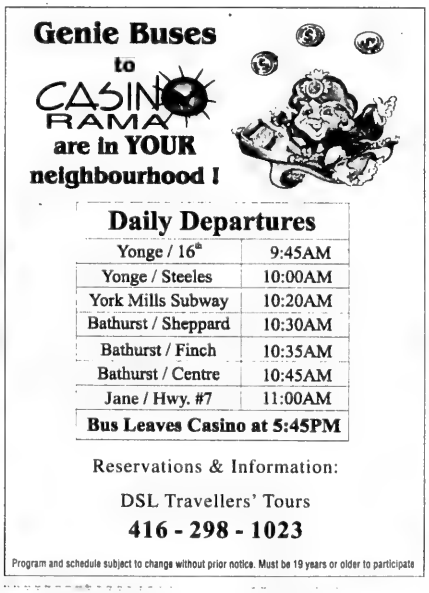
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Bill Berle CD features old and new songs

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Musician, teacher and composer Bill Berle's new CD *Winds of the Negev*, to be released Feb. 1, will feature new music as well as two old recordings that have been digitally remastered.

Both the title track, which was recorded on LP by the BBC London Orchestra and Chorus 32 years ago, and the *Solove (Nightingale) Fantasy* for solo violin and orchestra, which was premiered by the York Symphony Orchestra (YSO) in October on the orchestra's 40th anniversary, are on the 60-minute CD.

"The York Symphony, under director and conductor Roberto De Clara, is one of a number of alternative symphony orchestras that has many accomplished musicians who donate their services because they have a deep love and dedication to music," Berle says.

Berle, who comes from four generations of musicians, says his father, Gershon Berul, one of the first members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra (TSO) and a violin teacher who taught such notable musicians as Victor Feldbrill and Moe Kaufman, composed two folk melodies in 1910 when he was a violin student at the Odessa Conservatory of Music in Russia.

These two folk melodies, says Berle, have lingered in his memory since he was a child. When he began composing *Nightingale Fantasy* in 1990, he wove his father's haunting melodies into the three movements: *Moderato Alla Gypsy*, *Tarentella Alla Espana* and *The Flight of the Nightingale Alegro Polka-Brillante*.

When *Nightingale Fantasy* premiered on the YSO's 40th anniversary, Berle, who has performed with the York Symphony for more than eight years, conducted the 75-piece orchestra.

Canadian violinist Lance Ouellette, who has won many awards and performed in recitals across Canada and in the United States, is featured in *Nightingale Fantasy*.

Winds of the Negev contains music ranging from folk and classical to modern Israeli music. Besides the title track, the songs on the CD include *On Your Bar Mitzvah Day*, *Six-Day Israeli Marching Song*, *Holiday in Israel*, *Our Israel*, and *Canadian Falls*, his first composition which he wrote when he was 16.

Berle, who received his musical training from his father, says his first love was the piano. He also knows how to play the violin, accordion, saxophone, clarinet, organ, guitar, bass and drums. He attended the Royal Conservatory of Music and completed courses in choir and conducting.

During World War II, he joined the Canadian Army and was a member of the Army Show. Upon discharge, he formed his own band and appeared on national radio and television with various celebrities, including actor Lou Jacobi and singer Yaffa Yarkoni.

Berle has served as musical director of the Royal Alexandra Theatre for 16 years, and has a Klezmer quartet that performs at community functions and synagogues. Berle also performs free concerts at seniors' homes and communal agencies.

He acknowledges having music as a career can be difficult. It has become increasingly difficult for musicians to make a living performing as more and more people use prerecorded music for their events.

"So music has become a sideline for many musicians," he says, adding that with cutbacks, less people are studying music as a career.

York Symphony Orchestra's next performance is Feb. 17 at 3 p.m. at the Markham Theatre.

Bill Berle's CD, which is produced by Canadian Distribution WB Music, 416-635-1928, is available at major record stores and Judaica shops.

My Dear Clara a film about persistence

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

When Clara Greenspan, a Canadian citizen, visited her native Poland in 1938, she was introduced to Haim Blum, with whom she fell in love.

Before returning to Montreal, she married Haim, in order to facilitate the visa requirements for him to immigrate to Canada and be with her.

Fully expecting to be reunited with him within a month, Clara travelled back to Montreal. Little did she know she would wait almost 10 years before she would see him again.

My Dear Clara, directed by Garry Beitel and airing on WTN Feb. 6 at 9 p.m. ET, tells the story of the young couple's struggle to be together, narrated mostly through the letters sent to each other across thousands of miles.

At the time, the Canadian government was restricting visas to European refugees, especially Jews. It also didn't help Clara's cause that the law allowing a husband to sponsor a foreign wife did not apply the other way round. Clara was told she could not sponsor her husband.

Soon events would overtake them. Poland was divided between Germany and the Soviet Union, and Haim found himself in a labour camp deep in the Soviet Urals.

But this is a story of persistence. Clara never gave up, despite the odds. When the war ended, she managed to track his whereabouts through the Red Cross. After repeated attempts negotiating the quagmire that was Canadian immigration beaurocracy, Clara decided to write to the prime minsiter, William Lyon Mackenzie King.

Shortly thereafter, the Prime Minister's Office intervened, and in 1947, she was finally reunited with her husband. The law forbidding wives to sponsor husbands was changed.

Clara and Haim spent the rest of their lives together in Montreal and had two children.

This 44-minute documentary was skilfully researched by Beitel and well put together, combining letters, interviews and archival images.

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Organ tissue donation institute gets $1M gift

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The newly established Bertram Loeb Organ-Tissue Donation Institute has been named for the philanthropist who donated $1 million to help establish it.

Ottawa resident Bertram Loeb provided the funding for the Institute so that Canada will increase its rate of organ donations and move up from 16th place in the rankings of developed countries.

"Our goal is to increase public and professional awareness about the importance of organ and tissue donation, not only in the Ottawa area but across the country," said Loeb.

The non-profit institute, to be based at the Civic Campus of the Ottawa Hospital, is made up of nine volunteer directors from the fields of medicine, religion, public affairs, law, community service and medical ethics. Its chair, Rabbi Reuven Bulka, has been actively involved in promoting organ donation for many years.

At a recent ceremony held at the National Arts Centre, Rabbi Bulka said the mandate of the institute "is not to do anything that anyone else is already doing, but to fill in the niches that are not being filled already."

Its goal of increasing organ donations will be met through initiatives in education, research, and lobbying appropriate groups for support.

Loeb also donated $25,000 to be used to stimulate positive action in support of organ-tissue donation in Canada through recognizing an outstanding individual or group contribution to this cause.

At the ceremony, Rabbi Bulka presented $40,000 to Kerry Smith, a corneal retrieval nurse who in 1998, formed the Corneal Donation Program and who is currently regional director of the Ontario division of the Eye Bank of Canada.

"We look forward to your making Ottawa a city of vision," said Rabbi Bulka.

Corneal transplant recipient Scott Racine, who attended the ceremony, said he is now able to do things he could not do two years ago, "the most wonderful of which is that I can see my children."

Loeb, founder of Israel's Supersol chain, has, over the years, contributed to numerous causes both in the general Ottawa community and in the Jewish community, including the Loeb Medical Research Centre, the Loeb Building for the Arts and Humanities at Carleton University, the surgical wing at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario and the Loeb Adult Training Centre.

He has served as president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa, chair of the United Jewish Appeal of Ottawa, first vice-president of the Zionist Organization of Canada and has been involved in numerous other organizations.

This is just the beginning, said Loeb. "We need about $5 million and I plan to go out and raise funds for this very worthy cause."

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JGH offers Lifeline

MONTREAL — The Auxiliary of the Sir Mortimer B. Davis Jewish General Hospital (JGH) recently announced its partnership with Lifeline Systems Canada Inc., a personal response and support service.

Designed primarily for individuals who live alone and are concerned about their safety, the service provides help at the touch of a button worn on a pendant or wristband. The help button activates a small in-home communicator that automatically dials the Lifeline Response Centre. Trained operators answer the phone within seconds and dispatch assistance by contacting a designated neighbour, a family member or emergency services.

"Considering that we treat a high volume of frail, elderly patients and encourage those who are able to live independently within the community to do so, this service is very valuable," says Dr. Howard Bergman, chief of the JGH division of geriatric medicine.

Fran Yagod, chair of the Lifeline Program, who is trained to install the service, notes that it is simple to use and will provide an important service to the community.

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THE SPRING MARKET & YOUR HOME

By Paul F. Slavens
Manager-Broker, Paul Slavens Real Estate Inc.

Just as the flowers will bloom, "For Sale" signs will be springing up all across Central and North Toronto. Some homes will move quickly and the owner will proudly show off the "Sold" sign on the front lawn. Owners are very proud of this sign, because usually it means that the ideal goal of moving up to a more desirable home or a lifestyle change will be achieved.

But what can one say of those properties that sit there month after month? The "For Sale" Sign lingers out on the front lawn, as though there is something wrong with the house. After 34 years in the real estate business, I can offer one insight about those signs and that is: **It isn't always the fault of the property.**

The RIGHT BROKER can -- and does -- make a difference. All brokers are not the same. The reason Paul Slavens Real Estate Inc. has succeeded in delivering results in rising and falling markets comes down to one key point. We are owner-managed and -operated, and are dedicated to building an organization with key agents that are committed to us. Quite simply, we attract the BEST AGENTS. That means the broadest mix of buyers can be tapped to look at your property, especially those in touch with the "thirty-something" market that is powering real estate sales in our marketplace.

In addition, my role is as MANAGER-BROKER; I do not compete against my representatives. Instead, my sole function is to lend my marketing skills, experience and prestige to help our agents negotiate a satisfactory sale. I help close deals.

Perhaps this Spring, you will be contemplating selling your home. You've heard some talk about the market, and it's been some time since you've had an updated opinion of the value of your property.

Here are several points to consider when selecting a BROKER. All of them are reasons you should call the "SLAVENS TEAM".

Longevity: Is there a proven track record behind the Real Estate Broker you are considering? How many years has the Agency been in business? How many properties have they successfully negotiated and completed the sale on behalf of satisfied clients?

Owner/Manager: does the principal Broker sell, in competition with his own Sales Representatives? In there someone in the organization who can provide objective, impartial analysis concerning your transaction?

Agents: Are there experienced, professional sales representatives in the office? How long have they been with the Company? The longer they stay with the Company, the greater likelihood that they are skillful and successful producers.

Advice: Have you been given a thorough "look" at your property, with insights on all of the many small marketing tips that can help make it sell quicker, and for a better price?

Price: Is the offering price realistic, and are you knowledgeable about comparable sales in your area, determining whether your home is comparable or not to these other properties?

Mortgage Financing: Can your Broker provide you with sources of funds for your next transaction, and make the sale of your present property more attractive to the buyer?

If the answers to the above are NOT in the AFFIRMATIVE, then you should talk to an agent at Paul Slavens Real Estate. If you call our office and mention this column, a qualified representative will give you a free, no-cost, no-obligation property market evaluation.

In other news: We are pleased that RICHARD SHERMAN, a Residential specialist, has joined us as an Associate Broker, after successfully marketing real estate in Toronto for over 17 years.

In addition, we are pleased to announce that VERONICA KEY has joined the "Slavens Team", as a Sales Representative. We welcome Veronica, who has enjoyed being a sales leader for over 13 years in the central core with a national Realtor.

As of January 2002, we established a Real Estate Appraisal Division, under the leadership of CRAIG LAINE, a certified Residential Property Appraiser.

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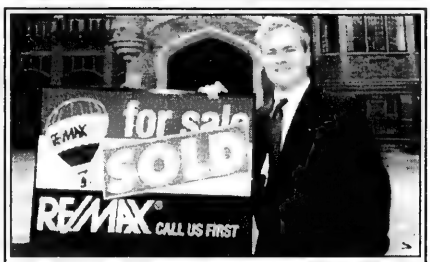

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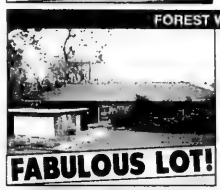

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FREEDMAN, Abraham - on Jan. 5, 2002.
SILVERSTEIN, Mordehay - on Jan. 9, 2002, late of 285 Thornway Ave.
HERRMANN, Walter - on Jan. 9, 2002, late of 132 Palm Dr.
SHEYN, Fiku - on Jan. 10, 2002.
BROWN, Joy Eta - on Jan. 12, 2002, late of 65 Skymark Dr.

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330 OBITUARIES

MAGERMAN, Helen - on Jan. 13, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
UZIELI, Sagie - on Jan. 12, 2002, late of 158 Greenbush Cres.
KUPFERBERG, Zenia - on Jan. 14, 2002.
FINE, Irving – on Jan. 15, 2002, late of 6 South Island Trail.
SAVLOV, Doris – on Jan. 16, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
WEINTROP, Maurice – on Jan. 16, 2002, late of 541 Saint Clements Ave.
HERCBERG, Louis – on Jan. 17, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
CABOTT, Irwin Marcus – on Jan. 18, 2002, late of 15 Didrickson Dr.
WEISZ, Anna – on Jan. 19, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
MAJEROVITS, Hinda – on Jan. 20, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
DEXOCHIHUA, Donna – on Jan. 19, 2002.

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women seeking men

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh loves movies theatre travel seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going enjoys outdoor activities seeks non smoking male a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female attractive intelligent, kind educated, seeks intelligent honest man 70-76 yrs old **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
The key is compatibility." Looking for someone who mutually clicks. Our personalities have to mesh Honest secure 33 yr old female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs See if our voiced blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde friend, blue eyed lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo She says she completely rockled with a complete package **AD#1142**

L'CHAIM
A loving single Jewish mom attractive intelligent kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall handsome established reading, caring non smoker who likes life **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female 35 yrs old, 5 2", short blonde hair brown eyes enjoys outdoors, skiing skating cycling horseback riding, movies music Seeking a positive handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's with grown children, young at heart, good listener easy going seeks man who is also a good listener with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also She is looking for an honest relationship **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5' 5", slim hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship **AD#1028**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me I am a short, fit, blonde blue eyed woman who's divorced with 2 kids I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi retired I seek a black man who is not skinny, muscle will build, strong, funny, caring non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1136**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour someone who is serious and mature She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family Please reply **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6" red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1106**

LET'S MEET
Single female, late 60s , retired professional, attractive, healthy, happy, personality enjoys a variety of interests, seeks similar male **AD#137**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere Please call **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life **AD#1041**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family **AD#1087**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment 39-49 yrs Please call, will meet for coffee **AD#1433**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5' 3", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun tobe with, trustworthy, considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities, seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive sophisticated Looking for love in all the wrong places Seeks a nice man non smoker, non-smoker, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years Would like a photo **AD#1577**

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965 with charm wit and Spanish eyes seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile Together we will make for an award winning performance **AD#1446**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes Loves music, dancing movies Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1514**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim blonde blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive and emotionally available seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times, She likes quiet times playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories **AD#1045**

READY FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big" Single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, caring and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoys walks, travel, dancing, dining, conversation. Seeks male, 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship **AD#1432**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 40 yrs, enjoys a glass of wine, dinner, movies, theatre, travel and skiing, seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring Share laughter, fun and friendship **AD#1021**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive female, seeks friendship first with a wonderful man, preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and secure If you are tall and dark it's a bonus, you'll be happy you made the connection **AD#1073**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis skiing, movies, restaurants, going for walks Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere **AD#1134**

WARM & AFFECTIONATE
Jewish, South African widow, 60 yrs, attractive slim, 5' 5", warm, affectionate, seeks down to earth Jewish male, and friends who are compassionate and caring **AD#1110**

DINING AND SPORTS
Attractive, professional Jewish female enjoys sports, dining and movies seeks a cute man, who is handsome, honest and trustworthy **AD#1333**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Attractive, professional female, sexy with class enjoys hiking, biking tennis, water skiing, long walks, with dog, seeks male with similar interests **AD#1262**

SINGLE FEMALE
43 yrs 5 9 brown eyes, attractive, honest sincere, likes sports, dancing dining movies seeks active romantic honest established male, 40-50 yrs of age **AD#1062**

LOOKING LONG TERM
Single, 47 yr old female, who positive, giving, outgoing attractive, kind and has a good sense of humour seeks life partner for long term relationship She likes music, dining and dancing **AD#1229**

55, DIVORCED
Many interests, dining, sports, dancing, 5' 1", easy to be with seeks interesting male, to celebrate, birthday in December **AD#1430**

DANCE WITH ME
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 4", a non smoker, thoughtful, caring, enjoys theatre, walks, dancing, seeks male, 48-63 yrs, who enjoys life to the fullest, and is financially stable for a long term relationship Must be loving, a kind hearted, warm and honest **AD#1015**

SERE MA A CALL
Very attractive, intelligent, 51 year old modern orthodox lady, who likes cooking, nature, travel, and the theatre, seeks possible long term relationship with a warm caring, healthy, sincere, 60 plus man **AD#1040**

ART LOVER
Attractive female, single, early 60's, enjoys sports, arts, good music, travel, and dining Seeks independent, caring, and affectionate male, who is single **AD#1120**

LOTS TO SEES AND DO
Very attractive Jewish female, 5' 7", attmind hair blue-green eyes, medium build seeks a Jewish male, above average looks, tall or over, a full head of dark hair a good personality upbeat and fun to be with Someone who can make me laugh and be a mensch overall If this sounds like you, and you wish to meet me, call We can do a wide variety of things **AD#1146**

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS
Female, mid 40's, 5' 7", brown hair and eyes, enjoys candle lit dinners a good glass of wine, is playful and quiet Seeks male non smoker 40-58 yrs old, who wants what the good he has to offer **AD#1273**

CALL ME
Single Jewish female, 65 yrs young loves theatre, dining travel and music Seeks male, 66-73 yrs with similar interests **AD#1262**

KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR
Divorced mom, 35 yrs of age, attractive, honest, sincere, good sense of humour seeks modern orthodox man, who is romantic and positive and someone who will slay dragons for me if interested call me **AD#1331**

BE MINE
Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, and good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 55 yrs young, who is 6 feet tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, a non smoker, and one who loves life **AD#1052**

A JEWEL
Single female, attractive, slim, classy, seeks Jewish man, 50-68 yrs, non smoker, healthy, positive outlook on life **AD#1636**

SERE MA A CALL
Single attractive, Jewish female, 5' 5", intelligent, single, kind, sincere, good natured, seeks single Jewish male, over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind loves responsibility, must be over 6 feet tall **AD#1264**

CALL ME
30, single female, Jewish, born in Russia, lived in Israel, seeks a 30-38 yrs old, weight factor not a problem. She is a plus size woman, looking for a tall man **AD#1542**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Single female with kids, Russian Israeli descent, looking for someone who likes to dance and go to the movies, loves outings and has similar qualities **AD#1556**

SHARE LIFE'S ADVENTURES
Single mom mid 40s, brown hair, and brown eyes seeks male, 40-45 yrs, to share life's adventures let's have coffee dinner and wine **AD#1561**

LIFE IS TO BE SHARED
Single mom, 43 yrs old, 2 teens, believes in sharing life to the fullest, outgoing, compassionate, family oriented, great new opportunities for a joyful life exists **AD#1330**

SHARE HER WORLD
Single, pleasant, romantic, 60 years old who likes music, dancing and travel, seeks someone to share her world with **AD#1218**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Smiling redhead, hazel eyes, senior loves holding hands enjoys music, sunshine theatre, the arts and companionship, please give me a call **AD#1315**

LIKES NATURE
Single female, 45 yrs, 5' 4", slim, non smoker, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, country drives nature, travel, seeks male, kind, honest great sense of humour, confident **AD#1066**

SPECIAL LADY
Intelligent, funny active, romantic, 5' 4", lady with brown hair, green eyes, seeks an established, confident and generous man She is self-employed, loving and loveable, and likes travel, antiques, wine tasting, dining, theatre and music **AD#1039**

CALL ME
Jamaican female, 55 yrs, flexible, down to earth, enjoys dining, dancing, music, reading, seeks male, nice, kind, likes sports, reading, walking, dining, long drives, if you think I am the person you are looking give me a call **AD#1580**

FEELING LUCKY
Female, single, Jewish, 43 yrs, works in special education, loves arts, antiques, flea markets, auctions, gardening, cooking, films, time with family/friends, enjoys life, seeks male, with health and happiness, and your soul and mind in the right spot **AD#1389**

men seeking women

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour Likes to keep busy with time Looking for someone to be comfortable with **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale Attention car buffs 59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive Performance includes movie going, travel and humour Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty, Interior warm, easy going, and charming, Performance Let's have a wonderful life together **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1681**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, lop shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969 Waiting for you call **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue" **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looig for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids Casual to long lasting relationship **AD#1288**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interested in politics, art, adventure, and travel Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile **AD#1196**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors A traditional male, works a a financial consultant Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented Seeks lady with many interests **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship She is very easy to be with **AD#1234**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1264**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention **AD#1427**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc seeks Jewish female, with similar interests Please contact me **AD#1329**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday **AD#1399**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5'6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me. **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking **AD#1267**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1206**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5' 9", 166 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer, things in life, emotionally and financially, stable, seeks female, with similar qualities **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children. **AD#1502**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1242**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs. 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see. **AD#1546**

CALL ME
Male, 48 yrs, humourous, good natured, friendly, enjoys stock markets, dancing, many other things, if interested, please leave me a message. **AD#1004**

PRICELESS
"Attention bargain shoppers!" Male, reduced for quick sale Makes an extraordinary gift item shelf for 44 yrs Comments include. Kindness, passion, sincerity, romance, adventure, sense of humour, communication. Product use. Weekend getaways, dancing cheek to cheek, long walks, dinner and movies Any buyers? **AD#1083**

SHY ONE
Shy male, 6' 3", 220 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeks 30-40 yrs, who enjoys dancing, playing sports, surfing, the internet, and spending, time with family if this interest you, get back to me. **AD#1108**

DOWN TO EARTH
Single male, 53 yrs, enjoys sports, dining and dancing, long walks, flea markets, antique shows, rides in the country, loves animals, seeks female, 43-45 yrs, weight not important, must enjoy the same interests **AD#1421**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Grouchy male, 75 yrs, enjoys Florida sunsets, movies, fine food, classical music, social activities, seeks female, attractive, loves to hold hands for companionship **AD#1359**

EASY TO LOOK AT
31 yrs, 5' 5", associate producer, lives in central Toronto, brown hair and eyes, down to earth, affectionate, handsome, enjoys dining, movies, outdoors, long drives in the country, flying, gliders, seeks female, 25-33 yrs, down to earth, affectionate, not too hard to look at. **AD#1012**

QUALITY TIME
Single white male, 59 yrs, romantic, warm,caring, self employed, enjoys movies, music, travel, romantic, evenings, seeks female, easy to talk to, good sense of humour, with similar interests **AD#1354**

CHARMING AND FUN
Single Jewish male, 36 yrs, 5' 11", gray green eyes, brownish hair, enjoys travel, music, movies, coffee houses, sports, seeks female, 25-40 yrs, warm compassionate, caring, good sense of humour, non materialistic. **AD#1245**

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Lawrence Hart is Maccabi Canada's new president

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Maccabi Canada's new president, Dr. Lawrence Hart of Toronto, is looking forward to what he hopes will be a new and productive era for Canada's largest Jewish sports organization.

Lawrence Hart

At a recent national board meeting in Montreal where he was installed as president, Hart bid a heartfelt adieu to his predecessor, Roy Salomon of Montreal – also known as "Mr. Maccabi," who served as president for eight years. Hart said he couldn't be more aware of the "very large shoes" he had to fill in the half-century-old organization.

"I only hope I'm up to the task," said Hart, a past president of B'nai Brith Canada.

Setting out his agenda, Hart said he wants to bring Maccabi Canada "into the [country's] mainstream of Jewish life" and enhance its image, "not purely as a sports organization," but as one that fully integrates sports with Jewish identity, communal life, Israel and leadership.

"We want Maccabi Canada to be a household word," he said.

Hart said he also wants to attract a younger generation of leaders and focus fund-raising efforts on a national, rather than regional, level. In addition, he wants to make Maccabi Canada more cohesive and to get past "parochial" issues that used to divide the organization, such as territoriality.

Salomon said the new national office has moved from Montreal's Cavendish Mall to the YM-YWHA's Ben Weider Jewish Community Centre. That should result in more integrated activities between the Y and Maccabi Canada, such as joint fund-raising and programming and sports clinics.

Salomon said this is the first Y on the continent to house a Maccabi office, and it may serve as a prototype for other cities.

Israel grouped with France for Euro qualifying tournament

By ELI SHVIDLER
Ha'aretz Correspondent

JERUSALEM — Israel's national soccer team has been placed in group number 1 for the qualifying campaign of the Euro 2004 Soccer Championship. The group includes world and European champion France, as well as Slovenia, Cyprus and Malta.

Observers believe the draw gives Israel a reasonable chance of advancing to the playoff round. For Israel, the chances of winning first place in any group are slim, and the battle for second place in the group – and a ticket to advance to playoff games – will likely be against Slovenia. Cyprus, which caused problems for Israel in the not-so-distant past, is likely to be a factor, especially when each of the teams are expected to get six easy points with expected victories over a weak team from Malta.

Fifty nations, divided into 10 qualifying groups, will compete for the title. The team that finishes first in its group will automatically advance to the championships, which are to be held in Portugal, while the runners-up from various groups will have a second chance to advance to the playoffs. They will play each other in a wild-card round.

Bridge with Gitelman

Bridge is a game with almost universal appeal. It is not difficult to find other bridge players in almost every country in the world. The game is enjoyed by people of all ages, religions, and walks of life. I recently played in a tournament in Palm Springs, California with a partner who comes from a rather unique walk of life. My partner was Bill Gates, currently the wealthiest man in the world and one of the greatest businessmen in history.

Bill is very much in love with the game of bridge. His schedule does not allow for very much leisure time, but he tends to spend a lot of this time either studying or playing bridge. This work has really paid off for Bill. Although he has been playing bridge for only a few years, he is already a very fine player. Here is an example of Bill in action from the Palm Springs tournament:

Fred	Bill	This is how the bidding went:	
♠ A754	♠ QJ8	Bill	Fred
♥ 3	♥ A87	2NT	3♣
♦ K1087	♦ AQJ	3♦	3NT
♣ 10532	♣ AK86	Pass	

Bill's 2NT opening bid showed a balanced hand with 20 or 21 high card points. I bid 3♣, the Stayman convention, asking Bill if he had a 4-card major. When Bill denied a major with his 3♦call, I settled for 3NT. While 5♣ turns out to a better contract than 3NT, there is no reasonable way to reach this contract given the bidding methods that our partnership was using.

The opening lead was the ♥K. Think about how you would play this hand as declarer before reading on.

First things first – count your winners. This should be standard procedure when you are playing in a notrump contract. There is 1 trick in spades, 1 in hearts, 4 in diamonds, and 2 in clubs. That's a total of 8 tricks so it will be necessary to develop an extra winner in order to make 3NT.

If the defenders' clubs are divided in a reasonable fashion, it will be possible to develop a 9th trick in that suit. The problem with this approach, however, is that the lead will have to be lost. The defenders will probably then be able to win 4 heart tricks and 1 club trick to defeat the contract.

A better approach is to depend on the spade finesse. Hold up the ♥A until the 3rd round and pass the ♠Q. The contract will succeed whenever the ♠K is on your left or if your right hand opponent was dealt that card along with fewer than 4 hearts.

That is exactly how most experienced bridge players would play this hand as declarer. Bill Gates found a slight improvement. After winning the 3rd round of hearts, Bill played the ♣A and ♣K. He was rewarded for his foresight as his right hand opponent had been dealt the ♣QJ doubleton! The risky spade finesse was now unnecessary (which is just as well since the ♠K was on Bill's right). Note, however, that if the club layout had not been favourable, Bill would have been able to fall back on the spade finesse.

Bill, who has an extraordinary ability to do math in his head, was quick to work out that there was only a 6.8% chance that a doubleton ♣QJ had been dealt. That may not seem like much, but being able to take advantage of small extra chances is one of the things that separates the men from the boys in bridge.

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Toronto-based company, Bridge Base Inc, is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month in The Canadian Jewish News. Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.

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Where are our Jewish guts, ingenuity?

Why do we Jews always accept anti-Semitism as an ugly necessity that crops up in every generation while we wait on the sidelines until its rotten stench dissipates, taking with it some of our pride and some of our lives?

Where is the Jewish call for courage? Why are free Jews, living in perhaps the best-schooled time in history, not actively and personally addressing this painful earache of humanity – anti-Semitism? Why isn't the Toronto Jewish community, from the Beaches to Richmond Hill, marching hand in hand leading protests against hatred?

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

In a recent *Ha'aretz* article, journalist Daniel Ben Simon wrote about how French Jews are experiencing anxieties that evoke bleak memories of the Vichy period. Last month, in Britain, Lord Greville Janner, a Jew and veteran Labour politician, stated: "You can't always see anti-Semitism, but you can always smell it." He was referring to increased anti-Semitism in the House of Lords and on the British street.

Yet, neither Ben Simon nor Janner, as Jewish leaders, offered solutions to their Jewish communities on how to fight anti-Semitism, as though there wasn't any. After all the persecution and anti-Semitism we have suffered, one would think the creative Jewish people would grasp the importance of a plan of a talmudic nature to defend ourselves.

There are Jews who will deal with today's anti-Semitism by listening to speakers explaining and defining it, but not submitting any viable responses to it. Some Jews will respond to the call to fight anti-Semitism by stating that through Torah observance and doing mitzvot they are playing a role. Perhaps they have a point, but history has shown this is not sufficient.

Whatever community we come from, it is imperative that we deal actively with certain realities. Anti-Semitism exists, as we saw clearly in Durban at the anti-racism conference. We don't need more programs to reaffirm that fact. Listening to speeches about the rise of anti-Semitism, with no solution as to how to fight it is an exercise in self-abuse.

If our businesses were being attacked or getting bad press, we'd fight valiantly to turn things around. Gerry Schwartz, the Bronfmans and other community leaders have done this brilliantly. Let's use the same tools to fight anti-Semitism.

When we did not receive government funding for private schools, we scrapped like junk-yard dogs until Mike Harris gave in. Some resilient Jewish parents knew how to win that struggle. Let's use those pugilistic skills to battle anti-Semitism.

It is time for us to establish a well-thought-out structure, utilizing every Jew who is up to the task (Jewish professionals cannot handle this task alone), to efficiently and aggressively fight the malaise of anti-Semitism. Let's do it with the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, Canadian Jewish Congress, B'nai Brith, Jewish students on campus, and especially synagogues. Perhaps Jewish Toronto Tomorrow could facilitate an endowment to finance this operation.

Toronto and those who battle, by the passion of their plea, can be a light unto other Jewish communities.

If we decide not to fight back, then when the gray smoke clears, we must realize we have made a choice this time – we chose not to attempt to do everything available to us to unearth and defend the truth. We will also have abrogated our personal and collective responsibility to fight hatred and anti-Semitism, and manifested weakness in the eyes of our children and friends.

Diaspora Jews need to be brave and fight a good fight. Like Nachshon Ben Aminadav, who dove into the Dead Sea before the rest of the Children of Israel escaping from Egypt, we all need to stand up against the murky coldness of an undertow called anti-Semitism. It's time!

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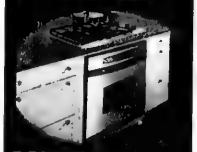

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About Life

Dear Ella,

This year I made a very important New Year's resolution to myself. I would rather not divulge what it was, but suffice it to say, I was very determined to make myself reach my goal this year.

Here it is not even six weeks into 2002 and I have already failed. I was so gung-ho when I started and my motivation just dwindled as the temptations became stronger and stronger. It is not that I don't have the desire to make my resolution work, it is something that I desire and think about all the time, but I just can't seem to get there.

Now I am very down and can't get out of the same old rut that I have been in most of my life. I'd love some advice that might get me up and going again.

Resolution Snag

Dear Resolution Snag,

Resolutions are usually all about the direction and/or content of our lives. The answers are universal, regardless of what you are striving for.

It is obvious you have a strong desire to obtain your goal, but long-term goals are plagued by the interferences and emotions that everyday living brings. It makes it almost impossible to stay completely focused 24-7.

You must allow yourself to be human and not consider a setback as a failure. If you were climbing a mountain and reached an impasse causing you to go back down before you could climb higher, that would not be failure – that would be more challenging. All the work you've done just before you reached that impasse marks a successful step to reaching your ultimate goal. It sometimes takes many setbacks to finally reach the summit.

If you have made that resolution to yourself, than you must have given some thought to making it an achievable mission. Cut yourself some slack and follow that winding road up the mountain.

Keep that image of how sweet it will feel when you finally reach the summit burning vividly in your mind.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional*

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 34.)

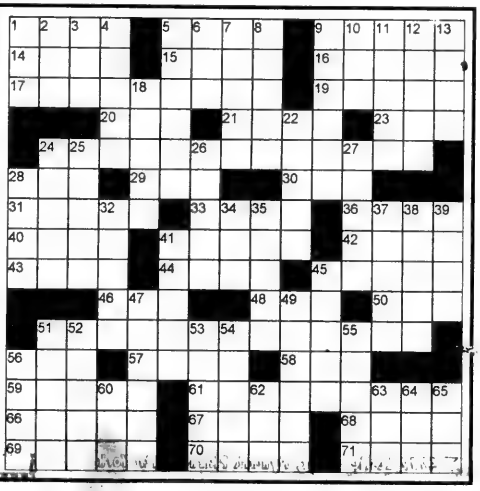
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco
(QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 New York Jewish educational institute
5 *The Nazarene* author
9 *The Psychopathology of Everyday Life* author
14 *God in Ruins* author
15 Book publisher ___ Wallace
16 Get a car, in a way
17 Revolt leaders
19 "___ you!"
20 ___ Dhabi
21 Tiniest bit
23 North or south ending
24 *West Side Story* choreographer
28 Bar mitzvah wear, maybe
29 Tiffany Cohen jacket insignia
30 Suffix for pamphlet
31 Top party choices
33 Command to Fido
36 Woodstock drug
40 Angry hand
41 Borscht ingredients
42 She's directed Tom and Meg twice
43 Hollywood dog
44 Gulf of Aqaba city: var.
45 Third in a series
46 "No ___" (Chinese restaurant sign)
48 Nat. of 44-across
50 Like some musical compositions
51 1982 Holocaust film
56 Rowboat mover
57 "To Live and Die ___"
58 Two days after Sabbath: abbr.
59 Noted Dutch Jew
61 Big name in news
66 Clotho, Atropos, and Lachesis
67 Ye ___ Shoppe
68 Like 70 and 586
69 Its queen visited Solomon
70 Uses a *chupah*
71 Ryder's "Edward Scissorhands" costar

Down

1 "Mmmm!"
2 Former Clinton aide Magaziner
3 One of Linda's "Alice" costars
4 Name associated with Billy Crystal
5 Some Streisand output
6 You, to Einstein
7 Ready for takeoff
8 Lacks choice
9 Cook fancily
10 NBA employee, for short
11 Put away
12 Computer owners
13 Spielberg directed her in "Jurassic Park"
18 "___ Last Night"
22 Toes the line
24 Paul Simon's "Me and ___ Down by the Schoolyard"
25 Ate
26 Equipment for Rauschenberg
27 From Esfahan
28 27th president
32 Destroy
34 British meal
35 Storage space, often
37 Richard Belzer or Jerry Seinfeld
38 Singer Cara
39 Rich Carnegie
41 Noted Likud man
45 One of Liz Taylor's many
47 She's a goy (pej.)
49 Average guys
51 Isaac's mother
52 Take the stump
53 ___ macaroni
54 Explorer Robert La ___
55 Snoozing
56 Kills, to Meyer Lansky
60 Lincoln's state: abbr.
62 Like Felix Unger and Oscar Madison
63 First lady
64 Sen. Specter's party
65 Stat. of interest to Greenspan



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This Week

Greater Toronto Area

Tory leadership vote being held on Saturday despite protests. *Page 3*

Beth Emeth gets new rabbi/educator. *Page 14*

On Campus

Concordia cuts ties with 'illegitimate' student body. *Page 19*

Coast to Coast

Israel's president to visit Canada for CIC dinner. *Page 27*

Health & Lifestyles

Mount Sinai introduces a number of high-tech tools. *Pages 39*

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Al Qaeda in Gaza, Lebanon

Operatives on the ground, intelligence sources say

By SHARON SADEH and SHLOMO SHAMIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Al Qaeda terrorist network is attempting to transfer its base of operations from Afghanistan to Lebanon, the *Times of London* reported last Friday. The same day, the *New York Post* reported that Al Qaeda operatives have taken refuge in Lebanon and the Gaza Strip.

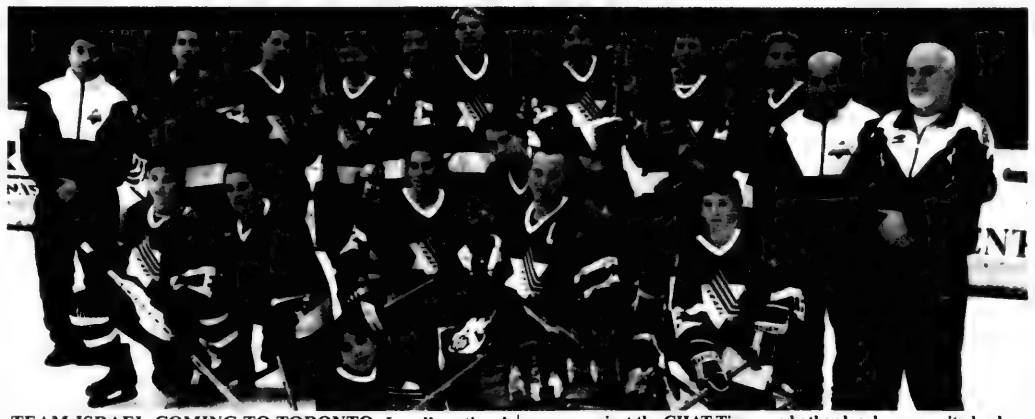
According to western intelligence sources, the *Times* reported, a senior operative of Osama bin Laden's organization, a Yemeni national who operates under the alias of Salah Hajir, arrived in Lebanon two weeks ago and has had meetings in Beirut with Hezbollah leaders. The *Times* noted that Hezbollah, a Shi'ite Muslim organization and Al Qaeda, Sunni Muslim, are "unlikely bedfellows," but it said, "There is substantial evidence of a working alliance between the two groups dating back to the early 1990s."

IDF soldiers display a cache of weapons smuggled by Palestinians into Gaza that was discovered last week. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Since Hajir's arrival in Lebanon, according to the *Times* report, he has also met a radical Sunni organization called Usbat al-Ansar, based in the Ain al-Hilweh refugee camp in Sidon. This group is also reported to have close ties with Al Qaeda – a number of Usbat al-Ansar operatives recently returned to Lebanon after fighting with Al Qaeda forces in Afghanistan, the report said.

The *New York Post* reported that American and Israeli intelligence officials have recently identified senior associates of bin Laden in Lebanon and Gaza. These officials, the report said, are concerned that the Al Qaeda leaders who fled Afghanistan could now try to set up new terror cells in the Middle East. The Al Qaeda leaders who were recently seen in Lebanon and Gaza are known to have met with local terror organizations.

Israeli defence sources confirmed last week that they in fact have information about the infiltration of several Al Qaeda members into the Gaza Strip, apparently via tunnels below the border with Egypt at Rafah. Head of IDF military intelligence Maj. Gen. Aharon Ze'evi had already reported about the arrival of Al Qaeda members in Lebanon.



TEAM ISRAEL COMING TO TORONTO: Israel's national junior hockey team arrives next week to play a series of five exhibition games against the CHAT Tigers and other local community hockey teams. *Please see related story on page 46.*

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat Sh'kalim: Mishpatim
Candlelighting: 5:19
Havdallah: 6:24

today
s

Sharon meets key Palestinians on eve of U.S. trip — please see page 29

The News in Brief

CANADA

Insurance Deadline

OTTAWA — Canadian Jewish Congress has welcomed the recent decision by the parties to the International Commission on Holocaust Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) to extend the deadline for filing a claim, to Sept. 30, 2002. The National Association of Insurance Commissioners established the ICHEIC in October 1998 to address unpaid insurance policies issued to victims of the Holocaust. A copy of the claim form can be accessed at www.icheic.org, or by calling 1-800-496-1974. In Canada, the Canadian Life and Health Insurance Association has also established a help-line which can be reached 8:30-4:30 Monday to Friday at the following numbers: From Toronto: 416-359-2008; toll-free in English: 1-800-860-3413; toll-free in French: 1-888-361-8070.

ISRAEL

Argentina Visit

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon plans to visit Argentina soon to speed up aliyah from the crisis-ridden nation. Speaking Jan. 23 at an absorption centre where he greeted new arrivals from Argentina, Sharon called immigration a prime objective of his administration.

Minister Resigns

JERUSALEM — Israel's first Druze cabinet minister has resigned. Minister Without Portfolio Saleh Tarif, facing bribery allegations, submitted his letter of resignation to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon Jan. 27. Sharon praised Tarif, who was responsible for Arab affairs, for being Israel's first non-Jewish minister and said he hoped Tarif would prove his innocence quickly.

Reservists Rapped

JERUSALEM — The Israel Defense Force chief of staff has lashed out against a group of reservists who refuse to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Controversy is growing in Israel after more than 50 reserve officers and soldiers took out ads in newspapers voicing their refusal. Lt. Gen. Shaul Mofaz criticized the group, saying, they "do not represent reservists who understand their mission very well and work day and night for the shared aim of providing security to Israel."

WORLD

Terror Lawsuit

NEW YORK — Relatives of a slain Jewish couple want to question Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and five Palestinian security chiefs as part of a $250 million (US) lawsuit. The action, filed in the United States by the family of Yaron and Efrat Ungar last year against Arafat, the PLO and Hamas, claims Palestinian officials were responsible for the couple's deaths in a 1996 terror shooting.

Liberation Marked

MOSCOW — The man who led the Soviet Army's liberation of Auschwitz attended Holocaust Day commemorations here Jan. 27. The ceremony attended by Gen. Vassily Petrenko, 90, was one of many across Europe marking the 57th anniversary of the death camp's liberation.

Gunshots at Kids

PARIS — A single gunshot hit a school bus carrying Jewish children near Paris last week. It caused no injuries, but shattered the windshield, police reported.

Britain 'Failed'

LONDON — Britain did not do enough to help Jews escape the Holocaust, according to a leading historian. Tens of thousands of Jews fleeing Nazi Germany were refused entry into Britain, said David Cesarani, a professor of history at Southampton University and an adviser to the British government. "The uncomfortable truth is that Britain failed to respond with urgency to a genocide in progress when it could do something about it," he said.

Czech Marker

PRAGUE — A plaque has been erected to remember Czech Jews who were sent to concentration camps. Only 200 of the more than 2,600 Jewish residents of Pilsen, who were sent to concentration camps in 1942, survived World War II. Pilsen's mayor apologized to survivors that it took 60 years for the city to put up the plaque.

NELFTY Reunion

CLEVELAND — A reunion is planned for those who were active in the Northeast Lakes Federation of Temple Youth (NELFTY) between 1969 and 1974. NELFTY, now known as National Federation of Temple Youth – North East Lakes Federation (NFTY-NEL), is the Reform movement's youth organization. The reunion will take place in Cleveland Nov. 1-3, 2002. For details, visit www.nelfty.com.

Heeb Debuts

NEW YORK — An alternative magazine aimed at younger Jews has debuted. The first issue of *Heeb* features an article about a former Jewish convict; an interview with the man who made *Trembling Before G-d*, a documentary about gay and lesbian Orthodox Jews; and a photo essay about Jews with Afro-style hairdos.

Survey Says: Good News for Jews

WASHINGTON — Jews are considered by other ethnic groups to be hard-working, intelligent and strongly committed to family, according to a study released Jan. 24 by the American Jewish Committee.

Between 27 per cent and 30 per cent of non-Jews report contact with Jews at work, school or in the community, the report says.

Fifty-eight per cent of non-Jews say they know a Jew, and 28 per cent feel "close" to one.

The research also shows that people have a poor understanding of the number of Jews in the United States, with respondents estimating on average that Jews make up 18 per cent of the population. The actual figure is close to two per cent.

But officials caution that while Jews are increasingly more accepted in society, old stereotypes persist.

In a 1998 survey, 12 per cent of Americans were identified as anti-Semitic. In 1990, 16 per cent of non-Jews said they would object to a relative marrying a Jew, compared with 13 per cent in 2000. Only nine per cent said they would object to living in a majority-Jewish neighborhood, compared with 14 per cent in 1990.

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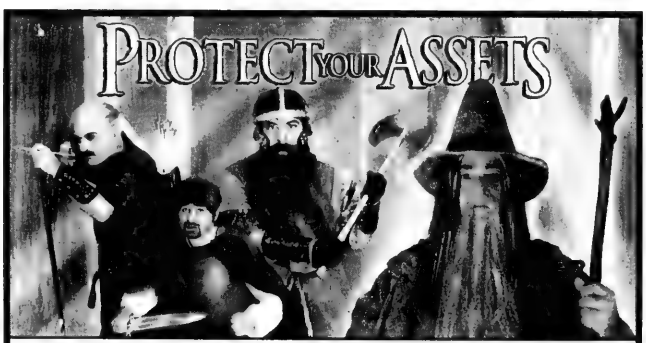

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Tories' Shabbat ballot precludes Jewish vote

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jews who are *shomer shabbat* will be effectively shut out from choosing the next premier of Ontario.

The vote to replace Mike Harris as premier and leader of the Ontario Progressive Conservatives will take place March 23, a Saturday, meaning observant Jewish members won't be able to cast ballots.

While the party is allowing a proxy vote, it won't be holding advance polls. But a proxy vote is a non-starter for observant Jews, as it is un-halachic, say three prominent Toronto rabbis.

According to Rabbi Philip Scheim of Beth David Synagogue, a proxy vote in this case is counter to Jewish law because one cannot ask an agent to perform a specific task that is prohibited for Jews on Shabbat.

"[An agent] can only do something on Shabbat if it is part of their general duties," Rabbi Scheim told *The CJN*. For example, a synagogue custodian can turn on lights and appliances on Saturday because he or she does it anyway as part of their overall tasks, and is not asked specifically to do so, he said.

But casting a proxy vote is a specific task, thus making it forbidden on Shabbat, even if performed by a non-Jew. "There's no halachic way it can be done," Rabbi Scheim said.

Rabbi Moshe Lowy of Agudath Israel of Toronto Congregation agreed, saying one cannot appoint a non-Jew to do a particular task that is prohibited for Jews on the Sabbath.

Proxy vote is a non-starter

Rabbi Dovid Schochet, head of the Orthodox Va'ad Harabanim, will also counsel his congregants not to engage in a proxy vote. "It should not be done," he told *The CJN*, noting that an even worse scenario would be if religious Jews asked non-religious Jews to cast ballots for them.

He said all Jews should write letters to political parties imploring them "to change the rules."

Under PC party rules, a proxy vote can only be cast by a fellow party member who lives in the same riding as the voter.

The scheduling of the leadership vote has angered many Jews, who say they are being disenfranchised.

A proxy vote is "fundamentally unworkable," says Bruce Gilboord, an Orthodox Jew and member of the York Centre PC riding association. "It's a crazy situation. They've sabotaged Sabbath observers' ability to carry out their democratic obligations."

Gilboord said Jews are angry in other ridings, including Thornhill and Eglinton-Lawrence. He said Seventh-day Adventists concentrated in an Oshawa riding are also upset, as the Christian group also observes the Sabbath on Saturdays.

Late last month, Ted Eker, president of the York Centre PC Riding Association, wrote to party president Reuben Devlin, noting that the association has 189 members, "our highest number in many years. However, 154 of these members have indicated that they are unable to vote on Saturday, March 23 for reasons of religious conscience."

As things stand, the letter states, "the current provisions for proxy voting would make it theoretically impossible for the vast majority of the membership of the York Centre riding to cast ballots in the leadership process, with only 35 members available to cast ballots for the other 154."

Gilboord said it is ironic that Jews won't be able to reward the Tories for the government's education tax credit, which provides financial relief for parents of children in Jewish day schools. Tory insiders say the party has signed up a lot of Jewish members, including Orthodox ones, since the tax credit was announced last spring.

"With one hand they give us the tax credit and with the other, they smack us," Gilboord said. "We can't show our gratitude in a tangible way."

Continued on page 26

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A remarkable statement

Justifiably, many Canadians worry about losing those aspects of our national character – some would say even more than the ones we've already lost – that distinguish Canadian-ness from American-ness. It is an inevitable, reasonable concern given the vast disparity in size between our two adjacent populations and the myriad "fallouts" in the fields of trade, commerce, culture, science and research that result from that difference.

Since Sept. 11, some Canadians have also added fears for our military sovereignty to the well-chronicled anxieties about the "traditional" aspects of our threatened national sovereignty.

Concern for all aspects of Canadian sovereignty must not be dismissed. Canadian-ness is too precious a quality to lose. Indeed, to some extent, the widely felt melancholy and bittersweet outpouring of affection at the recent passing of Peter Gzowski was an affirmation of that unique sense of Canadian identity and national character that was Gzowski's generous, lasting legacy to the millions of Canadians who listened to him or read his writings for almost four decades.

Gzowski, more than any politician or institution, was able to tie us together, from coast to coast, with a multi-textured, national fabric woven from the many diverse, colourful threads of Canadian regions, cultures, heritages and aspirations. Gzowski enabled us to know what Canadian-ness meant without the usually mandatory reference to American-ness.

But nor should we exaggerate the impact of some of the differences between us and our neighbours. For in certain cases, the differences between us, namely, the sheer size and power of America, redound to our mutual benefit. A case in point was evident in the state of the union address delivered last week by President George W. Bush.

The president committed his administration to fighting terrorism's "axis of evil." The terminology was not merely rhetorical. The president actually identified the dots of that axis and then joined them: Iraq, Iran and North Korea. He put the leaders of those countries on notice that the United States will no longer merely react to situations immediately after they have become threats to international peace and security, but rather will try to prevent them before they threaten the world.

"We cannot stop short," President Bush said. "If we stopped now, leaving terror camps intact and terror states unchecked, our sense of security would be false and temporary."

Again during the course of the week, after the Tuesday night speech before the joint houses of Congress and the world, Bush repeated this warning.

"Make no mistake about it," the president emphatically told Iraq, Iran and North Korea, "if you threaten us with weapons of mass destruction, if you threaten our allies and friends with weapons of mass destruction, we will do whatever it takes to protect our people."

The statement was remarkable for its own sake as an unambiguous declaration of resolve. But it was even more remarkable as an unambiguous declaration of support for Israel.

The president's declaration was criticized in certain quarters, particularly in Europe. Some people criticized the substance of the remarks. Some criticized the strategic or practical wisdom of uttering them so publicly.

To his credit, however, while he caviled somewhat at the phraseology "axis of evil," Deputy Canadian Prime Minister John Manley did support President Bush's overall message to the terrorism-exporting states.

"We deplore terrorism and we denounce governments who use terrorist groups to further political objectives or develop weapons of mass destruction," Manley told reporters. Then, commenting on the specific terminology "evil," Manley said: "I don't think there's any question that the victims of terrorist acts see those acts as evil and they would say that states that help them or encourage them or sponsor them are participating in acts of evil."

As the *National Post* pointed out, Manley did not disassociate himself from President Bush's newly-articulated policy.

It has been a long time since the issue has been drawn so starkly by any western government for terrorists and their sponsoring states.

There will be severe consequences – not only at the hands of the Israel Defence Forces but now, too, at the hands of the United States – for anyone attempting to strike down the Jewish State.

To be sure, Bush's "evil axis" doctrine brings its own dangers for Israel. We know from history that Saddam Hussein will launch his deadly missiles at Israel if he feels personally at risk. But we also know that he would seize upon most any pretext to do so or to support surrogates to do so.

Ultimately, however, Israel's security will have been enhanced by the President Bush's doctrine. But it is a doctrine only the United States could articulate. And that is one of the consequences of the difference between Canada and the United States we can cheer, not lament.

MBD

SeeJN

HERO'S WELCOME:
Raffi Woznica, right, of Thornhill, Ont., one of 220 Young Judaeans on a Hadassah-sponsored year-long program in Israel, poses with Israeli border policeman Natan Sandaka at Jerusalem's Hadassah Hospital. Last year in Jerusalem, Sandaka threw himself on a suicide bomber disguised as a haredi Jew just as he detonated his explosives. No one was killed, but Sandaka spent weeks recovering from severe burns and internal injuries.

Greater Toronto Area

School board won't distribute newsletter

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A teachers' union local that published a newsletter blaming Israel and the United States for much of the Middle East's conflicts and ills will have to find a new way to distribute it.

Last week, the Toronto District School Board (TDSB) announced it would no longer include *D12 Voice* in its internal courier service to 6,500 public high school teachers around the city.

The administrative decision, made by the board's executive, came as a response to concerns that the article was one-sided and touted by the newsletter as a classroom teaching aid.

"They (the board executive) had tremendous concerns about the article and asking teachers to teach material that wasn't balanced," said school trustee Gerri Gershon.

In December, Gershon tabled a motion calling on the school board to stop distributing the newsletter, to dissociate itself from it and reject suggestions it be used as a learning resource.

Although the board has yet to vote on the motion, TDSB chair Donna Cansfield read a statement saying the board "does not condone any type of unbalanced information presented in any classroom."

At the same time, the executive officer for the TDSB's programs and services sent an e-mail to the city's school principals asking them to remind teachers to stick to strict guidelines on the use of unattributed and one-sided resource material in class.

And in a memo late last year to Toronto members of the union, District 12 president Jim McQueen pointed out the "*D12 Voice* does not reflect the policies and opinions of...[District 12]."

The one-page article that caused the stir is a reprint from *Z Magazine*, an American left-wing monthly. Titled *Why America is Hated*, the article chronologically lists events that purportedly explain "a deep seated sense of injustice in the Arab and Islamic worlds against the U.S.A."

The article begins in 1948 with the creation of Israel as the first item prompting Arab grievances. It ends with the use by Israel of U.S. arms "in attempt to crush Palestinian uprising, killing hundreds of civilians." The article doesn't mention Israeli or U.S. peacemaking efforts or Palestinian actions against Israel.

Gershon said she believes most of the board supports the decision by its executive to end distribution of the newsletter, though a legal question remains whether District 12 will launch a grievance against the board's action.

The union's collective agreement allows the union to use the courier system, she acknowledged, though at the time the contract was concluded, the board thought the materials would focus on union issues, "to inform teachers on items that were being negotiated."

Doug Little, editor of *D12 Voice*, said the decision to withhold courier services was made unilaterally by a single official and was not mandated by the board.

Even if the board does vote to back the decision, it would violate the collective agreement. "It's like management censoring a union publication," he said.

McQueen said he has been trying to defuse the situation so "everyone can just get on with life."

The union believes *D12 Voice* should have indicated the source of the article, presented a context for it and printed a balancing article. He said the newsletter has agreed to do so in a future edition.

Nevertheless, he believes the TDSB acted outside the collective agreement and the union might yet grieve the decision. Noting the decision was made by a bureaucrat, "I'm wondering where the politicians stand on this matter," McQueen said.

Meanwhile, Earl Manners, head of the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation (OSSTF), told the *Toronto Star* the union is reviewing the use of its name and logo on *D12Voice*.

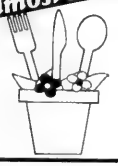
Little said Manners' response did not surprise him. District 12 has often found itself at odds with the provincial umbrella group on a number of issues. "Sometimes things happen in Toronto first. Politically, people are tougher," he said.

Pointing to a recent district council meeting where two North York teachers asked that District 12 retract, and apologize for, the article, Little said only a handful of (more than 200) members supported their motion.

Most union members either don't care about the article or "at least agree with the right to print it." The article "was presented because all we get from the media is the other side. It was presented in order to bring in an unbalanced debate into balance," he said.

Ed Morgan, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said the board's decision "reinforces the message that [the article] should not be used as teaching materials."

"Almost Sold Out!"



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Corporal Punishment:
Who pays the consequences?

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Ontario Superior Court recently upheld a provision in the Canadian Criminal Code allowing the use of force by teachers in the classroom under certain circumstances.

Section 43 of the code states that "every school teacher, parent or person standing in the place of a parent is justified in using [reasonable] force by way of correction toward a pupil."

Child advocates note that by upholding this provision, the courts have confirmed the position that there is a group in society that you can legally hit.

Cheryl Milne, a lawyer with the Canadian Foundation for Children, Youth and the Law, challenged the constitutionality of the section, noting that most states in the United States and all European countries, including England, have already outlawed corporal punishment in schools.

The government of Canada defended the law in court and was supported by the intervention of the Canadian Teachers' Federation.

There were a number of positive findings in the recent judgment, Milne said: it stated unequivocally that physical punishment is bad, it outlawed the use of implements when applying force and stated that you cannot hit a child under the age of two or a teenager.

However, Milne is disappointed that the court didn't find that the use of corporal punishment is illegal, thereby recognizing that children have rights.

"Children are vulnerable members of the community and it is our belief that they must be protected with more rights – not less – than adults."

While the Ontario Ministry of Education has implemented a Code of Conduct against violence that affects all public schools, Milne pointed out there are no consequences for teachers.

In effect, she noted, the only course of action for public school parents when faced with a teacher who has hit their child is to complain to the Ontario College of Teachers, which regulates and governs the teaching profession in this province.

In the private school system, it is up to individual schools to institute their own guidelines and policies regarding the use of force in the classroom.

Rabbi Shlomo Jakobovits, a former principal and current director of development at Eitz Chaim Day Schools, said that corporal punishment has not been allowed at Eitz Chaim since 1962.

"It is my view, as a teacher and educator," Rabbi Jacobovits said, "that punishments do not help in a classroom and that a teacher who can handle a class without punishment is a much more successful teacher."

However, he noted, "not all teachers, or parents, are competent enough to control classes through peaceful means.

"And while I am against all hitting, I am also against the law getting involved where it shouldn't."

There is a big difference between discipline and abuse, Rabbi Jakobovits said, and laying criminal charges against a teacher for hitting a child in a classroom would be excessive.

If schools were forced to call in police every time a teacher was suspected of hitting a child, it would ruin many teachers' lives long before anything is proven, he said.

In addition, forcing administrators to call the police in response to every student complaint would put a weapon in the hands of children, which could be highly detrimental to the functioning of a school, Rabbi Jacobowits said.

Schools may begin "covering up" situations in order to protect their teachers, the rabbi added. Ultimately, the law would ruin many lives without protecting those children who are really being abused.

According to Ronda Bessner, a legal and policy consultant who teaches in this field at the University of Toronto, there are many problems with the law the way it stands.

First of all, it is too vague, she said. The code simply states that force can be used as long as it "does not exceed what is reasonable in the circumstances."

However, it does not define what is reasonable, and judges wind up coming to different conclusions based on their own upbringing, she said. Furthermore, having a legal justification for hitting legitimizes the use of a course of action in a classroom which is detrimental in many respects.

In effect, Bessner said, the only benefit to hitting is short term compliance.

Watching teachers hit children in a classroom teaches children to resolve conflicts by force rather than by seeking alternatives which are far more effective, she stated.

It is important that all teachers be taught alternative ways to respond to disciplinary situations. A child's sense of security and self esteem are put in danger when they are subjected to disciplinary tactics that are inappropriate, Bessner said.

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LIGHT OF HOPE: Students at Associated Hebrew Schools' middle school collected dozens of gift bags with hats, socks and other winter clothing to distribute to the homeless through Ve'ahavta: The Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee. Pictured, left to right, are: Sari Ronen, Lauren Arshoff and Rachel Frydman.

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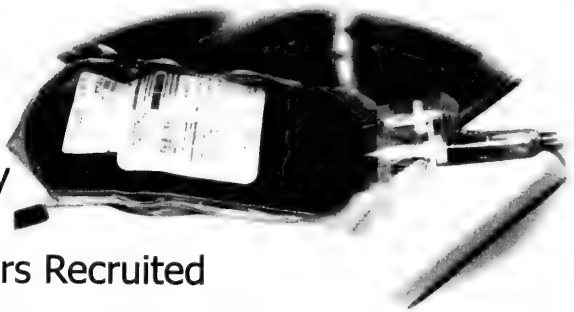
Talmud



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Israel's double dilemma

Last week an ad appeared in some Israeli newspapers; it was signed by some 100 reserve officers in the IDF protesting their government's policies against the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza and openly proclaiming their refusal to serve in the territories.

The decision to "go public" with their moral dilemma was undoubtedly a difficult one for the signatories. It was, we believe, a sincere act of conscience, independent of any political affiliations or considerations.

No one can gainsay the unpleasant, even repugnant, nature of having to police a people who do not wish to be policed, of having to impede other people's free travel from one place to another, of offending other people's dignity at virtually every turn.

When one adds to the inherently distasteful nature of the policing duties, the deep divide of distrust and worse that separates the two contending peoples, the irreversible life-and-death consequences accompanying a failure of policing and the fact that most of the IDF soldiers who are the "policemen" are themselves barely out of high school, it is not surprising that excesses of force by the young soldiers occasionally take place. Though abhorrent, these excesses are the exception; they are not the norm. And they are investigated and dealt with whenever brought to light.

But it is not the excesses alone that the reserve officers protest. It is the policing assignment itself and some of the orders attendant upon the assignment that evoke their cries. Already exploited as a propaganda coup by many of Israel's foes, the officers' complaints must be dealt with in a manner that responds to the bona fides of their pleas while preserving the integrity of the structure of military command.

The IDF executes the policies of the government. The government, duly elected and civilian, formulates those policies. This distinction is sacrosanct in every democracy on earth. Government policy relating to security and defence matters always takes into account the recommendations of the military. But there are clearly defined, appropriate channels for influencing government policy. The pages of the newspapers or the television studio are not among those channels for reserve officers of any army of any democracy.

In truth, the officers' moral dilemma is also Israel's dilemma. Israel also criticizes, even condemns, its need to police the Palestinian people in the territories. In the circumstances, however, it feels it has no choice. The officers obviously disagree with this assessment. But it is a disagreement that should be discussed and debated in the political institutions of society, not in the military.

The IDF has announced it will meet with each officer who signed the letter of protest. If the officer cannot retract his refusal to serve in the territories, he will be removed from combat command and reassigned to other reserve duty. If the officer refuses the reassignment, he will be punished according to military norms.

The IDF can do no less. Nor would any other military in any other democracy.

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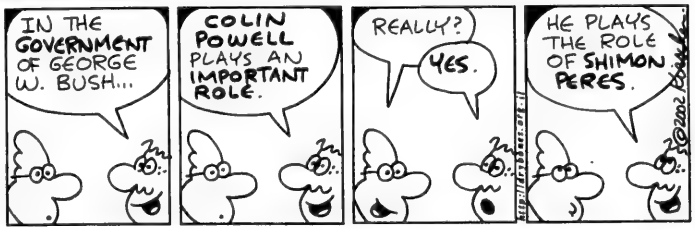

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Lockshin responds to critics

I read with interest the reactions (*CJN*, Jan. 31) to my article "The Messiah Controversy" (*CJN*, Jan. 17). The authors said my article was not newsworthy, either because the Second Coming messianists constitute a small fringe movement, because there is nothing wrong with such messianism or because there are more crucial issues than this one.

Rabbi David Berger's recent book (*The Rebbe, the Messiah, and the Scandal of Orthodox Indifference*) has convinced me that Second Coming messianism has no place in Orthodox Judaism. The Rabbinical Council of America – the largest and most influential Orthodox rabbinical body in North America – has endorsed his position. The book has also convinced me that belief in Second Coming messianism is not limited to some tiny fringe group within the Lubavitch movement. Readers of *The CJN* can peruse the book, weigh that evidence against the arguments and reach their own conclusions.

In my neighbourhood in Toronto, there is a Lubavitch synagogue where the *Yechi adonenu* prayer ("May our Master, Teacher and Rabbi, the King Messiah, live forever") has become part of the liturgy. If this synagogue were simply a small group of fringe Jews doing something anomalous, perhaps it would not be newsworthy. But it reaches out to attract Jews of all stripes to a new form of Judaism that includes references to a dead person whom they consider the messiah. Canadian Jews should be aware that outreach of this nature is occurring.

I am sad that a wonderful group like Lubavitch – which has done so much to advance the cause of Torah Judaism – is either unwilling or unable to rid itself of this faction. At best, non-messianists proudly proclaim that Rabbi Berger's book "will have no impact on Chabad's work." At worst, they indulge in a mind-boggling, vilification campaign. (An article in the *Allgemeiner Journal* of Jan. 18 argued that Rabbi Berger was the ultimate spiritual cause of the events of Sept. 11!)

Is Second Coming messianism the biggest problem facing Judaism today? Hardly. But it is newsworthy, as the number and urgency of the responses to my article prove.

No matter how you look at it, *The CJN* has provided a very important service to the community. If Rabbi Berger and I are right, then *CJN* readers deserve to know about the messianist problem. If Rabbi Berger and I are wrong, then it is important that *CJN* readers have a chance to read Rabbi J. Immanuel Schochet's spirited, articulate and nuanced defence of Lubavitch against the charges in Rabbi Berger's book.

Martin Lockshin
Director, Centre for Jewish Studies
York University

The Gift of Life

I am writing in response to your recent article "Wanted: bone marrow donor" (*CJN*, Jan. 31). It is because of my own experience as a transplant recipient that I can appreciate Dr. Sheffield's frustration. However, his comments about the Jewish community, bone marrow donation, the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry and about me in particular are unfair and untrue.

The facts and figures quoted in the article concerning the international donor pool and retention rates are inaccurate. To begin, there is no private bone marrow registry – it is a public resource available to patients worldwide. Registered donors are available to patients of all socio-economic backgrounds through the international network, Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide. This global partnership of 49 public registries co-ordinates a database of 7.5 million donors in 39 countries. Transplant co-ordinators need only search one worldwide system to access all donors simultaneously, making it the single greatest resource for patients in need. Indeed, numerous volunteers tested on my behalf in Toronto have donated bone marrow to other patients over the years. We are taught that the mitzvah of *pikuach nefesh* is the greatest gift one human being can give to another.

The drives before and since my transplant have registered over 100,000 Jewish donors, facilitating over 400 transplants for children and adults around the world. The Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry is a non-profit organization with a mission to increase the representation of the Jewish people in the international donor pool. Gift of Life is a public registry, a member of the World Marrow Donor Association and a participating registry in Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide. Its file is searched daily, free of charge, by transplant centres throughout the world. Because of its educational programs, Gift of Life's retention rate is among the highest in the world – 98 per cent of donors elect to proceed when called as a match. Its co-ordinators advocate for patients' rights, treating them with the dignity and respect they deserve.

Since tissue type is inherited, a patient's best chance of finding a genetic match lies with those of similar ethnic ancestry. For patients of Jewish heritage, finding a bone marrow match is no easy task because we are under-represented in the worldwide donor pool. It is evident that world Jewry is determined to help. In the past month alone, we have registered over 12,000 new potential donors – members of the Jewish community dedicated to the prospect that one person can make a difference in this world. Gift of Life's mission is based on the talmudic imperative: "He who saves one life, it is as if he had saved the entire world."

I encourage *CJN* readers to visit Bone Marrow Donors Worldwide (www.bmdw.org), the World Marrow Donor Association (www.worldmarrow.org) and the Gift of Life Bone Marrow Registry (www.giftoflife.org) for more details.

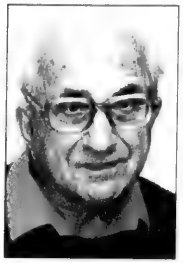
Jay Feinberg
New York

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Perspectives

From Halle to Toronto to Jerusalem: reflections

I used to joke about my birthday: "Three disasters happened on June 22, the fall of France, the invasion of Russia, both in World War II, and my birth." However, 1916, the year of it, had been serious. They say the 20th century has been short, beginning in 1914 with the "Great War," and ending in 1989 with the collapse of communism; but, as philosopher Georg Hegel said, happy are blank pages in history, for nothing happens in them.



By Emil L. Fackenheim

On Jan. 31, 1933, Adolf Hitler's first day in power, I walked to school with Juergen Wenzlau, my best friend, who tried to comfort me: "The Nazis can make trouble in the streets but cannot run the country; they will be through in six weeks." I still remember his "six weeks" – sadly, for Juergen was killed on the Russian front. German Jews were not the only ones to err about Hitler, German gentiles, such as Juergen, did so more than I.

Neither the day nor the year of my birth was my choice; but a choice was forced on me by the year. Had I been born 10 years earlier, I would have studied with "existentialist" philosopher Martin Heidegger, but in 1935, when I finished high school, Hitler had been in power for two years, and I just had to find out what Jews and their religion – demonized by Julius Streicher, Joseph Goebbels and Hitler himself – really were. So I enrolled in Berlin's Hochschule für die Wissenschaft des Judentums. About 100 others had done the same, all studying-while-waiting, either for emigration or for Hitler's regime to collapse.

But for some of us the choice was "existential," and the waiting was for a "decision." What is meant by "existential decision" will appear in context.

We studied with Rabbi Leo Baeck, who influenced me through the way he lived, for he had vowed to stay in Germany with Jews without a chance to get out. Another professor, Max Wiener, influenced me by the way he made me think, and a third professor who was important to me was Moshe Sister. If Rabbi Baeck and Wiener tried to rescue our Jewish faith, even under Nazism, Sister tried to rescue us from it, for he taught higher biblical criticism – once called by Solomon Schechter "higher anti-Semitism" – as well as Tanach, and did so as the Marxist that he was.

I once got into an argument with Sister that lasted almost a whole class hour, with him asserting that a biblical text was corrupt, and me defending its integrity. Finally he hollered, "Use your reason, and you will see the text is corrupt!" "Perhaps my reason is corrupt," I replied. This "obscurantism" left Sister speechless, while I had yet to learn better ways to defend the existential philosophy of Martin Buber and Franz Rosenzweig.

To get back to Wiener: "How can Jews keep their Holy Writ just for themselves, while Christians seek to share their 'good news' with the world?" Wiener asked us to think about this for the next week's class, but – this is the way a good philosopher taught me to think – I thought about it for the rest of my life.

In a way, Wiener's question had already been answered in my bar mitzvah lessons, by Rabbi Albert Kahlberg in my hometown of Halle, when he called Christianity and Islam "daughter-religions" of Judaism, but this had been at the price of a painful question: Why are the "daughters" so ignorant of the "mother," or worse, even hate her? Now Jews ask this less about the one – for after Hitler, Christians were taught to end "teaching contempt for Judaism" – and more about "Islamism," part and parcel of the other.

To study in Berlin had been my first existential decision; what happened to Sister led to the second. Sister had a Polish passport and, without warning, the Nazi regime expelled him and all other Polish Jews to Poland. This expulsion led ultimately to Kristallnacht, on Nov. 9-10, 1938 – in my view, the beginning of the Holocaust. The Germans had not even let Sister take a suitcase, and my friend Heinz Fischel and I packed one and tried to find him in one of Berlin's train stations.

The confused, frightened Jews we saw made us realize that the time of study-and-wait was over, that there was need for a decision, and ours would be "existential." We would not flee just anywhere, as the Nazis wanted us to, but respond to the catastrophe as Jews, either by rebuilding Jewish life in Palestine or by building Jewish thought in America. (Palestine was for A. D. Gordon's Erloesung durch Arbeit,"redemption [of the Land] through labour;" later the land would be for defending the Jewish State.)

Even so, while we knew we had to leave, where could we go? Was there anywhere? We applied to Hebrew University, but the British authorities would not let us into Palestine. Choosing the United States would mean waiting for two years, and everybody knew Canada was out.

Fischel and I got together with Manfred Braeude, and we wrote letters to 10 American universities, asking for scholarships and visitors' visas. I mailed the last of these a few days before Kristallnacht.

I will skip Kristallnacht, my three months in a concentration camp, my flight to Scotland, internment in Britain and Canada, my life in Israel and reaction to "Oslo," and go on with this story: why did I move from Toronto to Jerusalem? But first I must tell how Toronto became "home," or as much so as was possible.

When I was released from Canadian internment on Dec. 14, 1941, I got an appointment the next day with G. S. Brett, the head of University of Toronto's philosophy department and dean of its graduate school, and said, "The academic year is half over, and I cannot expect credit for the year, but being late is not my fault." Brett replied, "You can show [us] what you can do." I went on: "I have no academic degree, but Aberdeen University let me do graduate studies because of my rabbinical diploma." Brett replied: "What is good enough for Aberdeen is good enough for us." I felt I had never left home.

Fackenheim during his activist days in Toronto on behalf of Soviet Jewry.

I will also skip my five years as a Reform rabbi in nearby Hamilton. For nearly 40 years, the U of T philosophy department was home, or as much as it was possible to be. F. H. Anderson, Brett's successor, followed Brett in the policy that philosophers must study not the latest, but the greatest, and for me, among moderns, greatest is Hegel.

Fackenheim and Will Herberg

But between 1967 and 1983, home was no longer Toronto but, as it were, "between Toronto and Jerusalem," and in these years, our third "existential decision" also took place. I say "our" because I married Rose Komlodi in 1957. Before Rose and I met, she and her friend Shirley had spent a year in Europe, trying to find out how fellow-Christians could have perpetrated the Holocaust, but had come back without answer. Rose was converted to Judaism by an Orthodox beit din, but only when we were in Israel – "when it was for real," she said. Rose died in 1998.

Our "decision" began in 1967, when Israel was encircled by Egypt, Syria, even Jordan, when Colonel Gamal Abdul Nasser closed the Gulf of Aqaba, a *casus belli* in any "just war" theory. Since 1956, the UN had been in the region to keep the peace; yet when in 1967, Nasser said, "go away," away they went. True, the UN voted in 1947 for two states, one Jewish, one Arab, but in 1967, its behaviour was different, and Israel not only felt abandoned, but was. Canada behaved too much like the UN. It behaves too much like the UN even now, for when the United States walked out of the UN conference on racism this past fall in Durban, South Africa, for tolerating not only anti-Zionism but open anti-Semitism, Canada stayed.

Just before we left Canada in 1983, Will Herberg, a one-time comrade-in- arms and author of *Protestant, Catholic, Jew*, lectured at U of T. But when he said that by the logic of their convictions, secular Jews should cease to be Jews, I rose in protest:

"What about Auschwitz? Jerusalem? What about secular Jews needing a Jewish state, or secular Jews in the United States and the rest of the free world standing up for it?"

Herberg replied that he stayed with the written and oral Torah, that he had no use for novelties.

But for Rose and me, Auschwitz and Jerusalem had long ceased to be novelties.

I mention two lectures I gave at Hebrew University. In my first, I waved papers at my students, many of them German, saying that I had made it at last. I didn't make it as a student in 1939, but as a professor in 1983, and it was in Jerusalem, although, alas, as everybody knows, these are not messianic times.

The other lecture was on Jewish philosophy. I finished by quoting medieval poet-philosopher Yehuda Halevi, that Jerusalem would be redeemed only if Jews loved her stones and dust. They were building then at Hebrew University, and there were stones and dust everywhere. I said: "What are you waiting for? There is plenty of dust, there are plenty of stones." Then I walked out.

Emil Fackenheim is a former philosophy professor who taught at the University of Toronto for 40 years. His memoir Epitaph for German Judaism *will be published by Wisconsin Press this summer.*

Precious memories

Back in the early 1930s, when the Nazis destroyed my budding law career, my father suggested that I occupy myself with Jewish studies. In order to fortify my rather weak Jewish knowledge, he engaged a young man who was reputed to be not only a good teacher but also widely learned. The young man turned out to be none other than Abraham Joshua Heschel, who taught me privately for some years and, in time, became one of the great Jewish figures of the century.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

This memory comes to mind because just now we are about to celebrate a significant anniversary. Fifty years ago, Rabbi Heschel published his first path-breaking book. It was called *The Sabbath*. Such were his persuasive powers that a subject that had previously received very little attention suddenly moved into the limelight.

In America, Heschel later found himself at the centre of attention when he joined Martin Luther King in the Selma March when – as he called it – he prayed with his legs. At the time, King's campaign was geared to the spreading opposition against the Vietnam War and Heschel became the honorary chair of the "Trees for Vietnam" organization, which sent money to the Vietnamese to replant trees that were being destroyed in the war.

A recent clip on the Internet asked this question: Is there any connection between the Heschel of *The Sabbath* and the Heschel of Selma, that is, his opposition to the Vietnam War?

It goes on to say: "The Heschel who greeted the world with 'radical amazement' and expressed a lyrical, mystical and persuasive love of Shabbat, and the Heschel who disobeyed the law for the sake of peace, life and justice, were one and the same dynamo. It was he who once said that Shabbat is not only a day on which we use no money, and, instead, call for an armistice in the economic struggle with our fellow human beings and the forces of nature, it is also an institution that holds out the greatest hope for progress by being a resting point for the human soul."

Years after Heschel wrote this, his book *The Sabbath* moved many hearts, minds and souls, but, as my readers will well know, the battle has not yet been won. Shabbat remains in opposition to an all-encompassing social ethic that makes work a quasi-religious activity. The blessings Shabbat brings are unique, and it is sad to say that all too many Jews never come to know them. Physical health has moved to the centre of our concerns, displacing the care for our soul. We need them both, which means that we are incomplete or unbalanced when we try to face life's challenges with only one half of our potential.

Morning in Israel

We will be going to Israel in May, seeing first-hand the tensions under which Israelis are living. Friends who have been to Israel tell us how grateful Israelis are for visitors – "How brave you are to come," many exclaim. Visitors' response is always "No, you are the brave ones, who live under constant shadows of terror." In order to match the persistence of Israel, we overseas should be traveling this summer in great numbers – and making Israel our destination.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Indeed we who visit, while welcome, are not the brave ones; it is Israelis, living with the constant threat of suicide bombers, who are the bravest. Not many tourists can be found on the streets of Jerusalem – they are usually parents visiting their children – although the country anticipates that aliyah from Argentina will rise due to the economic crisis in that country.

Israel is a nation accustomed to dealing with the constant threat of terrorist attacks. Israelis are resolute and strong in the face of this adversity. Life is continuing with a powerful realization of the significance of Jewish survival in our homeland. Israelis are living life more fully than ever before, cognizant of their historic role in the preservation of our Jewish state, a vibrant, inspirational and exciting country. A visit to Israel now will be inspiring for all Jews in the Diaspora and will help to raise the spirits and improve the economy of the state.

I want to introduce someone who knows first-hand the challenge of today's Israel. Danielle Ames is a student at a yeshiva in Jerusalem. She and other friends from Vancouver elected to go for their year abroad, despite the "situation" and with the blessings of the community. Danielle has a luminous and compelling love of Torah. Recently she sent this message, which glows with hope. When I am depressed, I read it, and now I share it with you. Danielle writes:

"I had the most beautiful experience this morning. The girls in my Gemorah shiur woke early and went to the Kotel to daven at Vatikin (sunrise) on completion of learning the area in Gemarah Brachot dealing with the time of prayer. Technically, the word Vatikin refers to the talmidei chachamim who would also wake early in the morning in order to daven the Amidah exactly at sunrise, the first possible moment in the day the Amidah may be said. This tradition has evolved and currently is practiced all around the world, most significantly at the Kotel.

"Imagine the sky at the sight of dawn. Imagine a cool quiet breeze. Imagine a small, but diligent crowd of observant Jews from every walk of life. This was the serene setting at the Kotel this morning. Vatikin has become a symbol of redemption and hope. Just as the sun begins to shine, God's light and presence is reflected in this world. How appropriate it is, that the moment we pray for the redemption of Israel, sun breaks through the darkness as rays of hope. Traditionally, throughout the history of Judaism, darkness has always represented times of turmoil, uncertainty and fear. It is at the time of utter subservience to God, that we cry out for assistance, and we are reassured by the rising of the sun. An indication of a new day, new potential and new prospects. In times of darkness, Jews have no choice but to turn to God and pray to him for assistance and salvation.

"As I concluded the Amidah, I heard a beautiful voice calling out from the other side of the mechitzah. When I looked over, I cried. Standing there was a young soldier in uniform, with his gun around one shoulder and his sleeve neatly rolled up on the other side. His worn tfillin were wrapped around his arm, and he held his siddur in the other. With his beautiful voice he was crying to God for relief, guidance, and the ultimate redemption. That soldier captured the essence of Vatikin in my eyes, as well as the concept to have trust in God, as well as to have enough faith to take the appropriate actions. This morning I learned that one cannot merely believe that God has everything in order and do nothing further, but one must seek justice and truth and turn to God amidst times of darkness, for support, and maybe even a miracle."

What stories will we tell?

The old saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover," has never been more appropriate.

The clunky bound volume I scanned last week has a wordless, imageless black cover, reminiscent of a graduate thesis or an old library book whose dust jacket has long ago turned to dust itself. It's nearly 600 pages thick, with text appearing only on the right-hand side. The guts of the book are photocopied; not too many pages look like other pages. Only a handful of copies were printed.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

The humble structure of this book, however, belies the colourful treasure that lies within.

JWC Family Stories: 2000-2001 is the brainchild of Sheldon Oberman, a teacher at Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate (JWC), Winnipeg's Jewish high school. Oberman is also a prolific author, one who was shortlisted for the Governor General's Award last year for *The Shaman's Nephew*. (Less prominent on his c.v. is the fact that he was my teacher at JWC about 20 years ago.)

JWC Family Stories: 2000-2001 was launched as a project in December 2001 at the local Jewish book fair. Simply put, it is the collective work of about 90 students in grades 9 to 11. Each young author set out to record a piece of his or her family's history.

Grade 9 student Shauna Calnitsky wrote of her great-grandfather's dream of becoming a farmer. Too poor to pursue his dream in England where he lived, he became a craftsman to support his family. Morris Tennenhouse moved to Canada in 1904 to a free tract of land in Manitoba. The teenage writer skilfully describes the winter day when it was too cold to go outside and snow drifts reached the windows. Her great-grandfather Morris quickly carved a violin out of an apple crate and taught his children how to play. The writing is crisp and vivid. The reader can almost smell the gentle smoke of the wood stove in the prairie kitchen.

Grade 10 student Pam Kravetsky wrote of her great-grandparents who lived in Moscow while her great-grandfather, Sam Goodman, was a senior officer in the Czar's cavalry. Expecting a pogrom, Pam's great-grandmother, Sarah, sewed jewels into her three children's clothes so they could bribe their way into Canada. "Sarah and Sam knew they couldn't leave," wrote Pam of the pogrom, "so they told their children to run away as fast as they could. As the Russian army entered the front door, Norman and his sisters ran out the back. They got as far as the end of the block… Norman turned to look back one more time at his house, and was terrified as he saw his parents lying dead on the front steps."

Seeing a story like this one about the Goodmans in a published history text is one thing. Seeing it as a word-processed document produced by a local teen about her own family is quite another. And that's the true power of this book.

While the historical stories come from Latvia, Russia, Poland, South Africa, England, India, Germany, Israel and more, they're conveyed by today's teenagers. The stories are powerful snapshots of Jewish life. Some are tragic; some are funny. They all paint verbal portraits of remarkable people in remarkable times. But after reading a few of the entries, I found myself focusing less and less on the pogroms, heroics and tales of hardship. I found myself thinking about the authors.

I envisioned a 16-year-old sitting across the table from Baba in Winnipeg's River Heights, Garden City or Tuxedo. A lace tablecloth. A plate of kommish. A notepad. Maybe a tape recorder. The Baba gets a tear in her eye as she recalls a brother taken by the Nazis. The student, perhaps never having heard the full story before, struggles to find the balance between keeping eye contact with Baba while taking accurate notes for the school assignment. The conversation ends. The two hug and cry. Baba pushes one more piece of kommish on the young author. In a 30-minute conversation with Baba, the teenager is educated about Jewish history – and moved by it.

I find myself wondering, though: Now that we're safe and sound in Canada, with pogroms and persecution in our past, what will these teens' stories be for their descendants? What will mine be?

Stuart Slayen in a Winnipeg-based writer and editor. He's married and is the father of two young children. This is his first monthly column for The CJN.

The Kirshner File

Wooden shuls inspired filmmaker's quest

On a visit to a second-hand bookshop in New York City in the early 1960s, Albert Barry bought *Wooden Synagogues*, a book by Polish architects Maria and Kazimierez Piechotka.

Published in Poland in 1959, the hardcover volume contained rare pre-war photographs of centuries-old wooden synagogues in Eastern Europe.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Prior to their virtual destruction by the Nazis, these barn-like structures, with their soaring multi-tiered roofs, vaulted ceilings, ornately-carved bimahs and beautifully painted walls, were masterpieces of craftsmanship and synagogue architecture.

"I was enthralled," said Barry, a graphic designer, photographer and filmmaker. "Until I saw that book, I never knew anything about wooden synagogues."

So enchanted was he by these buildings, redolent of a bygone era eradicated by Hitler, that he purchased 49 glass slides of vanished wooden synagogues from the Polish Academy of Sciences in Warsaw.

With these as his inspiration, he proceeded to build 1/12-scale electrified wooden models of the shuls, the defining structures of Jewish communities in the fabled shtetl.

Eventually, Barry, who now lives in the Fort Lauderdale, Fla., suburb of Sunrise, donated his unique collection of hand-carved wooden synagogues to Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, a Canadian snowbirds' paradise.

But Barry, a first-generation American who recently turned 75, was not finished with his pet project, which some have described as an obsession.

In 1993, Eliza Cohen, a Hebrew University specialist in Jewish art, visited Lithuania and stumbled upon six wooden synagogues, supposedly the only ones left in the world.

She contacted him and a correspondence ensued. Having received her photographs of wooden synagogues, Barry showed them to seven Jews in New York City and Delray Beach, Fla., who, incredibly enough, had once worshipped in such shuls.

Fired up by the photographs, Barry decided to make a documentary about wooden synagogues, some 1,000 of which once dotted Eastern Europe's rural landscape.

With the financial support of the Molly S. Frailberg Judaica Collections at Florida Atlantic University and of Nathan and Marion Crosby, Barry and a film crew, including his wife Kathy, went to Lithuania – and Latvia – in 1999.

Their 48-minute movie, *The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe*, comes in English, Yiddish and Hebrew versions. It was premiered in Florida last winter.

He claims that it is the only film of its kind on the subject. In October, Barry brought it here for Holocaust Education Week.

Narrated by folksinger Theodore Bikel, *The Lost Wooden Synagogues of Eastern Europe* is a melange of archival and contemporary footage and of interviews with Holocaust survivors and with Florida Atlantic University historian Henry Abrams, formerly of Toronto.

It is a poignant reminder of an obliterated epoch.

A wooden synagogue, destroyed during the Holocaust, in Grodno, Poland.

The shuls themselves, in some cases, were hand-hewn by local craftsmen, and showed Moorish and Byzantine influences.

They served a multitude of purposes. Apart from being places of worship, they were seats of learning and hubs of social activity. In every instance, they formed the heart of Jewish communities.

Wood was the material of choice in the countryside because it was cheap, accessible and unostentatious. For these reasons, too, Catholic churches were also made of wood.

The exteriors of the wooden synagogues were plain, though, inevitably, some resembled Chinese pagodas.

The interiors were magnificent.

Walls and ceilings were painted with arabesque and floral designs, entwined with zodiac calendars, biblical creatures and tablets, and crowned by Hebrew lettering.

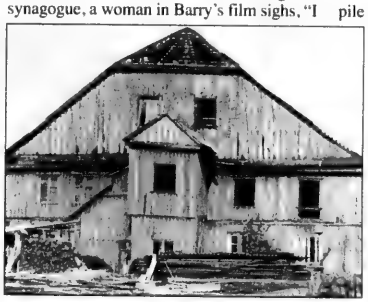
Albert Barry

World War II doomed these sanctuaries, most of which were found in Poland, with 3.3 million Jews. Today, there are none in Poland.

Such was their fame that Napoleon once paid a visit to a wooden synagogue.

In line with their rabid anti-Semitic philosophy, the Nazis looted and burned them as they ruthlessly murdered their Jewish congregants.

Having borne witness to the torching of a synagogue, a woman in Barry's film sighs, "I felt like I'm dying."



The remains of a wooden synagogue in Seda, Lithuania.

During the Communist era, which stretched from 1945 to 1991, the few remaining wooden synagogues untouched by the Germans were converted into storehouses, stables and manufacturing plants.

Never properly maintained, they fell into disrepair.

When Barry finally set eyes on these architectural marvels, he was visibly excited. "I've waited 35 years!" he exclaims in his film, his joy pouring out.

During the course of his trip, a veritable journey back in time, he discovered four additional wooden synagogues the Hebrew University researcher had missed, including the last remaining one in Latvia.

All are in lamentable condition, or as Henry Abrams puts it, "empty husks."

Barry, whose parents hailed from Poland and Ukraine and immigrated to the United States at the beginning of the 20th century, is far blunter.

"There's no money, or interest, to rebuild them. They're rotting away. At this rate, they may not endure for many more winters."

Barry gained entry to their gloomy interiors by climbing through broken widows or breaking locks on doors.

In one decrepit shul, Barry stepped into a pile of manure, and in another, he nearly fell two stories through loose flooring. In a third synagogue, he spied two grimy, forgotten wooden Stars of David in a battered window frame. It made his day.

A dearth of government funding means that only one of nine wooden synagogues in Lithuania has been placed on a list of historic buildings to be preserved.

Officially, the synagogues are the property of the Jewish community. But since local Jews do not have the means to maintain them, they remain legally unclaimed.

Barry, whose freelance photographs have graced the pages of national magazines like *Time*, *Life* and *Look*, disclosed that Jews in Berkeley, California, plan to build a replica wooden synagogue.

"It will be a live, working synagogue, not a museum."

The project is expected to cost $8 million. To date, $2.5 million has been raised.

Construction will begin when sufficient funds are available, said Barry, who is currently assembling data for a new documentary about Jewish music.

Once finished, the Berkeley synagogue will be the sole East European-style wooden synagogue in North America, as well as the only functioning one on this planet.

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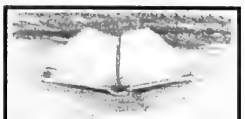
Jewish Life

Teaching by example

By RABBI RONALD WEISS



Rabbinic Reflections

In the Torah portion this week, Parshat Mishpatim, we hear what is perhaps the most famous response ever uttered by the Jewish people. We are told that Moses read the Torah, which had just been given, to the Jewish people and their immediate reply was, "*Na'aseh v'nishmah*" – we will do and we will obey the teachings of the Almighty (Exodus 24:7). This statement conveys the commitment and resolve of the people to adhere to whatever God would command of them and, arguably, explains the secret of our continued existence throughout two millennia of exile.

However, in last week's parshah, Parshat Yitro, when the Jewish people stood at the foot of Mt. Sinai and Moses put the words of the Torah before them, the verse says: "*V'ya'anu kol ha'am yachdav v'yomru kol asher dibair HaShem na'aseh*" – the entire people responded together and said, "Everything that the Almighty has spoken we will do" (Exodus 19:8).

Why does the response differ from one parshah to another? What can we learn from the language of the Torah?

Many years ago in yeshiva, I heard a beautiful answer from my teacher, Rabbi Nissan Alpert, of blessed memory. He said that each person is not able to fulfil all the Torah's 613 commandments. Some commandments, for example, apply only to a kohen, a priest officiating in a sacramental capacity, or to a Jewish king ruling his subjects. Other mitzvot are to be observed only in Israel.

Nevertheless, Rabbi Alpert said, there are two ways every Jew can fulfil all 613 commandments. The first way is through the talmudic concept, "*Kol Yisrael areivin zeh b'zeh*" – all Jews are involved with each other. Because all Jews have a sense of being connected with one another, what relates to one Jew pertains to others. This sense of involvement is often identified with communal responsibility, but the actual meaning of the talmudic teaching is that whatever applies to one Jew applies to all. Therefore, said Rabbi Alpert, the mitzvot that apply to one Jew, actually apply to everyone else as well, regardless of circumstance because they're part of the whole.

The second way every Jew can fulfil all 613 commandments is through a teaching found in the Mishnah. We are told, "*Talmud Torah k'neged kulam*" – the study of Torah is equivalent to its observance (Mishnah Peah 1:1). Therefore, even if the circumstances necessary for the performance of specific mitzvot are absent, we can still involve ourselves with their activity and sanctity by studying about them.

If we now look back at the verses from the Torah cited above, the distinction between them becomes clear. The verse from Parshat Yitro says: "*V'ya'anu kol ha'am yachdav v'yomru kol asher dibair HaShem na'aseh*" – the entire people responded together and said, "Everything that the Almighty has spoken we will do." When the Torah tells us "*na'aseh*," we will do, by itself, the verse emphasizes that the people responded together. This, explains Rabbi Alpert, is a reference to *areivut*, the concept of reciprocity, of being connected Jewishly with all Jews.

However, this week's parshah tells us that when the people heard Moses read the Torah, their reply was, "*na'aseh v'nishmah*" – we will do and we will obey. The addition of the word "*v'nishmah*," and we will obey, indicates that we will observe what we hear and we will do what we are taught. Rabbi Alpert emphasized that this is a clear indication of talmud Torah, the mitzvah of studying all the commandments.

Awareness of and sensitivity to the mitzvot are essential in maintaining our Jewish identity both as individuals and as part of the community. *Areivut* and talmud Torah speak to the values we seek to pass on to the next generation.

Judaism cannot survive in a vacuum; the only environment in which it can thrive – even under hardship – is that of a community. Yet a community, by definition, means being connected with others, having responsibilities that go beyond oneself and being sensitive to the impact the actions of every person has on those around them. However, before we can teach by example, we need to know what to teach. This is talmud Torah and it is the only way for us to learn about what in fact makes us Jewish.

Rabbi Weiss is director of chaplaincy services at Jewish Family & Child Service in Toronto.

Birthright Israel

"Don't let this feeling die"

By MATTHEW CUTLER

Birthright Israel experience was truly a trip of a lifetime and I hope the bonds I made on the trip last as long.

I hope we keep the bonds we made with each other and never forget what we went through and with whom. But I somehow feel this trip was about a little more.

I feel completely honoured and privileged to have had an experience such as this one. We had the privilege of being on a free trip that normally would have cost more than $4,000. We were privileged to have great leaders. And we were privileged to be with one another.

The first couple of days after coming back, not being on a bus was very hard, although I didn't miss the wake-up calls. But I did miss the touring and the interaction with my bus-mates. We had some incredibly intense discussions, and while we may not have always agreed, we did agree to listen to each other and hear one another out. And it was great to get everyone involved and to hear such diverse perspectives from all across the spectrum. I miss the group and the interaction.

Some of us have gone back to work, some of us have gone back to school.

My first day back at work felt very weird. I like my job. But the challenges I faced in Israel are not the types of challenges I face at work.

There was a part of me that was awakened on this trip. I felt totally alive. Looking at the pictures from the trip, I appear more "alive" in those pictures than I have in a long time.

I found meaning on this trip.

I found Israel on this trip, connecting with the magic of that country, which for some of us seemed so unreachable before.

I am determined not to let that special feeling get away. Now, I am not saying we should all make aliyah, as much as our Israeli guide wanted us all to, but there are many ways we can and should connect to Israel.

The one message I learned from our time with the IDF soldiers and with our Israeli *chovshim* (medics) was this: If we in the Diaspora truly want to help, the best thing we can do is to educate ourselves, and thus help to educate the world, concerning what is truly going on in Israel and the dire situation the country is facing.

For those of us who aren't sure how or where to get involved, we can contact one of our *madrichim* (guides), who I'm sure will help us get in touch with the proper people.

We must not let this feeling die.

If this trip taught us anything it was to not stand idly by, but instead to become active any way we know how.

As our guide told us: "It truly is up to our generation to get things done."

Matthew Cutler lives in Montreal and recently participated in Anguish to Hope and Birthright Israel.

Jewish Life

Israel and the Winter Olympics

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

In 1988, Jamaica caused a stir at the Calgary Olympics when the Caribbean island fielded a bobsled team. Not known for ice or subzero temperatures, Jamaica's entry made headlines around the world and inspired a movie **[http://www.jamaicanbobsled.com/content.html]**.

Israel is another country not usually associated with winter sports. But thanks to emigration from the former Soviet Union and a strengthening infrastructure for winter sports, Israel is about to send off its third Winter Olympic delegation.

This year, five athletes will represent Israel in Salt Lake City. Galit Chait and Sergei Saknovsky are Israel's best ice dance couple **[http://www.ice-dance.com/galit-sergei/]**. Chait was born in Israel and grew up in New Jersey and Delaware. Saknovsky was born in Moscow and made aliyah in 1995. They placed 14th in Nagano in 1998 and a very impressive fifth in the Original Dance program at the European Championships in Lausanne, Switzerland, **[http://www.jpost.com/Editions/2002/01/18/Sports/Sports.41905.html]**.

Chait and Saknovsky will be joined in Salt Lake City by Israel's No. 2 ice dancers, the married duo of Natalia Gudina and Alexei Beletsky who emigrated from Ukraine two years ago **[http://www.jpost.com/Editions/2002/01/21/Sports/Sports.42013.html]**.

Rounding off the team is Olga Danilov who will compete in short track speed skating.

Israel's best known winter Olympian is Michael Shmerkin, the first Israeli to participate in the Winter Olympics. In Lillehammer, Norway, in 1994, Shmerkin finished a respectable 16th. Since then, his skating has been erratic. He recently placed an impressive fifth place at the Spin Competition at Zagreb, Croatia, but after he had a 25th place finish in Lausanne, organizers decided he would not be going to Salt Lake City **[http://www.jpost.com/Editions/2001/11/11/Sports/Sports.37861.html]**.

Israel's official Olympic Web site has a section in English detailing the country's history at the Games. At press time, it had not been updated to include information about the 2002 Olympics **[http://olympic.achla.co.il/]**. The Hebrew section also includes a tribute to the 11 Israeli athletes murdered at the 1972 Olympics in Munich **[http://olympic.achla.co.il/yaindex.html]**.

Israel's representative on the International Olympic Committee is Alex Gilady a broadcasting executive in Israel and at NBC Sports **[http://www.olympic.org/ioc/e/org/ioc/bio/bio25_e.html]**. Gilady is also involved in a study looking at a possible Israeli bid for the 2012 Summer Olympics. Gilady acknowledges that it could be 20 to 30 years before the Games actually go to Israel and that a settlement of the Palestinian conflict is a "precondition" to Israel's candidacy **[http://www.canoe.ca/Slam010926/oly_2012-ap.html]**.

As the world focuses on Salt Lake City, there will be plenty of coverage about Utah's Mormon heritage. The Jewish presence in Utah dates back 150 years to the early entrepreneurs who supplied itinerant miners hunting for gold. According to an article published in the *Jerusalem Post*, the state is now home to about 5,000 Jews **[http://www.jpost.com/Editions/2000/11/26/JewishWorld/JewishWorld.16268.html]**. If you are planning to attend the Olympics and are looking for Jewish contacts, look at the comprehensive links provided by Hillel at the University of Utah **[http://www.utah.edu/hillel/links.htm]** and the Salt Lake City Jewish Community Center **[http://www.slcjcc.org/links.htm]**.

No matter how well Israel fares in Salt Lake City, one town back home will be looking on with pride. The village of Metulla in the Galilee is Israel's northernmost Jewish community and is a training centre for many of Israel's winter athletes. In the late 1980s, Yossi Goldberg was mayor of Metulla and became the driving force behind the construction of the town's large recreational complex that includes two ice rinks **[http://www.skate-israel.org/Metulla.htm]**. Goldberg is now head of the Association of Winter Sports in Israel and is optimistic about Israel's chances in Salt Lake City. An Israeli medal would not only be a boost to Israel's winter sports industry. It would also put to rest comparisons to a certain country's bobsled team **[http://www.cjnews.com/pastissues/00/nov16-00/international/int2.htm]**.

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@ rogers.com.

Varian Fry: an unrecognized hero

Books
Bernard Baskin

***A Hero of Our Own: The Story of Varian Fry*, by Sheila Isenberg, Random House, $39.93.**

The fall of France in 1940 posed an imminent threat to thousands of German, Italian and Polish opponents of National Socialism who had taken refuge in that country. They faced the imposition of the Final Solution by the Nazis.

In New York, an emergency rescue committee was formed – with Vichy approval – to provide minimal legal aid to these refugees. The committee sent Varian Fry, a 32-year-old political journalist, on a brief mission of a few weeks to assess the situation and to determine if some of the refugees, especially well-known intellectuals, could be helped to escape to Lisbon or Casablanca or other safe havens on their way to America.

But instead of a few weeks, Fry spent 13 months in Marseilles between 1940 and 1941, overcoming a variety of obstacles and conducting the most successful private rescue mission in World War II. He saved the lives of more than 1,500 men and women, including many whose legacy to the world is abiding: Marc Chagall, Max Ernst, Jacques Lipchitz, Marcel Duchamp, Hannah Arendt, Andre Breton, Alma and Franz Werfel, Lion Feuchtwanger and Arthur Koestler.

With no special training or experience, Fry was able to work around the Vichy authorities who co-operated with the Germans by refusing to issue exit visas. With a small group of loyal colleagues, he engaged in complex and illegal operations, mainly in smuggling refugees across borders. He provided forged documents for desperate men and women and arranged midnight escapes across the Pyrenees Mountains. In a dangerous game of spies and counter-spies, he discovered resources of courage and energy in himself he never knew existed.

The most difficult part of Fry's work was the agonizing process of selection. The demands made on him were tremendous. It is astonishing that about 15,000 refugees, half the number caught in Vichy, implored him for help. But only a few could be saved. Which ones? Who would live and who would die?

Forced to establish priorities, Fry favoured refugees who already possessed some of the necessary documents, those healthy enough to make the journey, and the intellectual and creative elite.

His devotion to his task was unending. He worked to the point of sheer exhaustion – and his zeal took on a religious or spiritual aura.

Back home, the emergency rescue committee became increasingly unhappy with Fry for his disdain for their authority, his restless intelligence and his quirky personality. But above all else, the American State Department applied unrelenting pressure on Fry to end his activities because they were creating tension between Vichy and Washington.

This biography indicates that Fry's earlier years were without promise and his return to the United States was marked by years of frustration and disappointment as he drifted from one inadequate job to another. He received almost no recognition for his accomplishments and, in time, became estranged from wife and children.

A Hero of Our Own is a straightforward, often absorbing account of how a seemingly ordinary person, thrown into a situation of danger and challenge, did extraordinary things.

Years after Fry's death, the American State Department apologized for its unseemly behaviour and a variety of tributes were offered in his memory. Fry, a Protestant, is the only American honoured at Israel's Memorial Museum and made an honorary citizen of the State of Israel in recognition of the life and death struggle he waged against the greatest evil of the 20th century.

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Barbara Kessel has explored this phenomenon of Jews who were raised as gentiles but learned of their Jewish heritage later in life.

Drawing on interviews with over 160 people, Ms. Kessel tells their dramatic tales and the responses of her subjects. Much of her research is incorporated in her recently published study on this subject.

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Greater Toronto Area

Beth Emeth gets new rabbi/educator

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Rabbi Aubrey Glazer bends over a table in the library of Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue (BEBY), retying the fringes of his tallit in accordance with a Sephardi custom that has been adopted by many Jewish mystics, while he discusses his particular Jewish outlook and his work at the shul and in the community.

Since he became Beth Emeth's synagogue educator and keruv (outreach) worker – a newly created part-time position – in November, the 31-year-old rabbi has incorporated his distinctive spiritual take on Judaism into his endeavours at the synagogue.

His first mandate at the 1,500-member shul is to do educational "inreach" with groups ranging from youth to seniors, from singles to young families, he told *The CJN*. One example is a lunch-and-learn program at a downtown law firm for BEBY members and friends.

He also continues to do the type of outreach work that he has been doing at a number of local Conservative congregations. Recently he was a facilitator for a creative environmental Shabbat program run by Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto.

A perennial student with a BA in French language and literature and an MA in Jewish philosophy, Rabbi Glazer is also working on a PhD in Jewish thinking and poetics at the University of Toronto. He spent six weeks in Israel last summer studying contemporary Israeli poetry on a Charles and Andrea Bronfman Fellowship in Israeli Studies.

At Beth Emeth, where he spends 20 hours a week, Rabbi Glazer brings "a love of Judaism and a fresh approach," said shul president Ari (Phil) Hochman.

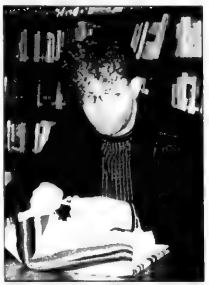
"We have a complementary approach," said the congregation's spiritual leader, Rabbi Howard Morrison.

When Rabbi Glazer was asked about his personal approach to Judaism (which is egalitarian) in the context of a traditional Conservative synagogue, he took the opportunity to share what he calls a teaching moment.

"We need each other's truths in order to get a bigger picture of Judaism overall," said Rabbi Glazer, who was ordained at the Conservative movement's Jewish Theological Seminary in 2000, and who has also been a student at Metivta: A Centre for Contemplative Judaism in Los Angeles for the past few years.

His penchant for embracing multiple philosophies is not just theoretical, the rabbi explained. In fact, he embodies it in a concrete way by following the chassidic custom of changing to a second set of tfillin part-way through morning prayers. Each set has the scrolls inserted differently, to commemorate an unresolved difference of opinion between the Jewish sages Rashi and his grandson Rabbeinu Tam.

The more familiar custom of placing a mezuzah diagonally, instead of vertically or horizontally, is a similar example, he said. "It's a question of awakening the awareness that Judaism is not about monolithic truths."



Rabbi Aubrey Glazer reties the fringes of his tallit. [Frances Kraft photo]

The rabbi spends two Shabbatot a month at Beth Emeth, running an intergenerational service that was instituted shortly before he took the new position. The 90-minute service, followed by a half-hour chassidic or inspirational-based shiur (lesson), focuses on the how and why of prayer.

Rabbi Glazer hopes it will "defrost" the prayer book for people who find themselves distanced from it.

He also teaches a Minchah shiur called Mystical Moments at Minchah, which looks at the mystical underpinnings of Halachah.

Recently he discussed gemilut chasadim (acts of kindness) and tikkun olam (repairing the world) at an orientation for a five-week Out of the Cold program for the homeless at Beth Emeth.

"I think people are hungry to connect to their Judaism," he said. "People are beginning to peel away at the layers and find different points of entry. My mandate is to open other doors."

One of those doors is a course he teaches at Beth Tzedec Congregation called The Tao of Judaism, which focuses on the Book of Kohelet as seen through a Taoist lens. The course title refers to a Chinese philosophy ("the way"), which is not in conflict with Judaism, the rabbi said. He uses it both at Beth Tzedec and at his Beth Emeth Minchah shiur to "try to distil Judaism and make it extremely relevant to our hearts... We're so mind-centred that we forget about the heart."

Other innovations of his – or in many cases, reintroductions of old traditions – include meditating before beginning to pray, an exercise Rabbi Glazer conducted at the student retreat.

His efforts reflect a recent trend in synagogue transformation – particularly in the United States – to find new ways to infuse spirituality into services.

While Toronto has "a very different culture," Rabbi Glazer said, "if you cultivate spiritual direction within enough people... it won't be uncommon to find people in shul taking time before services begin, to settle the mind. That is what our sages taught. We have all these traditions that are very much a part of the Jewish way."

With an arts background that includes a career as a student filmmaker, the rabbi believes Judaism needs to become "much more interdisciplinary" to meet the needs of contemporary Jews who are looking for meaning. . . .

Birthright participants not deterred by violence

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Despite an upsurge in violence in Israel, as of last week only one of the 105 participants scheduled to leave on a Birthright Israel trip this week had cancelled because of safety concerns, organizers said.

At a social gathering last week for the participants – most of whom are York University students – the two dozen or so young adults seemed to talk more about what to pack and who would room together than about security for the trip.

"I thought there would be a lot more people hesitant about going," said Shayna Allen, director of the JSF: The Centre for Jewish Campus Life at York University and a Birthright madrichah. She had fielded only a handful of phone calls regarding security concerns, but anticipated more as this week's departure date approached.

At the Canada-Israel Experience Centre, the trip's provider, only one call regarding security had been received as of last Thursday, *The CJN* was told.

(Trip organizers said one Birthright participant also cancelled after being unable to reschedule an exam.)

Jeff Miller, a 21-year-old York student, figures the media reports he hears are "normal for Israel." When non-Jewish friends tell him not to go, "I say I'm going. That's it."

"I'm nervous because of the situation, but I'm also excited," Stephanie Shernofsky, a case manager for an insurance company, told *The CJN*.

At 26, Shernofsky is at the upper age limit that qualifies her for the free trip. "It's now or never," she said, "and I want to be part of it."

She has applied for previous Birthright trips, but was not accepted because there were more applicants than spots.

Morgan Rosenberg, a day-school graduate who became eligible for the trip when she turned 18 last year, sees Birthright as a "natural progression" for her.

Of 105 participants, only one cancellation

Adine Taveroff, 21 – who was accepted for the trip with friends and fellow York students Bonnie Shay and Ellie Satz – said she is nervous but also "very excited and looking forward to it." Having visited Israel at age 13, she feels she didn't really appreciate it the first time.

Taveroff's mother, Patti, said she has "a lot of very mixed feelings. I can't tell you with certainty that she'll be going next week. We're going to be watching the news and listening to the reports coming out of Israel very closely."

Shay, who was last in Israel 1½ years ago, said this is the first time she's had second thoughts, but that she knew if she didn't go, she would regret it.

The three friends are quite content with the restrictions imposed for security reasons. "There's no free time, and we're happy about that," said Taveroff.

"It's not an issue at all," added Satz.

Rob Berger, 25, was a Birthright participant last summer, became involved in the Birthright alumni committee and is returning to Israel as a madrich. He never considered cancelling, he said, even after the suicide bombing at Tel Aviv's Dolphinarium discotheque only days before his group left Toronto.

Birthright's security is "top-notch," said Berger, who works at a marketing research firm where non-Jewish colleagues, in particular, have expressed concern or questioned him about his decision to be part of Birthright. His parents are also worried, he said, but they have been supportive, as have his friends.

Daniel Wiser, a 22-year-old York student, said his mother asked him questions that implied she didn't want him to go. "The risks, especially now, are kind of concerning. Nevertheless, it's a good opportunity," he said.

His fellow student Pam Heifetz, 20, whose older sister had a positive experience on a Birthright trip last summer, said some of her friends told her she was "a bit crazy" to go.

Although she said the news "shapes your thoughts" to a certain extent, she was becoming excited as the departure date approached.

"You can't let terrorists scare you off," said her father Jim.

York student Mark Weisz, 21, also admitted to being nervous, but said determinedly that he would be in Israel "to have a good time, not to worry about the situation."

The program, which relies on daily security updates, is "as secure as humanly possible," said Berger.

Security precautions that restrict students from spending free time on their own "kind of put you in a bubble," said Berger, adding that Birthright is an "amazing" program.

York University student David Zameret, 19, is partly motivated to go to Israel because so many other people are staying away. "As a Jew and a supporter of Israel, I know how much they need tourism. Even though I'm not paying for it, someone else is."

"Hold That Date"

The SF Group Annual Charity Golf Tournament will be held on June 19, 2002 at the Kleinburg Golf and Country Club.

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Howard is an active member of both the Toronto and Montreal communities. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors and several committees at the Eitz Chaim Schools and the treasurer for Canadian Friends of Moer Gershon.

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BAYT, 613 Clark Avenue, Thornhill, ON L4J 5V3.
Fax 905-886-5103 • bayt@rogers.com

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The Story and the History of the "Hebrew University Bible"

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Adath Israel Congregation, Greenspoon Hall
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We look forward to welcoming you to a most interesting presentation by Prof. Ben-Sasson, a leading authority on Medieval Jewish history in Muslim lands.
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For information please call 416-485-8000, ext. 114.

New JPL director aims to boost awareness of the library

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There's a new, but familiar, face at the Jewish Public Library.

As director of the Albert and Temmy Latner JPL, Rabbi Irwin Witty is planning to turn the library into an active member of the community.

"Until now, the library has not received the attention it deserves as a repository of the cultural, historical and literary treasures of the Jewish people," Rabbi Witty said in an interview.

Rabbi Irwin Witty

Rabbi Witty was the director of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education for 28 years. He then worked at the Milwaukee Jewish Federation for two years assisting in the coalition for Jewish learning before returning to Toronto. He started at the library last May.

Sitting in the basement stacks with a 1601 copy of the *Olat Tamid*, published in Venice, Italy, behind him, Rabbi Witty spoke of the library's ability to meet the needs of a wide audience.

High school students come to do research and immigrants come to find books in a familiar language, whether it is English, Russian, Hebrew or Yiddish, Rabbi Witty said.

"There are regular users here who come to do research and there are those who come occasionally to simply immerse themselves in a Jewish book."

The collection's catalogue and borrowing system is in the midst of being computerized so that it will be more accessible, Rabbi Witty said.

The library currently houses 57,000 volumes, as well as a clipping service that has religious and historical topics of interest spanning the past 20 years. After recently merging with the Holocaust Memorial Centre, the JPL also contains one of the largest collections of Holocaust materials in the city.

The library originally opened up on Spadina Avenue in 1942. It later moved to Markham Street and then to Glen Park Avenue before settling at its current address at the Lipa Green building at 4600 Bathurst St.

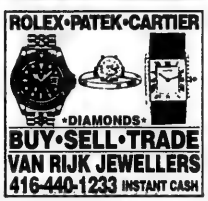
As the library grows, the limited space may force a move into another facility further north, Rabbi Witty said. However, the current goal is to clear as much space as possible in its current location so that many of the books can be taken out of storage and made available to the public.

He said the work of the library's chair, Jerry Klasner, and the support of Albert Latner and many other donors has enabled it to expand and buy books from Israel and the United States.

It's also important for the library to move into different programs in the community, the rabbi said. An evening in memory of Mordecai Richler was sponsored by the JPL during the Jewish Book Fair and several additional lectures are set for this month.

Barbara Kessel will speak on Suddenly Jewish: Jews Raised as Gentiles Discover Their Jewish Roots on Feb. 12 at 8 p.m., and Dr. Ted Cohen will speak on Aspects of Jewish Humour: Good, Bad, Difficult and Dangerous on February 27 at 8 p.m.

The lectures will take place at the Leah Posluns Theatre. Admission for both is free. For details, call 416-635-2996.



CJC to get on-air apology

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress will receive an on-air apology and air time to respond to recent controversial statements made by a guest on local radio station AM 640.

CJC Ontario region executive director Bernie Farber and community relations director Len Rudner will be on the air the afternoon of Feb. 17 to respond to remarks made last month by Norman Finkelstein, an American Jewish professor who is known for his argument that Jews exploit the Holocaust for financial gain and to justify Israel's treatment of Palestinians [*CJN*, Jan. 31].

CJC will also be able to respond to Finkelstein's contentious statements about the Holocaust and reparations to survivors.

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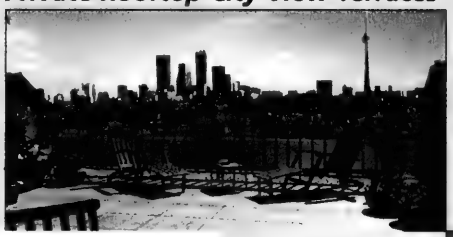

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Tuesday, April 16th — Seminar on "Aging in Place"
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Friday mornings, February 15 & 22, March 8 & 22, April 5 & 12, 2002

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or call 416-385-3435

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Pool has separate women's hours and classes for at least 4 hours each day.

For more information contact: Linda at 416-663-0000

On Campus

Young adults meet to support Israel

By BRAM AARON
Special to the CJN

TORONTO — A newly formed advocacy group for young adults spent its inaugural meeting watching and analyzing Palestinian Authority television commercials that incite Arab youths to attack and murder Israelis and Jews.

Participants saw a 15-minute video that instructs youths on their religious duty to murder Israelis. Featuring soft melodies juxtaposed with images of killing and death, it promises that children killed in the "revolt" against Israel will be glorified as martyrs.

The video was presented by guest speaker Moshe Ronen, former national president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, to the Israel Advocacy Group for Young Jewish Adults.

Those in attendance reacted with varying degrees of anger, sadness and disgust.

"I had heard before about the so-called Palestinian education system, but seeing this video helped me understand the type of environment in which those children grow up," said Henry Segal, 29, one of 37 participants at the Jan. 17 meeting at Toronto's Aish HaTorah Village Shul.

The new group is a partnership between Aish HaTorah and *Afterword*, Canada's national Jewish student newspaper.

"The purpose of the group is for young Jewish adults to show their support for Israel," said Dave Gordon, *Afterword* founder and publisher, who organized the group with Rabbi Dan Rand, Aish HaTorah's director of programming for young adults.

"It was not just an information session but also a tactical 'tachlis' [putting words into action]," Gordon said.

The group was created because *Afterword* and Aish HaTorah decided that, after 17 months of the current crisis in Israel, there was little being done to inform young Jewish adults who have little knowledge about the situation in Israel and aren't getting accurate information elsewhere.

"There is such a vacuum of information-al presence and activity," Gordon said. "We felt it was our duty to fill in that vacuum and be that voice."

Gordon got the idea for the group after giving a workshop on Israel and the media at an Israel advocacy conference run last February by Montreal's Hillel.

"I noticed that Montreal has really been on top with Israel advocacy, really mobilizing the students."

Gordon's aim is for the group to organize letter-writing campaigns, petitions, demonstrations and regular informational sessions. His slogan for the group is: "Anticipate, participate, don't hibernate!"

After showing the video, Ronen led a critical discussion on Israel's portrayal in the international media.

He said much of the reporting treats suicide bombers and the IDF as moral equivalents, and that Arab regimes are not scrutinized the way Israel is.

"Israel is a democracy, yet no one in the media looks at the Palestinian Authority (PA) and other Arab countries with regard to being free," said Ronen, who pointed to the high amount of alleged corruption in PA leadership, and the subjugation of its own citizenry.

"No one reports that Jews living in Arab lands have no rights or freedoms, while Arabs living in Israel have all their rights as Israeli citizens."

Ronen distributed information sheets and stressed the importance of knowing the facts about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

He also examined other PA-sponsored hatred and incitement toward Jews, saying the video is far from the only example.

"It's in their textbooks, on state TV, and it's all officially sanctioned," he said.

Les Boven, 34, also attended the event. "These reporting examples show not only that there heavy bias in reporting on Israel, there are outright lies," he said, adding the lies must be combatted with education and activism.

To get involved with the new advocacy group, call Dave Gordon at 416-631-8053, or e-mail afterwordmag@hotmail.com.

Resources and upcoming programs in Toronto

The following is a list of resources and upcoming programs for university students in Toronto.

Jewish Campus Services
3101 Bathurst St., Suite 401
Toronto, Ont.
M6A 2A6
Phone: 416-785-1465
Internet: www.jewishcampusservices.com

* * *

UofT Jewish Students' Union
Basement section F, University College
Phone: 416-978-0421; Fax: 416-971-3085
Internet: http://jsu.sa.utoronto.ca
Email: jsuuoft@hotmail.com
Contact: Lisa Isen, program director

Feb. 6
Green Dreams: balancing the environment, the community and the individual. A multi-faith approach to life and the environment after Sept. 11.

Great Hall, Hart House, 5-8 p.m.
Free Dinner

* * *

Ryerson Jewish Students Association
350 Victoria St., A-364
Toronto, Ont.
M5B 2K3
Internet: www.ryerson.ca/~jsa
Email: jsa@ryerson.ca
Contact: Brian Wolk, student co-president

Continued on page 19

On Campus

Concordia cuts ties with 'illegitimate' student leaders

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Concordia University is refusing to transfer any more student dues to the interim executive of the Concordia Student Union (CSU) and has supsended all discussion with it because it considers the recently appointed body "illegitimate."

Concordia rector Frederick Lowy said the CSU council of representatives is committing "an abuse of power" in "imposing" an interim executive of unelected students after the CSU's recent annulment of a November byelection for a new CSU executive.

The failure to recognize the victory of the Representative Union (RU), which took 45.5 per cent of the votes in a field of three slates, is "totally unacceptable and undemocratic, and the administration of Concordia University has a moral responsibility to act in the best interests of the institution," Lowy said in a press release.

The administration will continue to collect the dues on behalf of the CSU and hold them in trust until there is a "duly elected" CSU executive, he said.

"This latest election debacle... only add[s] to the frustration of students who find themselves misrepresented and disenfranchised. In the interests of the students and the institution, the university will not accept this situation."

Despite having taken this position, Concordia acknowledges that the CSU, which represents Concordia's approximately 23,000 undergraduates, is an independent and autonomous corporation and that the university has no authority over its activities.

The 2001-2002 CSU executive, elected last spring, was dominated by a far-left group with close ties to the militant Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights.

'Abuse of power'

It gained notoriety for two incidents last year. In one, two CSU officials were expelled after an altercation with Concordia security stemming from an incident in August in which anti-Israel graffiti was spray-painted on university property. In another controversy, the CSU published a student handbook in September that appeared to encourage violent rebellion and contained anti-Semitic innuendoes.

The November byelection was precipitated by the resignation of CSU president Sabrina Stea two days before the submission of a 3,200-signature student petition expressing a lack of confidence in the CSU.

After Stea's resignation, the CSU appointed an interim government, with Patrice Blais, who was on the former executive, as acting president. Blais promised at that time that he and his executive would leave Jan. 23.

Blais has refused to give up the presidency and has said the CSU will be seeking a court order to force Concordia to hand over funds to the CSU.

The petition denouncing the CSU leadership was initiated by Chris Schulz, who later became head of the RU, which promised a more moderate, less politicized CSU.

The RU, which was supported by the Hillel Jewish student association, never took office. Following contestations of the elections, whose source was never disclosed, the CSU judicial board ruled last month that the election was invalid because of irregularities.

The most glaring problem cited was the RU's disqualification by chief electoral officer Jessica Lajambe, just hours before polls opened, on charges of attempting to bribe an opposition candidate to pull out. The RU was reinstated later the same day.

The election was extended by three days to give students who had voted while the RU was off the ballot a chance to vote again.

In its ruling, the judicial board noted that only 226 of the 556 students who voted while the RU was out of the race returned to vote, and therefore, 300 had their votes annulled.

Lowy doesn't dispute that the election was biased against the RU, but he noted the slate "nevertheless, obtained the majority of the votes."

The matter was then handed over to the CSU council of representatives which voted 14-6 on Jan. 23 not to appoint the RU slate as the interim executive until general CSU elections in March. Blais informed the council that night, minutes before his term expired, that he would not step down as president, although the rest of the executive did so.

On Jan. 25, Blais appointed five RU candidates to a new interim executive, including Schulz, by "presidential decree" after deciding the RU had the most legitimate claim to be on the executive. (He did not agree, however, to give up the presidency.)

These appointments were rescinded hours later, after the university administration announced it was refusing to recognize the interim executive.

At *The CJN*'s deadline, Blais was the only member of the executive, an RU spokesperson said.

Blais sees the university's latest action as an attack on the CSU's independence, he told *The Link*, a Concordia student newspaper.

Schulz could not be reached by *The CJN* for further comment.

Resources and upcoming programs in Toronto

Continued from page 18

Bagel Lunch
Every Thursday, 12-2 p.m.
JSA lounge, A-364

* * *

Jewish Student Federation: Centre for Jewish Campus Life at York University
Student Centre, 4th floor
Phone: 416-736-5178
Internet: www.yorku.ca/jsf
Email: jsf@yorku.ca
Contact: Jaime Walman, program director

March 1
Shabbat Dinner
Temple Sinai

* * *

GAP – programs for Graduates And Professionals
Email: gapprograms@jewishcampusservices.com
Phone: 416-736-5173
Contact: Shayna Allen

Feb. 4
Rock Climbing
Rock Oasis – 7 p.m.

* * *

KOACH – Conservative movement on campus.
Phone: 416-821-9137
Email: Rhoda_dinardo@hotmail.com
Contact: Rhoda Dinardo

* * *

Kesher – Reform movement on campus
Email: Kesher_Toronto@hotmail.com

* * *

Seneca Jewish Students' Federation
Phone: 416-785-1465
Email: Seneca_jewish_federation_SJF@hotmail.com

קהילת שערי תורה דטרונטו
KEHILLAT SHAAREI TORAH OF TORONTO

Kehillat Shaarei Torah is pleased to announce that
Professor Irwin Cotler, O.C., M.P.
will speak on the topic,
"Terrorism, Human Rights and the New Anti-Jewishness"
on **Sunday, February 10, at 8 p.m.**
Open to the public *No charge*
Kehillat Shaarei Torah
2640 Bayview Ave., North York, Ont. M2L 1B7
Tel: 416-229-2600 Fax: 416-229-2167

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For more information, call 416-635-2883 ext. 175

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Feb. 11 is deadline for Feb. 21 issue and Monday, Feb. 18, is deadline for Feb. 28. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday Feb. 7

CHARITY AUCTION

Na'amat Toronto Charity Auction featuring collectables, art, carpets, jewelry, antiques, electronics, 7 p.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Viewing 5:30 p.m. 416-636-5425.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES

Stephen Speisman presents slides and speaks about the Jewish communities in Northern Ontario, 2 p.m. at Forest Hill Place Retirement Residence, 645 Castlefield Ave. Reserve. **Gwen** or **Susan** 416-785-1511.

Friday, Feb. 8

CARLEBACH MINYAN

At Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, downstairs, 15 minutes before Minchah, followed by a lively and spiritual Kabalat Shabbat service. 416-789-3213.

Saturday, Feb, 9

HOMICIDE

Beth Tzedec Congregation's Cine-Forum series with **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** continues with *Homicide* (1991), written and directed by **David Mamet.** Bob Gold, a good cop, betrays his friends, disgraces the force and commits violence because he believes it is the right thing to do as a Jew. 8 p.m. 416-781-3514, ext. 34 to reserve.

PARTICIPATORY STUDY

Participatory study session with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** on the topic Esther and Vashti: Two Heroines Unmasked, 1 p.m., First Narayever Congregation, 187 Brunswick Ave.

Sunday, Feb. 10

AN EVENING WITH G-D

Join **Rabbi Jordan Cohen** for a discussion on the many ways that God is revealed throughout our tradition and how we strive to find the voice of God in our lives today. 7:30 p.m., Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. 416-485-7007.

LUNCH AND LEARN

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism potluck Lunch and Learn event with visiting **Rabbi Miriam Jerris,** to examine Pirkei Avot: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly, 11:30 a.m. at Banbury Community Centre, 120 Banbury Rd. (Potluck contribution to serve 10 people please.) RSVP 416-385-3910.

THE KOMEDIANT

Friends of Yiddish presents *The Komediant*, award-winning documentary film focusing on the theatrical dynasty of **Pesakh Burstein** and the price children often pay for their parents' ambition. 2 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. RSVP **Sandy** 416-736-8073.

Monday, Feb. 11

MAMELOSHEN

A lecture on the Remarkable History of Yiddish: The Language of an Entire Civilization, presented by Cranbrooke Friendship Club of the United Jewish People's Order, 12:30 p.m. at Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Guest speaker is **Prof. Ben Shek**, a linguist and professor emeritus of French literature at the University of Toronto. Lunch is served.

Tuesday, Feb. 12

WOMEN'S ROSH CHODESH

Women's Rosh Chodesh Festivity 7:30 p.m. at Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. Music by **Alyssa Hershkop** and talk on the

Continued on page 21

LAST 10 SUITES

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Continued from page 20

Transformation of Esther by **Hana Werner**. Please bring a non-perishable item for the Kosher Food Bank.

CRAFT EVENING

Happy Scrappin with **Pamela Bielak**, presented by Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood, 8 p.m. Bring scissors, 3-5 photos and a pencil. 416-633-5507.

ROSH CHODESH – PISCES

At the Kabbalah Centre, 8:30 p.m., 678 Sheppard Ave. W. The secret to fulfillment. Pisces contains the energy of sharing, humility and spirituality. Lecture, meditation and meal. 416-631-9391.

Wednesday, Feb. 13

BEING JEWISH IN CHINA

Dolly Beil, born in China and now living in Toronto, talks about Growing Up Jewish in China, presented by Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue Continuing Education and Sisterhood, 8 p.m. 416-633-3838.

CARING FOR MYSELF

A workshop to learn about arranging and affording your own caregiver should the time come when you cannot look after yourself, presented by the Caring Committee of Temple Har Zion. Panelists **Janice Cloth, Marvin Cohen** and temple member **Dr. Cheryl Ackerman**. 8 p.m. 905-889-2252.

STITCHING AND BEYOND

The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles of Toronto features Stitching and Beyond with textile artist **Sherry Del Rizzo** speaking on stumpwork, blackwork and soft sculpture 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. 416-492-7189.

JWI CHAPTER MEETING

Jewish Women International Markham-Unionville Chapter monthly meeting. Special guest speaker. New members welcome. For further information **Sheryl** 905-305-7026 or **Susan** 905-940-0286.

Thursday, Feb. 14

NEILA CARLEBACH

Neila Carlebach, wife of the late **Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach**, speaks about the magic and wonder of the new month, 7:30 p.m., Riverdale Shul, 179A Danforth Ave. 416-465-4377.

And What Else Is New

CORRECTION

An incorrect date was given last week for the 9:15 a.m. lecture at Temple Har Zion. It is Saturday, **Feb. 9**. We regret the error.

RABBI KIRSHENBLATT

Tribute to **Rabbi Jacob Kirshenblatt**, news from Jerusalem, silent auction, prizes, music, dancing, sponsored by Congregation Beth Haminyan and Beth Sholom Synagogue, Saturday, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Sholom. Proceeds to Latner Institute Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma at Herzog Hospital, Jerusalem. For tickets, **Jan Babins**, director, Canadian Friends of Herzog Hospital, 415-256-4222.

MYSTICAL EXPERIENCE

Join Jewish Russian Community Centre WITS (Women's Institute of Torah Study) for The Jewish Mystical Experience with **Rabbi Tzvi Freeman**, author and Kabbalah exponent. First part of series deals with Convergence: Science, Technology and the Kabbalah, Sunday, Feb. 17, 8-9:30 p.m., 18 Rockford. Men and women welcome. To register call **Chana Weisberg**, dean of WITS, 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

AISH HATORAH EVENTS

Saturday Morning Live: Interactive family Shabbat program with youth director and USDS teacher **Meir Balofsky**. Come with your children ages 3 and up for an hour of family fun and information on Jewish holidays, events and history, Feb. 9, at 11 a.m. at Westmount Collegiate Institute. 905-764-1818, ext. 309.

Fire and Ice, Part II: Family Skating Party featuring Havdalah, cake, ice cream, Saturday, Feb. 9, 8 p.m., Rosemount Community Centre (in Westmount High School).

Purim Package: Monday, Feb. 25, for everyone at Westmount. Choose from two traditional Megillah readings; two alternative family Megillah programs with **Rabbi Aryeh Pamensky;** three puppet shows for children ages 3-5, all followed by party time at 8 p.m.

FIVE TIMES HALBERTAL

Prof. Moshe Halbertal of Hebrew University lectures:

Tuesday, Feb. 12, Facing the World: A Talmudic View, 7:30 p.m at Beth Tzedec Congregation. By reservation. 416-781-3511.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, Concealment and Revelation: The Secret (Sod) and Its Boundaries in Medieval Jewish Thought, noon at University of Toronto Munk Centre for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place, 108 North House.

Wednesday, Feb. 13, Israel: Between Nationalism, Religion and Democracy, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec. Reserve 416-781-3511.

Thursday, Feb. 14: Who is the Jew: Views of Jewish Identity as Revealed Through Changing Conversion Issues, 6 p.m. dinner, at Beth Tzedec. Reserve; Messianism in Maimonides, 8 p.m. Reserve 416-781-3511.

YOUNG ACTIVISTS

United Jewish People's Order presents A Workshop for Young Jewish Activists and Progressive Folks (16-35 years), Sunday, Feb. 17, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Facilitator is **Shlomit Segal,** UJPO Program Committee. If you need a ride or for more information, call Shlomit 416-651-4639.

SPECIAL SCREENING

The Dunera Boys (1988), directed by **Ben Lewin**, is about Viennese Jewish refugees fleeing from the Third Reich to England. The English government falsely suspects them of being spies and they are deported to an Australian prison camp aboard the HMS Dunera. Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m., Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153.

PURIM BALL

Hashomer Hatzair is hosting a Purim Ball, Saturday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m. at Earl Bales Community Centre. Dancing, jazz ensemble, prizes for best costumes, Israeli buffet, and more. 416-736-1339.

EARLY DEMENTIA GROUP

Circle of Care announces an Early Stage Dementia Group. Interested individuals must be aware of their memory loss. A group facilitator will interview all potential group members. 6 weekly sessions begin Friday, March 1, 9:30-10:15 a.m. 530 Wilson Ave. **Jackie Cohen** 416-635-2860, ext. 469.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service upcoming groups. For information or to register contact **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Single Parent Challenge, starts Wednesday, Feb. 13, 7:30-9 p.m., Lipa Green Building, 6th floor.

Support Group for Jewish amputees and their families meets Tuesday, Feb. 12, 8 p.m. at Lipa Green Building. If you would like to participate, RSVP.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group Purim Party 2-5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 17. **Boris Neiman** entertains. For information, **Harry Singer** 416-512-2897.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club Casino Niagara Feb. 14; Casino Rama Feb. 20; Collingwood trip Feb. 28; Saturday dance Feb. 23, 7-10 p.m.; Sunday dances Feb. 10, 17; dancersize classes with **Kitty Cohen** every Thursday at 10 a.m.; membership open for 2002. 416-395-7881.

Join the **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Note: Purim Party, live music and light supper Saturday, Feb. 23. Regular programs: Feb. 7, bingo; Feb. 14, sing-along with **Yitzchak Argeman**; Feb. 21, video; Feb. 28, literature evening, reading and stories. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Branson Missouri trip together with Bathurst JCC, May 28-June 5. Call **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134 to register.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Feb. 12, lecture; Feb. 19, bingo; Feb. 26, free evening. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Save the Last Dance*, Sunday, Feb. 10, 2:30 p.m.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Purim Workshop for 7-10-year-olds Sundays Feb. 10 and 17, noon to 2:30 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Museum. Register ext. 284.

Purim event Sunday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Jewish Discovery Museum, ext. 456.

Free tax return clinic: To qualify, income must be under $15,000 with no dependants, below $22,000 with dependants. Appointments available for Feb. 26, March 4-6,18-20. Call **Janet** to reserve. ext. 259.

Sunday, March 10, Tuesday, April 9, and Thursday, April 18, Kallah interactive lecture series via satellite broadcast from New York, presented by the Koffler Centre of the Arts, Kollel and Miles S. Nadal JCC. Ext. 271 or 416-924-6211.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211

Good Age Club: Thursday, Feb. 7, 2 p.m., **Barbara Carter** talks about how the Toronto Seniors Council teaches businesses to be seniors friendly. At 3:30 p.m. Yiddish movie club features *Jewish Life in Vilna, Jewish Life in Bialistok*; Feb. 14, 2 p.m., classical music concert with **Jani Papadhimitri**, piano and **Sofiola Papadhimitri**, violin.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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On Campus

Research director gives students 'tools' to fight Arab propaganda

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Itamar Marcus

TORONTO — Itamar Marcus has been a keen observer of the Palestinian media for years, so he was not particularly surprised when in early January, during a lull in the intifadah, he noticed a reduction, though not the elimination, of the "steady stream of violence" in Palestinian TV's daily programming.

Instead of the constant barrage of video clips urging children to fight Israel and seek martyrdom, that same message was reserved primarily as filler between regularly scheduled programs.

It wasn't that Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA) had gone soft and given up the terror option, but rather, it marked a tactical maneuver to ease the pressure the PA had been experiencing from U.S. and Israeli leaders, who had demanded an end to incitement, he said.

Marcus, founder and director of Palestinian Media Watch (PMW)(www.pmw.org.il), believes Arafat has been playing a double game for a long time, appearing conciliatory in English language statements, while in Arabic urging Palestinians to ratchet up the level of violence.

Even while detaining members of Hamas to please the United States and Israel, he has offered apologies for the arrests in the PA's official newspaper, *al-Hayat al-Jadida*, saying he was under pressure to do so.

And while Arafat routinely condemns Hamas terror attacks, only three weeks ago he dispatched his cabinet secretary, Ahmad Abdel-Rahman to participate in Hamas' anniversary celebrations, Marcus said.

Marcus, a native new Yorker who immigrated to Israel 25 years ago, says his research into cultural trends in Palestinian society indicate there is no desire to reconcile with Israel. Instead, in statements intended for Arab audiences, Palestinian leaders have openly admitted the Oslo peace process was nothing more than a tactical means to continue towards their goal of eliminating Israel.

A little over a year ago, Abu Ali Shaheen, the PA's minister of supply, stated as much, saying in *al-Hayat al-Jadida* that Oslo was useful "to get a foothold, not to gain a permanent settlement, because war and conflict are easier on the land than from a distant land," Marcus quoted him saying.

Marcus believes many Canadian and American Jewish students are ill equipped to respond to Palestinian propaganda, which invariably paints Palestinians as innocent victims and Israel as "conceived in original sin."

He was recently in Canada to meet with students at Toronto's York University, and the University of Toronto as well as at Montreal's Concordia University. He also addressed community meetings.

"Jewish students are bombarded [by Palestinian propaganda] and they don't have the information so they don't have answers," he said.

Prior to departing for Canada, Marcus prepared a Powerpoint presentation that is comprised mainly of excerpts from the Palestinian media.

"There's nothing more powerful as confronting the Palestinians with their own words," he said.

Repeated newspaper and television images showed how Palestinian children as young as eight and nine being urged to attack Israelis and seek "martyrdom." The images show how the Palestinian media "promotes and glorifies child violence" and even how parents celebrate their youngsters' deaths, distributing candy and sweets as if at a party.

"You don't get articles that say, 'children, stay home, it's dangerous out there.' Just the opposite," Marcus said.

The imagery of violence and martyrdom is a constant in Palestinian society, employed by Arafat to "brainwash kids almost every single day" to create a generation willing to fight Israel while giving Arafat some deniability, saying the violence was spontaneous, he added.

Overall, he's not optimistic that the situation will calm down anytime soon. "Until there is a total change in the PA leadership and re-education, the peace process has not really begun," he said. "Until that happens, Israelis can't delude ourselves and ignore what [the Palestinians] are saying to each other."

CORRECTION

The article on jewishhamilton.org, the new Web site of Hamilton's UJA Federation (*CJN*, Jan. 31) incorrectly stated that the site does not have a local Jewish yellow pages option. It does have such an option, but it is called Community Resources. *The CJN* regrets the error.

CLARIFICATION

In an article (*CJN*, Jan 24) about HIPPY, Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters, we did not indicate that National Council of Jewish Women of Canada has been a partner in the program since its inception. *The CJN* regrets the oversight.

Media portrayals of Arafat

According to Reports

This week, Washington is hosting Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer. In the days preceding this visit, the Canadian media has tried to assess the gap between the Bush administration's unusually blunt but realistic criticism of Palestinan Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, and the European Union's desperate efforts to salvage something in his defence.

Thomas Friedman, the *New York Times*' leading foreign affairs columnist, summed up the U.S. mood in his column "Dead Man Walking" (Jan. 30): "Few American, Israeli or Arab leaders, not to mention Palestinians, really believe anymore that [Arafat] will ever lead his people into a peace deal with Israel. The only thing keeping Mr. Arafat afloat today is that no one wants to own his demise…"

U.S. President George W. Bush is incensed, not just because he believes Arafat lied about his involvement in the Karine-A affair, but because it is part of a pattern of deception. Two earlier ships carrying arms from Iran, the Santorini and the Calypso, were also seized last year. All three captures occurred while the United States was pursuing peace and cease-fire agreements.

In two op-eds in the *Globe and Mail* last month, Gerald Steinberg, professor at Bar-Ilan University, discussed the danger of illegal weapons buildup in the Middle East. On Jan. 4, just prior to the revelation of the Karine-A shipment, Steinberg wrote about Arafat's avid pursuit of illegal weaponry. (On Jan. 30, he described the dangerous buildup of long-range missiles and non-conventional weapons by Libya's Muammar Qaddafi – a worrisome development rarely addressed by the media.)

On Jan. 27, U.S. Vice-President Dick Cheney denounced Arafat for collusion with "a terrorist organization, Hezbollah, and a state [Iran] that supports and promotes terrorism." The next day, he told NBC News, "My own personal view is that [the Karine-A arms-smuggling plot with Iran] would not have happened without [Arafat's] knowledge."

Bush called Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Jan. 28, saying that Arafat misled him: "I was led to believe [Arafat] was willing to join us in the fight on terror. I took him at his word."

The *Winnipeg Free Press* editorial, "After Arafat" (Jan. 23) drew the appropriate conclusion: "[Arafat's] authority among Palestinians is doubtful, his credibility internationally is shattered. Israel will not deal with him. Neither should Canada or other western nations. His martyrdom would mean nothing. His resignation, however, although it would create uncertainty and danger, would at least open new opportunities for his people. That is the sacrifice Mr. Arafat should make."

With the evidence overwhelmingly indicating that Arafat is completely untrustworthy, why do some journalists – including various editorialists who acknowledge Arafat's penchant for lying – still shift the burden of responsibility for the dangerous state of Israeli-Palestinian relations to Sharon?

Prepared by Paul Michaels of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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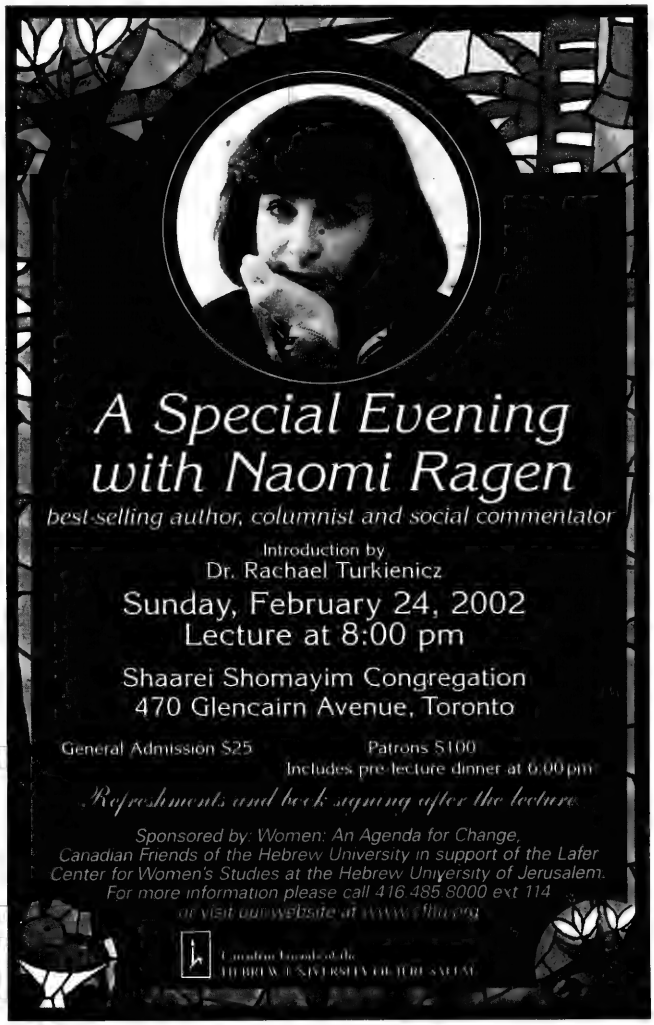
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Levine becomes first Jewish PQ cabinet minister

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Reaction in the Jewish community to the appointment of David Levine, the first Jewish cabinet minister in a Parti Québécois (PQ) government, was low-key.

Levine, 53, was named junior health minister, a new position in Premier Bernard Landry's cabinet, in last week's shuffle. He is the third Jewish cabinet minister in Quebec history, following Liberals Victor Goldbloom, who served in the 1970s, and Herbert Marx, who served in the '80s.

Levine, however, is not an elected member of the National Assembly.

"I don't think Mr. Landry's intention was to send a message to the Jewish or anglophone community," said Joseph Gabay, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec Region. "Levine was chosen for his qualifications. Landry was looking for the right guy at the right moment. This is more a pragmatic choice than a political one."

Levine, who was the executive-director of Ottawa Hospital until last fall, has spent most of his career in health-care administration. As junior health minister, he will assist new Health Minister François Legault.

Gabay said Levine's experience in health-care management means he understands the challenges faced by these institutions.

"But because he is Jewish, we should not assume he will give some benefit to the Jews," Gabay said. "It's a general rule that when a Jew is in a key position, he is careful not to give preferential treatment to the community, because he knows he is being watched."

Levine is one of the few anglophones who embraced sovereignty in its early years. Attracted to its social democratic politics, he has since worked almost entirely in the francophone milieu.

Thomas Hecht, Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) Quebec chair and longtime advocate of rapprochement with Quebec nationalists, said he doubts Landry intended to gain anything from the community with this appointment.

"Levine is just so non-representative of the Jewish community," Hecht said. "Other than growing up Jewish, he has had little to do with the community. He is totally integrated in the Quebec functionary system."

Hecht does not think Levine's appointment guarantees more understanding from the government. "We have sympathetic ears in the cabinet right now. I don't think it will make much difference."

The health portfolio is crucial to the Jewish community, whose public health-care institutions receive tens of millions of dollars of government funding annually.

"We are grateful to see a man of such experience appointed to this important ministry," FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings said.

One of the community's outstanding health concerns regards last year's Bill 28, which reorganized the boards of health institutions, leaving what was felt to be too little representation for its volunteers and benefactors.

Levine's association with Landry goes back 25 years. From 1977-80, Levine was a senior adviser to Landry, who was then minister of state for economic development.

Levine spent much of his time talking to anglophone, often Jewish, audiences, trying to calm what he felt was unwarranted panic over the PQ, then in its first-ever mandate.

In 1979, he ran for the PQ in a byelection in the heavily Jewish riding of D'Arcy McGee, and was trounced by Marx. Premier René Lévesque had hoped Levine could quell fears among Jews about the coming sovereignty referendum.

Levine was appointed as Quebec's delegate-general in New York City in 1997 and served for a year before he cut short his term to take the Ottawa position. He lost that job after three years when the Ontario government placed the hospital under trusteeship after it incurred a $100-million deficit.

In 1992, Levine became the first non-French-Canadian director-general of the 118-year-old Notre Dame Hospital, Quebec's largest. He was selected from over 90 candidates, having at 43 already earned a reputation in the province as an innovative and skilled health-care administrator.

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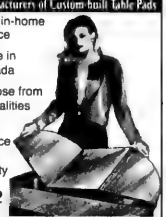
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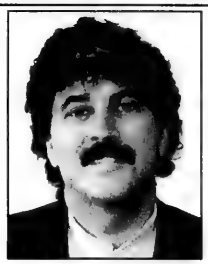
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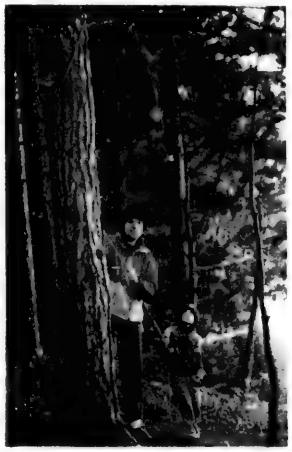

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Website: www.camplakeland.com
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CAMP MOSHAVA CANADA
159 Almore Ave., 2nd floor
Toronto, Ont. M3H 2H9
Director: Shimmy Wenner
Tel: 416-630-7578 Fax: 416-630-8301
E-mail: office@campmoshava.org
Website: www.campmoshava.org
An Orthodox, Zionist camp embracing the Bnai Akiva ideals of Torah, Avodah and Aliyah, situated in the Kawartha Lakes. Heated swimming pool, waterskiing, banana boats, canoes, rock climbing wall, high and low ropes course, mountain biking, sports field, Beit Knesset and Beit Midrash. Shomer Shabbat camp under COR supervision, with medical staff.

CAMP NORTHLAND-B'NAI BRITH
3995 Bathurst St., Suite 200,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 5V3
Contact: Denise Harris or Ellen Nash
Tel: 416-630-1180 Fax: 416-630-8561
Website: www.campnbb.com
A residential camp for boys and girls 7-15, on 750 acres in the picturesque Haliburton Highlands. Programs are designed to meet the needs of each age group. Campers are offered waterskiing, windsurfing, canoeing, kayaking, sailing, tennis, drama, arts & crafts, nature, sports, and Judaic cultural programs. Food services supervised by COR.

CAMP RAMAH IN CANADA
491 Lawrence Ave. W., Suite 400,
Toronto, Ont. M5M 1C7
Interim Director: Howard S. Black
Tel: 416-789-2193 Fax: 416-789-3970
E-mail: info@campramah.com
Website: www.campramah.com
Camp Ramah is located in the Muskoka region of Ontario and serves children ages 9-16. At Ramah we believe that the summer is an important time for growth. We offer a full range of activities including a full waterfront program, sports, and much more, all in the context of fostering Jewish commitment and values.

CAMP ROBIN HOOD
Tel: 416-736-4443 Fax: 416-736-9971
registration@camprh.com
Website: www.camprobinhood.ca
For boys and girls 4-15 years. A natural camp setting where fun and skill development are products of successful interactions between campers and counsellors. Our swimming program, with twice a day instruction, is one of the best in the field. Door to door transportation makes our service fast, efficient and safe.

CAMP SHALOM
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Executive Director: Malka Klein
Camp Director: Josh Sable
Tel: 416-783-6744 Fax: 416-783-9363
Website: www.campshalom.ca
Camp Shalom (founded 1948), non-profit Zionist overnight camp, in Gravenhurst, Ont. on Lake Muskoka. 245 campers, ages 8-13 for each 4 wk session. Kosher (COR). Activities include Jewish programs, ropes course, waterski, canoe, sail, kayaks, instructional swim, tripping, baseball, tennis, landsports, arts & crafts, jazz, drama, cooking, newspaper, singing & dance, mini-golf and media. Our 54th year!

CAMP SHOMRIA
1111 Finch Ave. W., Ste. 456,
Downsview, Ont. M3J 2E5
Camp Director: Simon Wolie
Tel: 416-736-1339 Fax: 416-736-1405
Co-ed, 115 campers, ages 7-16, special grade 2 & 3 program, up to 6 weeks of summer fun. Located on sandy beach lakefront. Programs focus on Jewish identity, progressive Zionism, kibbutz, building lasting friendships, group cooperation, social and community awareness. Waterskiing, kayaking, canoeing, swimming, Israeli song and dance, drama, crafts, theme days and more! Run by Hashomer Hatzair Youth Movement (affiliated with the Kibbutz Artzi Federation in Israel) for over 50 years.

CENTAURI SUMMER ARTS CAMP
19 Harshaw Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6S 1X9
Directors: Julie or Craig Hartley
Tel: 416-766-7124 Fax: 416-766-7655
Centauri Summer Arts Camp is a sleep-over camp with a unique focus on the arts! Specialties include theatre, dance, writing, art, photography, musical theatre & film making, all taught by professionals. Campers from across the world explore their creativity in the exciting atmosphere of a nurturing sleep-over camp.

CENTRE CAMP
4588 Bathurst St.,
North York, Ont. M2R 1W6
Director: Andrew Levy
Tel: 416-636-1880, ext. 378
Fax: 416-636-5813
Children ages 2½-15. ½, ¾ and full day programs. Program includes daily instructional and recreational swim, sports, drama, nature, music, arts & crafts, Judaic programs, special events and much more. Specialty camps in sports, nature, the arts and leadership programs. Optional lunch program. Depot busing. OCA accredited.

CHILDREN'S THEATRE PROJECT
9737 Yonge St., Unit 102,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 1V7
Owners: Ann or Howard
Tel: 905-883-5853 Fax: 905-883-6906
Summer 2002: 4 2-week theatre arts sessions offering singing, dancing & acting, mask work, prop making, improvisation, scene study, set building, theatre games & more. Highly qualified & experienced teachers. Free performance every 2nd Thursday. Morning workshops & afternoon play rehearsals. Free camp t-shirt. Extended working hours for working parents.

COTTAGE REENA
Toby & Henry Batte Development Centre
927 Clark Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6
Contact: Ann Szabo
Tel: 905-889-2690, ext. 2112
Fax: 905-889-3827
Cottage Reena offers an exciting vacation option for teens and adults with developmental disabilities. It provides much needed respite for families. Cottagers spend 2 fun-filled weeks in the beautiful Georgian Bay district, participating in a variety of leisure/recreational activities, with a focus on building life and social skills.

CRESTWOOD VALLEY DAY CAMP
411 Lawrence Ave. E.,
Toronto, Ont. M3C 1N9
Director: Rochelle Wise
Tel: 416-444-9595 Fax: 416-444-2127
Offers a dynamic summer experience for children 2½-10 yrs., 4 heated pools provide for the best in Red Cross instructional swim. A full sports program includes archery, soccer. The baseball & basketball training options offer intensive daily instruction. Drama, dance, ceramics, nature and a petting farm are highlighted.

ELITE BASKETBALL CAMPS
Toronto, Willowdale and Newmarket sites
Director: Stephanie Splitter
Tel: 416-229-6760 Fax: 416-229-6316
Website: www.elitecamps.com
Elite Camps offers young athletes the opportunity to improve their basketball skills. Experienced instructors will lead campers through skill building sessions and competitive games. Elite Camps is accredited by the Ontario Basketball Association and offers March Break, Summer and Passover programs. Camps will be held at the BJCC and the Crescent School in Newmarket.

GREEN ACRES DAY CAMP
11123 Kennedy Rd.,
Markham, Ont. L6C 1P2
Directors: Eddy Bogomolny, Leon Hochglaube, Robyn Hochglaube
Tel: 905-887-1400
Fabulous country site in Markham includes 3 heated outdoor pools and an on-site waterslide park. Varied camp program offering sports, camp shows, overnight, riding, "hands-on" farm animal program, recording studio, baseball, karate, tennis, magic program, ropes course. Door-to-door transportation provided by the camp.

ISRAEL ALIYAH CENTER
Program Director: Iris Ashkenazy
Tel: 416-633-4766
KIBBUTZ PROGRAM CENTER
3995 Bathurst St., Ste. 300,
North York, Ont. M3H 5V3
Tel: 416-638-8824
Long and short term programs in Israel. An opportunity to combine a visit to Israel with the authentic experience of Israeli culture and way of life. Volunteering at Magen David Adom ambulance, professional internship programs, learning of Hebrew exploration tours throughout the country and more. Programs for young adults and families. Participants live, learn and work in a kibbutz in Israel. A chance to meet people from all over the world and together to experience the unique atmosphere of the kibbutz.

LUBAVITCH DAY CAMP
770 Chabad Gate,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 3V9
Director: Rabbi Mendel Bernstein
Tel: 905-731-7000 Fax: 905-731-7005
We cater to children from ages 2½-12. Our camp features trips, hot lunches, crafts, sports, door to door transportation, instructional swimming, a Torah atmosphere and a creative playground. We offer a large discount for registering before March 15th and a further discount for each additional child.

LYNRICH FINE ART STUDIO CAMP
73 Doncaster Ave.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 1L6
Director: Lynnie Rosenthal
Tel: 905-771-0411
Fax: 905-771-0412
Camp offers art instruction in drawing, claywork, cartooning, painting and specialty crafts. Skilled staff with arts backgrounds. All professional materials. Lunch once a week, swimming once a week. Weekly, bi-weekly, monthly or all summer (8 wks.). The end result ... fun, friends, learning technique and finished art pieces! Call for brochure today. Ages 7-16 yrs.

MARKY'S WAREHOUSE OUTLET
7171 Yonge St., (just north of Steeles)
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 2A9
Contact: Howard or Noel Esakov
Tel: 905-731-4433 Fax: 905-731-1356
Marky's - Your one stop camp shop. Everything you need for summer camp, from clothing to bedding, from laundry bags to flashlights. Friendly, helpful, knowledgeable staff. Camp name tags made while you wait.

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4300 Bathurst St.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3R4
Administrator: Helen Dodick
Tel: 416-638-6910
Menorah Nursery is a place where each child has an opportunity to learn through play with other children, with appropriate toys and materials, and where their mental, emotional, and physical growth is fostered. Choosing Menorah Nursery, assures you that we will provide a warm, stimulating and secure place for your child.

SUMMER CAMP AT MILES NADAL JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE
750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Children's Program Manager: Roona Maloney-Lee
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
E-mail:
roonamaloney@milesnadaljcc.ca
Here at the Nadal JCC we know there is nothing more important to you than your children! We completely agree! When we plan children's programs we remember that. We treat your children like they were our own. We know we are looking after the best the community has to offer.

NCSY CAMP CARAVAN WEST
7000 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7L1
Summer Program Director: Shoshana Weinberg
Tel: 905-761-6279, ext. 31
Fax: 905-761-9115

NCSY CAMP GUILA
7000 Bathurst St.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7L1
Camp Director: Mrs. Guila Woolf
Tel: 905-761-6279, ext. 29
Fax: 905-761-9115

PAR GOLF CAMPS
821 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M5N 1E6
Director: Joshua Cooper
Tel: 416-960-GOLF (4653)
Website: www.learngolf.com
As we enter our 10th summer of providing quality golf instruction at affordable prices, we are excited about the upcoming season. We offer 2 week sessions throughout the summer for boys/girls 7-18. Our door-to-door bus service runs throughout Toronto, Richmond Hill and Thornhill. We also offer weekend spring junior programs and adult camps. If you want to learn golf, this is the place!

ROBIN HOOD SPORTS ACADEMY
Tel: 416-736-4443 Fax: 416-736-9971
registration@camprh.com
Website: www.camprobinhood.ca
Our sports skills development program helps boys and girls improve abilities in baseball, tennis, soccer, basketball and golf. Players choose a sport in each clinic and spend each day learning every aspect of that sport. A daily swim rounds out the day. Door to door transportation makes our service fast, efficient and safe.

SCORE DAY CAMP
69 Brownstone Circle,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 7P8
Director: Jeff Krupski
Tel: 905-709-6383
or 416-636-1880, ext. 378
SCORE offers challenging, exciting and fun programs. Campers can participate in our general day camp program or join the specialty areas of sports, computers, science, art and drama. Unique ½ day and ¼ day pre-school camp also offered. 2 week sessions. Extended care available. Door to door transportation. LIT/CIT program.

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North York Civic Centre
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Toronto, Ont. M2N 5V7
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Website: www.city.toronto.on.ca
Consider our specialty camps, where young people hone their talents in everything from softball to dancing, computers to gymnastics. All of the camps are well-rounded, with skill development in a specialty complemented by a full line-up of traditional recreational activities. For an unforgettable experience call us today, see our ad on Page 6.

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143 Glenmanor Way,
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Director: Eric Shendelman
Tel: 905-763-7915 Fax: 905-763-7479
Website: www.come.to/shendys
If you are looking for experienced and well trained instructors, small classes and a friendly atmosphere, then Shendy's Swim School is for you. We provide programs in all Red Cross and Lifesaving levels. Shendy's Swim School is an 10-year commercial member of the Ontario Camping Association, and provides many leadership and recertification classes for camp staff.

U.A.H.C.'S CAMP YOSSI
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Willowdale, Ont. M2L 2K2
Contact: Jack Feldman
Tel: 905-762-1581 Fax: 905-762-1585
cmpgeorg@idirect.ca
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Markham, Ont. L3R 5G3
Tel: 905-946-1113
Camps in North York, Thornhill and Markham for children ages 6-12 years. Bus trips to places like Wild Water Kingdom, Ontario Place, etc. Swimming, sports, arts, science, computer. Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-6 p.m.

UNDISCOVERED WORLD - AUSTRALIA 2002
92 Charleswood Dr.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 1X6
Director: Brian Levy
Tel: 416-638-3039 Fax: 416-638-3039
The UnDiscovered World - Australia 2002 is a small-group adventure travel company specializing in "experiencing" the Land Down Under rather than just sightseeing. We offer an unparalleled experience for young adults (18-25) to push their sense of adventure to the limit in a safe and professionally guided atmosphere.

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1865 Leslie St., #218,
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Director: Fran Grundman
Tel: 416-447-3303 Fax: 416-447-3875
Website:
www.westcoastconnection.com
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Zodiac Family Centre,
385 John St., Unit 5,10,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 5W5
Directors: Rick & Ellen Howard
Tel: 905-709-8988 Fax: 905-709-3853
Website: www.zodiacswim.on.ca
Amazing half or full-day camp for 2½-5½ year olds. Daily swim instruction, sports, arts, indoor/outdoor play, plus more! Four 2 week sessions. Located at renovated Zodiac Family Centre (Bayview/Steeles) - year-round swim, recreation, birthday party, camp and indoor playground programs available. Terrific Zodiac Forest Hill Camp for 4-15 year olds.

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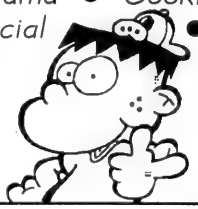

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- Buttonville Day Camp
  16th Ave & Woodbine
  Markham 905-946-1216
- Children's House Day Camp
  22 Church St N.
  Stouffville 905-640-2905
- Fenside Day Camp
  York Mills & Victoria Park.
  North York 416-444-2441
- Rockford Day Camp
  Bathurst & Steeles.
  North York 416-663-6286

- Rosedale North Day Camp
  Bathurst & Hwy 407.
  Thornhill 905-771-6820
- Shaughnessy Camp
  Don Mills & Sheppard.
  Don Mills 416-499-6500
- Stornoway Day Camp
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  Thornhill 905-707-6805
- Three Valleys Day Camp
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  Thornhill 905-709-2273

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Camp Katonim has 1-8 wk. sessions for children 3-14 years old. There is also a CIT program for 15 & 16 yr. olds. The staff is mature, experienced and energetic, dedicating themselves to ensure that your children have the best camping experience possible. For over 55 years, Camp Katonim has continued to provide the highest quality camping adventures and many wonderful lasting memories.

For more information call the Camp Director David Finkelstein: Toronto **416-410-9460**, Keswick **905-476-2121**. See our website at **www.katonim.com**

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In addition to junior camps, Par Golf hosts adult golf camps. One, two and three day golf camps are held throughout the golf season. On course instruction is a primary focus at all two and three day adult camps. Golfers learn in actual playing scenarios instead of just on a driving range.

NEW FOR 2002: Par Golf is now offering weekend junior programs beginning in May. Call us for more information.

For more information on any of our programs, please visit our website at www.learngolf.com or call us at telephone (416) 960-GOLF (4653).

PAR GOLF CAMPS

PAR GOLF CAMPS

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For more information please contact the Israel Program Center @ 416-638-8824 or e-mail at Israel_programs_ca@jazo.org.il

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The Jewish Agency for Israel

ISRAEL Aliyah CENTER

The Jewish Camp Council of Toronto

Camp Northland-B'nai Brith

3995 Bathurst St., Suite 200
Downsview, ON M3H 5V3
416-630-1180 • Fax : 416-630-8561

CAMP NORTHLAND - B'NAI BRITH

- a child's world
- a total living experience located on 750 acres in Haliburton, Ontario just 2 1/2 hours from the GTA
- a creative Jewish environment with Judaic and cultural arts programs
- offering swimming, sailing, waterskiing, canoeing, kayaking, windsurfing, tennis, basketball, landsports, drama, and dance, arts and crafts, adventure sports, tripping
- hottest new programs are mountain bikes and high ropes
- no peanuts or nuts of any kind allowed in camp
- camper registration and staff hiring now underway

ACT SOON AS SPACE IS VERY LIMITED IN MANY CATEGORIES!!

FRIENDS OF NBB

- alumni and others provide fundraising support for Camp Northland-B'nai Brith
- become a "Friend" and receive a tax-deductible receipt for your donation, be entitled to "Mini-Camp" August weekend and "Friends Day" exclusively for "Friends" and their families

VISIT OUR WEBSITE www.campnbb.com

All programs provide food service under the supervision of the Kashruth Council, Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto

Call now for more information regarding upcoming events and registration

UJA FEDERATION
No one gift changes more lives.

Hashomer Hatzair / Camp Shomria

Camp Shomria offers a dynamic and exciting summer camp experience for youths 7-16 from Canada, the U.S., and around the world. A variety of challenging sports, theme days, educational and cultural activities create an atmosphere designed to build life-long friendships. It's located on Otty Lake, a beautiful waterfront, ideal for a wide selection of fun-filled water activities.

Camp Shomria promotes deep love for Israel and the North American Jewish community. It's run by the Hashomer Hatzair Youth Movement, established over 80 yrs. ago, and is active within the Jewish community. There are weekly activities available throughout the school year in Toronto and a 6-day residential winter camp during December. A special one-week introductory camping experience is offered to campers in grades 2 and 3. Activities include dance, arts & crafts, a dynamic drama program, hikes, trips and a rope course (see directory). Grade 10 graduates participate in a leadership training program, "Yedid Plus", which includes an intensive 5 wk. itinerary in Israel.

Staff are dedicated and committed. Most were Shomria campers. Camp Shomria has a full-time registered nurse on site. Health and safety is our top priority. OCA standards of excellence are met and often exceeded. To learn more about Camp Shomria, please call Simon, Camp Director, Ora or Miriam at 416-736-1339.

SUMMER - up to 6 weeks available
Special one-week introductory camping experience is offered for campers in grades 2 and 3.

WINTER - 1 week

Camp Shomria

Contact Simon, Ora or Miriam at 416-736-1339

An OCA Accredited Camp established in 1946

CAMP GREEN ACRES

TORONTO'S COUNTRY DAY CAMP

- Fabulous country site in Markham Door to Door transportation provided
- Over 35 years of providing safe and enriching camp programs for children
- Ages 4 to 13 yrs.; CIT's 14 & 15yrs.
- Riding Instruction, Recording Studio, Campcraft, Karate, Rope Course, Photography, Pottery, Magic, Theatre, Woodworking, 3 Heated Pools, On site waterslide park
- Solid, successful Red Cross/Aqua Quest swim instruction program
- Sports, camp shows, overnights, "Hands On" farm animals program and lots of camp activities you won't find anywhere else.
- Special Jr. Camp Program for 4 to 6 yr. olds
- Sports Camps offered in Baseball, Soccer, Basketball, Tennis Volleyball and Golf.

PLUS, FOR KIDS WHO LOVE HORSES
CEDAR CREEK "RIDING DAY CAMP"

ALL-STAR Sports Camp

CALL (905) 887-1400 FOR A COLOURFUL BROCHURE
Visit us on the web: www.CampGreenAcres.com

OUR STAFF MAKES THE DIFFERENCE!
NOW INTERVIEWING FOR SUMMER CAMP STAFF POSITIONS

THE CHILDREN'S THEATRE PROJECT
9737 Yonge St., Unit #102, Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 1V7
HOWARD KANE: Producing Artistic Director
ANN TZEMBELICOS: General Manager/Administrator

REGISTRATIONS for Term II Drama Classes
*Classes start week of Feb. 11th - finish week of May 27th
*Small class size - professional theatre training

CREATIVE DRAMA: Saturday ages 3-5 yrs.
THEATRE PERFORMANCE CLASSES: Acting classes - *Grades 1-2, 3-4, 5-6*
ACTING FOR TEENS: *Thursday Grades 7-12*

We will once again be offering an extraordinary experience in the theatre arts for ages 6-15 in our:
*MARCH BREAK CAMP (March 11-15th) &
*4-2 week SESSIONS of SUMMER THEATRE ARTS
For more information and our brochure please call: 905-883-5853

Summer Camps

✓ Fun
✓ Memories
✓ Friends
✓ Exciting
✓ Adventurous
✓ Safe
✓ Qualified Staff

Registration begins:
March 19, at 7 am
Call 416-338-0000 (TTR)
or 416-338-4386 (assisted)
or check out *Toronto FUN* Spring/Summer 2002 coming in March
or visit www.city.toronto.on.ca/camps

TORONTO

NORTH DISTRICT SPECIALTY CAMPS

Camp NAORCA	416-395-6180
Oriole CC Computer Camp	416-395-7855
Extreme Water Works Aquatic Camp	416-395-7803
Sky High Basketball Camp	416-395-7840
Arts Discovery Camp at Edithvale CC	416-395-7828
Fine Arts Camp at McKee ES	416-395-0267
Fine Arts Camp at Humber Sheppard CC	416-395-6127
Goulding CC Sports Camp	416-395-7826
Mitchell Field CC Sporty Kids Camp	416-395-0263
Kinder-Gymnastics Camp	416-395-6016

Call the phone numbers listed above for more information.

CAMP YOSSI
Junior Day Camp
for ages 3-8
NOW UNDER THE
U.A.H.C. UMBRELLA!

CAMP YOSSI
A SPECIAL JUNIOR DAY CAMP NOW AFFILIATED WITH THE UNION OF AMERICAN HEBREW CONGREGATIONS
AT THE SAME WONDERFUL LOCATION WITH THE SAME CREATIVE AND NURTURING PROGRAMMING

- SPORTS
- SWIM INSTRUCTION
- FIELD TRIPS
- MUSIC
- BAKING
- JEWISH VALUES
- DRAMA
- SHABBAT
- CRAFTS
- NATURE
- HIKES
- SPLASH POOLS

STRESS-FREE FOCUS ON FUN AND THE RECREATIONAL AND SOCIALIZATION NEEDS OF THE JUNIOR CAMPER 3-8 YEARS OF AGE.
REGISTER NOW!
905-762-1581
(1/2 DAY AVAILABLE FOR 3-YEAR OLD CAMPERS)

CAMP RAMAH מחנה רמה
AND THE BUSH WAS NOT CONSUMED

CAMP RAMAH IN CANADA
The Max and Beatrice Wolfe Campus

SPACE AVAILABLE FOR 2002!!!

Outstanding waterfront program, athletics, mature trained staff, Kosher, cultural activities, Hebrew language milieu, drama, music, arts & crafts, ceramics & photography,

2 one-month sessions: June 26 - July 21; July 23 - August 19 or
Full season: June 26 - August 19, 2002

We have increased our capacity to meet the growing demand, and there is limited space available in the following age groups:

Boys	Girls
Current Grades 4, 5, 6, 7, 9 & 10 (full season only)	Current Grades 4, 5, 8 & 9 (full season only)

Staff positions available include:
Counsellors, Waterfront specialists, Trippers, Judaica teachers, Dance specialists, Rock climbing specialists

Ramah Family Camp, Wed., August 21-Sun., August 25, 2002: where parents and children share the Ramah experience

For further information on all camp programs contact:
Camp Ramah in Canada, 491 Lawrence Ave. W. Suite 400
Toronto, ON M5M 1C7
416-789-2193 Fax: 416-789-3970
Email: info@campramah.com
Ramah - The Camping Arm of the Conservative Movement

Camp Shalom - 54 and going strong

Camp Shalom is getting ready to celebrate its 54th year in the upcoming 2002 camping season. Located on beautiful Lake Muskoka, the camp has established itself as an exceptional Zionist Jewish camp for boys and girls aged 8-13 in the Gravenhurst area of Ontario.

Shalom campers experience the joys of a terrific summer vacation, under the care of a well-trained staff, with a better-than-3:1 camper-to-staff ratio. As a not-for profit camp affiliated with Canadian Young Judaea and accredited by the OCA, Camp Shalom imbues its campers with a sense of Jewish history, cultural values and the centrality of Israel in Jewish life. The Camp Shalom ethic promotes the ideals of mutual respect, sharing and fair play in interpersonal relationships.

Camp Shalom features an individualized program wherein each child is free to choose from over 25 daily activities including canoe, sailing, ropes, baseball, basketball, tennis, inter-camp sports, archery, self-defense, gymnastics, dance, fitness, beach volleyball, mini-golf, daily instructional swim, waterskiing, kayaking, drama, arts & crafts, photography, expanded tripping program, nature, scouting, music, camp newspaper, sports house leagues, rock climbing, media program, golf activities and more. The media group updates the Camp Shalom website daily.

The Camp Shalom staff is looking forward to the upcoming summer and the privilege of sharing another wonderful season with so many fortunate campers. Come join our family!

Visit our website
www.campshalom.ca

- A premier residential camp on beautiful Lake Muskoka for 8-13 year old boys and girls
- Jewish history/culture/Zionism
- Highest standards of programming and staffing
- Full land sports, tennis, waterskiing, sailing, canoeing, fitness, ropes course, arts & crafts, drama, media, archery, photography, self-defence, guitar, music, tripping and much more!
- Glatt Kosher kitchen
- Peanut-free camp

SOLD OUT FOR 2002!
Accepting names for our 2003 mailing list.

For further information call
(416) 783-6744

Camp Moshava Canada – Camping above all the rest!

Camp Moshava Canada, the only Orthodox, Zionist, B'nei Akiva camp in Canada, is situated on 250 acres of beachfront property in the beautiful Kawartha Lakes region.

This year we are forging ahead with major renovations to several buildings in the camp and expect to begin building our new infirmary as well. Look for major upgrades to the serving areas in our expanded kitchen/dining hall facility, as well as notable improvements to several areas of the grounds.

In recent years, Camp Moshava Canada has established a reputation for serving fine food. Our 2nd service salad bar is extremely popular with the campers. No matter one's requirements, all campers' dietary needs are met.

Moshava has a Beit Midrash and an outdoor Beit Knesset, an unparalleled indoor Recreation Centre featuring regulation size basketball, volleyball and floor hockey courts as well as an indoor/outdoor stage. The camp boasts an extensive high ropes course, rock climbing wall, biking, and a ball hockey rink.

Moshava has a 2-week "splash of camp" program designed for grade 2 graduates. The camp's regularly scheduled days include instructional swimming in an outdoor heated pool, canoeing, water-skiing, a full sports program, thematic arts & crafts and drama. Special days include colour war, sports day, canoe trips, overnights, hiking, nature trips and fishing.

What makes Camp Moshava unique goes far beyond facilities, events and personalities. The atmosphere that exists amongst staff and campers is truly a special one. Only those who have actually encountered a Shabbat at Camp Moshava Canada can truly appreciate what the experience is like! Camp Moshava is not just a summer camp experience, it's an experience of a lifetime!

COR

CAMP MOSHAVA IS ONCE AGAIN "SOLD OUT" FOR THE 2002 SEASON!! THANKS TO THE COMMUNITY FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT!!

CAMP MOSHAVA

STAFF WANTED!!

To apply call Shimmy Wenner - Camp Director at 416-630-7578 or e-mail: shimmy@campmoshava.org

New Staff members can now apply online at: www.campmoshava.org

There is only one Camp Moshava Canada!

AUSTRALIA ADVENTURE SUMMER 2002

WANTED:

18-25 year olds yearning to sharpen their adventurous spirit by exploring the Land Down Under

QUALIFICATIONS:

Must want to spend your summer:

- **Scuba diving on the Great Barrier Reef**
- **Sea Kayaking to Uninhabited Islands**
- **Jungle Trekking in the world's oldest Rainforest**
- **Exploring the Outback on a 4X4 Safari**
- **Discovering the beautiful city of Sydney**
- **Taking a thrilling side trip to Japan**

For more information on the most exciting summer of your life please contact:

The Uncovered World

...because travel is an adventure, not a spectator sport...

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"THE ART OF AQUATICS"

DIVE INTO WATER SAFETY "HEAD FIRST"

Since 1992, Shendy's Swim School has provided quality aquatic instruction for children, from infants to adults. All of our instructors are qualified to teach Red Cross and Lifesaving levels and provide a fun and supportive learning environment for each student.

Eric Shendelman B. Ed. Director

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- Bronze Medallion
- Bronze Cross
- Instructors
- National Lifeguard
- Aquatic Emergency Care

Red Cross Programs

- Aqua-Leaders
- Instructors
- C.P.R.
- Re-certification Courses

B.O.A.T. COURSE Boat Operator's Accredited Training

CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

CALL TODAY!

Tel: 905-763-7915

Affiliated With The Canadian Red Cross LIFESAVING SOCIETY The Lifesaving Experts

AQUATIC TRAINING WITH PROVEN RESULTS

BloorJCC The Place To Be

Coming soon to the Miles Nadal JCC

SUMMER 2002

We offer an amazingly wide variety of camps, programs and swimming lessons during the summer - we hope yhou can join us for some FUN!!

CREATING TOGETHER - For 15 months to 3 years

MINI ME DAY CAMP - For 3 and 4 year olds - 9:00-12:30

CITY ISLAND ADVENTURE CAMP - For 5 to 7 year olds · 8 to 10 year olds 8:30-4:00 daily

NEW THIS SUMMER

THE BEST OF ALL POSSIBLE WORLDS!!

Where else but at the JCC could Kids spend half the day doing arts and crafts, science and nature activities, music and drama and the other half doing outdoor activities on the Island. For 5 to 7 and 8 to 10 year olds, alternate times on the island and at JCC.

CAMPS FOR PRETEENS - For 11 & 12 year olds

COOKING, POTTERY, ART, KARATE, COMPUTER, SCUBA, DRAMA - These are just some of the possibilities

SUMMER SWIM LESSONS - Aqua Quest and leadership programs for ages 6 months to 17 years

COUNSELLOR IN TRAINING PROGRAMS - For 13 to 15 year olds

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT US AT

www.bloorjcc.on.ca

Email: roonamaloney@milesnadaljcc.ca

416-924-6211

United Way

CRESTWOOD VALLEY DAY CAMP

In the fabulous wooded valley at Lawrence and Bayview

- Superior camp experience
- Warm caring qualified staff
- For ages 2½ - 10
- 1/2, 3/4 or full days
- Advanced programming for 7-10 year olds
- Door to door transportation
- Wholesome lunches and snacks provided
- Four heated pools • Red Cross Instruction
- Land Sports • Archery • Soccer Leagues
- Fine Arts • Nature Farm • Computers
- 4 day overnight camp experience

BASEBALL TRAINING CAMP
BASKETBALL CAMP
MUSICAL THEATRE

Rochelle Wise - *Director*

416-444-9595

www.crestwoodcamp.com

CAMP LAKELAND
A Jewish Camping Experience

92 YEARS... AND STILL GOING STRONG!

WATERFRONT
- Waterskiing
- Sailing
- Windsurfing
- Canoeing
- Kayaking
- Fishing
- Log Rolling
- Heated Swimming Pool

OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
- High Ropes
- Climbing Tower
- Low Ropes
- Horseback Riding
- Nature
- Camp Craft
- Hiking
- Go-Kart Track

ATHLETICS
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- Baseball
- Football
- Basketball
- Beach Volleyball
- Floor Hockey
- Tetherball
- Mountain Biking
- Tennis

JEWISH CULTURAL ARTS
- Shabbat Services
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- Israeli Dancing

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- Theater
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- Musical Reviews
- Talent Shows

CREATIVE ARTS
- Arts & Crafts
- Pottery
- Digital Photography
- Jewelry Making

www.camplakeland.com

Open to Campers Entering Grade 3-11

E-mail: summer@camplakeland.com
716-688-4033 ext. 336
Operated by the
Jewish Community Center of Greater Buffalo
2640 North Forest Rd., Getzville, NY 14068

www.camplakeland.com

SCORE DAY CAMP

Exciting co-ed programs for ages 2 1/2 to 13,
LIT and CIT Programs
Pick the Specialty Camp that you want from
Sports, Computers, Science, Music/Drama or Art
General Day Camp also offered
Half-day and three-quarter day Pre-school Camp

Fabulous outdoor/indoor facilities at our new location!
2999 Dufferin Street, just south of Lawrence Avenue

Don't let your child miss out on this **Fun-ominal** Day Camp experience
Join us for our 5th wonderful summer!!

Counsellor and specialist positions still available.

Jeff Krupski, Camp Director
905-709-6383

CENTAURI SUMMER ARTS CAMP

AN OVERNIGHT CAMP SPECIALISING IN ARTS TRAINING FOR BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 9 - 18

Join us for the artistic summer of your life! Centauri is a unique community where specialist arts programs combine with the excitement of overnight camp.

Choose one specialist program from:
Theatre, Dance (Ballet, Jazz, Hip Hop), Creative Writing, Stage Combat, Directing & Design, Fine Art, Film, Shakespeare in Performance, Musical Theatre, Vocal, Comedy Improv, Song Writing and MORE!.

- Located in the Niagara Area
- Sessions from 10 days to 7 weeks
- Recreational Sports
- High staff ratio.
- Professional arts faculty
- LIT Program

*Accredited Member of the Ontario Camping Association.

Theatre Film Creative Writing Ballet, Hip Hop Fine Art Stage Combat Musical Theatre International Tours

Call (416) 766 7124 www.centauri.on.ca

Another exciting year at Camp B'nai Brith Ottawa

Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa is a privately owned overnight camp located in the foothills of the Gatineaus, 45 minutes outside of Ottawa. We have a long and successful camping history of well over 60 years. Our camp prides itself in welcoming children from all over the world. Although we are a private Ottawa camp we treasure our many campers from Montreal, Toronto, New York, Florida, Israel and even the Caribbean.

Camp B'nai Brith has a varied program to stimulate children with many different interests. We offer an extensive number of different programs such as drama, arts & crafts, dance, tennis, basketball, miniature golf, all camp programs (Grey Cup/Super Bowl, World Cup, Colour War, etc.) and tremendous camp spirit. Our waterfront overlooking the Ottawa River has a sandy beach which is home to our vast watersports. They include waterskiing, windsurfing, knee-boarding, kayaking, canoeing, sailing and a Catamaran. Our Olympic size pool allows campers to enjoy swimming away from the hub of activities at the beach. Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa is very proud of our extremely successful Red Cross aquaquest program which offers all levels of instruction up to and including Bronze Cross.

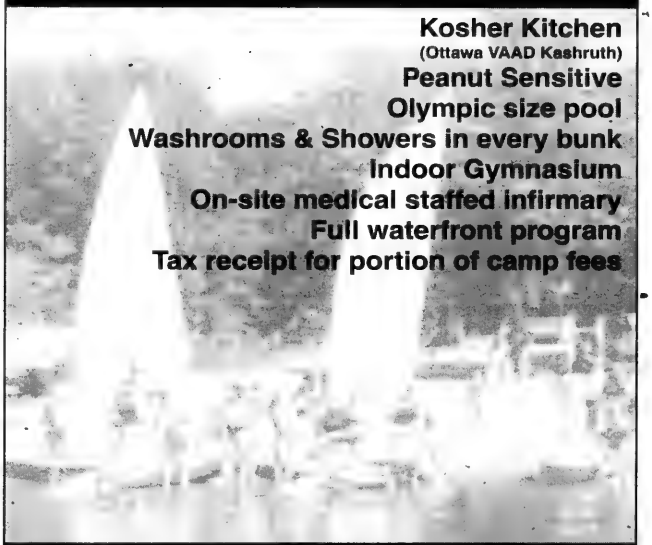
Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa offers a kosher kitchen (Ottawa VAAD Kashruth) and is also a PEANUT SENSITIVE camp. In addition, we offer a Judaica program which is fun but yet traditional. This includes weekly Shabbat services. We also have an indoor gym, dance studio,recreation hall and an on-site infirmary which has a fully qualified medical staff.

One area we are most sensitive to is the anxiety of our younger campers coming to camp for the first time. To ease this situation we have instituted 2 very successful programs. Firstly, we offer our 2 wk. starter camp for new C.B.B. campers aged 7-10. The other is our Big Brother/Big Sister program which pairs younger campers with older campers prior to and during camp to help campers feel more at ease.

If you are interested in giving your child an active, stimulating and exciting summer camp experience, then Camp B'nai Brith of Ottawa is the place to be. For more information please call Morley Mason at (613) 228-8495.

CAMP B'NAI BRITH of OTTAWA

Privately owned camp for over 60 years



Kosher Kitchen
(Ottawa VAAD Kashruth)
Peanut Sensitive
Olympic size pool
Washrooms & Showers in every bunk
Indoor Gymnasium
On-site medical staffed infirmary
Full waterfront program
Tax receipt for portion of camp fees

Camp Director
Morley Mason
Tel: 613.228.8495
Fax: 613.228.8496

In Toronto,
call: Birdie Escoe,
Tel: 416.669.6148
www.sagin.com/cbb

Lynrich Arts - Fine Art Studio Camp

Camp Lynrich has been a Toronto area art supplier and educator for 24 years. For ten years, they've been running their popular Fine Arts Studio Camp for children aged seven to 16.

If your kids show artistic talent, send them to Camp Lynrich. They'll learn techniques, enhance their self- esteem, and push their creative abilities to the max. They can create a portfolio, wonderful gifts, or pieces for friends and family to enjoy.

Lynrich campers learn to sketch and draw, including cartooning, pastel, charcoal work and may also do some claymation.

Camp Lynrich teaches landscape painting (including fun tricks for making clouds and trees), and how to draw the human figure. Watercolour techniques include wet on wet, washes and dry brush. Colour mixing is taught too, as are oils and acrylics.

Campers learn to carve, create clay figures and animal sculptures, make vases, pinch pots and busts. Other crafts include paper making, papier mache, stained glass, bisque and boondoggle.

Camp Lynrich provides the best materials. The talented, experienced teachers are strong both in the arts and sociology and psychology, and enjoy working with kids.

You can choose from weekly, bi- weekly, monthly or all- summer sessions, and the new week- long cottager special. Hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pizza lunch is supplied Thursdays; kids bring their own other days.

For busy parents who need to drop their kids off before work and pick them up after, there's a Breakfast Club from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. An additional weekly fee applies.

You can write Lynrich Arts: 73 Doncaster Ave., Thornhill ON L3T 1L6. Register before March 1st and get 10% off with this ad.

LYNRICH ARTS
Fine Art Studio Camp
10% OFF with this ad
Celebrating 24 years in the Fine Arts Business
AGES 7-16
ROTATIONS IN:
WATERCOLOUR
CARTOON & ANIMATION
CLAY & CERAMICS
SWIMMING OPTION WEEKLY
DRAWING & PAINTING
OUTDOOR SKETCHING
BREAKFAST CLUB
PIZZA THURSDAYS
USE YOUR SUMMER TO EXPAND YOUR PORTFOLIO
CALL FOR YOUR BROCHURE TODAY
REGISTERING NOW!
Portfolio preparation for school entrance available at camp
LYNRICH ARTS
73 DONCASTER AVE., THORNHILL
905-771-0411

Challenge yourself in our unique Adventure and Sports Program for high school girls
July 30th-August 25th
Contact Guila Woolf
905-761-6279 x 29
guila@ncsy.ca
www.campguila.com
Design by Yitz Woolf 416-894-2446
NCSY
CAMP GUILA SUMMER 2002
the adventure starts here!

TAKE 7% OFF ALL TOURS CALL NOW!
WESTCOAST CONNECTION
CANADA • USA • EUROPE • ISRAEL
Our 20th Anniversary!!
• ACTIVE TEEN TOURS • OUTDOOR ADVENTURES • TENNIS/GOLF •
For Ages 13-17 / 17-20
OUR SUMMER 2002 AMAZING TOURS OF:
• WESTERN CANADA (Alberta, British Columbia)
• WESTCOAST USA (California)
• EASTCOAST USA (Washington, Boston)
• EUROPEAN DISCOVERY
• AUSTRALIA & HAWAII
The Summer of a Lifetime!
Call us for our Summer 2002 Brochures
In Toronto: 416-447-3303 In Montreal: 514-488-8920
Check us out on the web: www.westcoastconnection.com

Camp George a Success Phenomenon —and Growing!

You're in good company if you plan to send your child this summer to Camp George — Reform Judaism's first Canadian camp.

From the time it opened in '99, Camp George has been an instant success, offering many children their first chance to develop a day-by-day awareness of Judaism they may have previously experienced only at home or synagogue. The camp, in fact, is almost fully booked already for the coming summer, with waiting lists for some age groups in some sessions.

Situated on a magnificently wooded lakefront setting 2-1/2 hours from Toronto, the camp is designed to help youngsters 8 to 16 years old develop their physical, social and personal skills —all in a supportive, non-competitive and fun environment. Every child's self-image and Jewish identity is also enhanced by being part of a community that includes Rabbis, Rabbinic students, educators and mature youngsters who have chosen to spend their summer working at Camp George.

Every parent can appreciate how important it is to choose the right summer camp for their child. So although Camp George already offers youngsters tennis, volleyball, basketball and multi-purpose courts plus all the boating, water skiing, arts and crafts, camp-outs and indoor/outdoor games children have come to expect from a summer camp, emphasis during the winter has been placed on expansion, adding new cabins and resources to accommodate mushrooming camp enrollment and off-season bookings.

Camp Director Jack Feldman who, besides a Master's Degree in social work, brings to Camp George a wealth of experience drawn from camps in the U.S. and Canada, is urging families to avoid disappointment and get their enrollment applications in as soon as possible for the remaining vacancies.

Families who want additional information or registration forms can contact Camp George at 905-762-1581.

More information and literature is also available from the Rabbi, Educator or President of any Reform synagogue in Canada.

Our camp's reputation is growing!
But space is shrinking – so enroll your child *now!*
There's already a waiting list for some age groups!
Word's getting around about this world class lakefront camp with programs to build young Jewish values. And this summer will be even better, with more cabins, more activities, more Judaic crafts. But you should call now! Some age groups in some sessions are already sold out!
UAHC
CAMP GEORGE
Everything you expect from a summer camp... and more!
Call NOW... while there are still openings!
(905) 762-1581

Lubavitch Day Camp

It is our belief that a camp should do a lot more than just provide fun and games. A Jewish camp should be a place where children can also experience the richness, excitement and warmth of Judaism in a truly enjoyable and unforgettable atmosphere!

We provide hot lunches, door to door transportation, instructional and recreational swimming, a warm Jewish atmosphere, creative playground, arts & crafts, dance, martial arts, sports and much more, for children 2 1/2—12.

The daily schedule runs from 9 a.m.—4 p.m. Monday—Friday, for children ages 5 1/2—12, for 3—5 1/2 year olds the camp day is from 10 a.m.—3 p.m. and our morning program for 2 1/2—3 1/2 year olds runs from 10 a.m.—1 p.m.

We offer large discounts for registration before March 15th and a discount for each additional child.

To receive more information or to register please contact our camp director Rabbi Mendel Bernstein at **905-731-7000** or 770 Chabad Gate, Thornhill, Ont. L4J 3V9.

Camp Eden, for art and sport

Would you like to give your child a chance to develop the ability to draw, paint or sculpt -- and spend more time outdoors in the good weather, away from computers and TV? If so, get in touch with Lior Gluzberg of Camp Eden.

Camp Eden is an art-based camp. It grew out of the Klim School of Art, which has taught art to children in Thornhill for eight years.

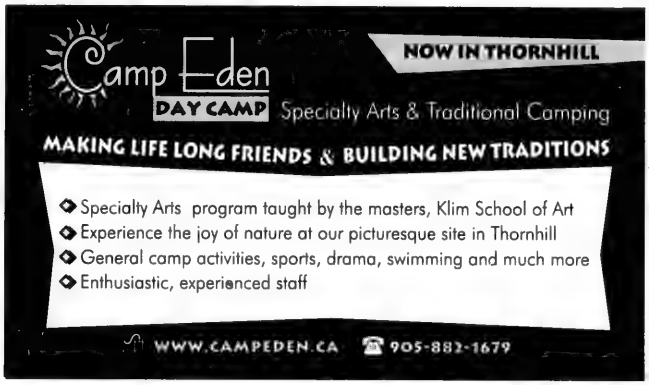
Your kids can register in the art or sport section. The art section does include sports, and lots of time outside enjoying nature. Aspects of art such as drawing from nature get the kids outdoors, too.

Camp Eden has the best quality of experienced staff. Along with physical wellbeing, enjoyment of nature, and arts learning, social skills are emphasized. Games, for example, emphasize co-operation and teamwork.

To be closer to campers' homes, Camp Eden has moved from the Credit River area to a new site near Bathurst and Highway 7. This location has 30 acres' expanse of green, well-treed land, as well as excellent indoor facilities.

Registration is now underway; call Lior Gluzberg at 905-882-1679. Busing service is available.

Something Magical Happens Every Summer at...
NEW!!! Downtown Branch
LUBAVITCH DAY CAMP
(905)731-7000
Register before March 15th for early bird discount!


Camp Eden
DAY CAMP
Specialty Arts & Traditional Camping
NOW IN THORNHILL
MAKING LIFE LONG FRIENDS & BUILDING NEW TRADITIONS
Specialty Arts program taught by the masters, Klim School of Art
Experience the joy of nature at our picturesque site in Thornhill
General camp activities, sports, drama, swimming and much more
Enthusiastic, experienced staff
WWW.CAMPEDEN.CA
905-882-1679

EXCITING SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT REENA

Cottage Reena 2002

Reena is once again sponsoring a Summer Cottage program during the months of July and August, for teens (over 16) and adults with a developmental disability.

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Tory leadership vote set for Shabbat

Continued from page 3

He said he won't be voting on March 23, "and that puts a bitter taste in my mouth."

In an interview, party president Devlin defended the way the voting is being handled as "the most open process of any party."

While there will be no advance voting, "we have a proxy vote," he said, adding that Jews could conceivably cast ballots after the Sabbath ends March 23 at 7:15 p.m. "If it's seven o'clock and it looks as though there's going to be one more ballot, we'll do it," said Devlin, who is Jewish.

Devlin sidestepped a question on how the party's executive voted on allowing advance polls, saying only that "we had lots of discussion."

But Gilboord said he has it on good authority that the executive voted 12-9 not to allow advance voting. The executive, he said, "blew it."

He said he addressed the party's rules committee about this in December, and that the party was aware of a problem long before that. "No one can say they missed this."

Jules Kronis, a longtime Tory insider who is Jewish, criticized his party's rules as "flawed" – especially since the proxy vote is not preferential. That means a party member cannot cast ballots for more than one contender, rendering their choice meaningless should that candidate lose on the first ballot. "They've got to change the [party's] constitution," he said. Kronis said he won't be voting either.

Georgeanne Burke, a founder of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools and a member of the Thornhill PC riding executive, said she's "quite unhappy" with the situation.

"On the one hand, the party does want to open up, but it's difficult for them to pull it off on this occasion. I'm upset they couldn't find a way to do this."

Burke said her displeasure was fired up even more when she discovered that one of the four days on which a voter must apply for a proxy is a Saturday.

Party insiders say the candidate with most to lose without the Jewish vote is Jim Flaherty, who, of the five hopefuls, has most fulsomely praised the education tax credit.

Flaherty has said he supports the credit with no strings attached. Last month, he was quoted as saying his party has not made the necessary provisions for those who observe Saturday as their day of religious observance.

Asked whether the party executive's decision not to hold advance polls was a political one designed to hurt Flaherty, Gilboord said, "it was 100 per cent politics. It was not bureaucratic stumbling. It was politics, pure and simple.

"Either they're stacked against Flaherty, or they're heartless, or incompetent, or they made a mistake and won't admit it."

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All entries received by 3 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2002 are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected at The CJN offices on Monday, March 18, at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. The Canadian Jewish News will not enter into any correspondence with contestants. **One entry per person.**

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

ייִדישער הומאָר און פֿאָלקלאָר

פֿון נחום סומער (רעפֿערענט פֿון ייִוואָ)

דער ייִדישער הומאָר פֿארצעמט אַ גאָר באַבחדיק אָרט צווישן די פֿאָלקלאָר־ און הומאָר־שאַפֿונגען פֿון אַלע פֿעלקער. אין משך פֿון די טויזנטער יאָרן פֿון אונדזער גע־ שיכטע, וואָס איז דורכגעוואָבן מיט אַזוי פֿיל טראַגישע דערפֿאָרונגען, האָבן מיר באַוויזן צו שאַפֿן אַ פֿילפֿאַרביקן און שאַרפֿזיניקן הומאָר. אין דעם ווירן און צווייפֿלטיקן וואָרט, אין דעם משל און אין פֿיל־מיינעדיקן אַנעקדאָט, און אין דעם ווערטער־שפּיל, וואָס אונדזער פֿאָלק האָט געשפּיגט און געוואָבט אין משך פֿון יאָרהונדערטער, שטעקט אַ טיפֿזיניקער קוק אויף מענטש און וועלט. אין דעם טראַניקאַמיזם פֿון אונדזערע „כעלעמער חכמים", פֿון הערשעלע אָסטראָפּאָלער, פֿון די מאָטקע כאַבאַדס און די אַנדערע לצים איז פֿאַראַן אַ פֿראָטעסט קעגן די האַנדלונגען און פּידונגען פֿון דער וועלט.

כעלעם איך אונדזער וועלט אין, פֿארשטייט איר דאָך, נאָר בלויז אַ סימבאָל. כעלעם האָט געהאַט וווּלע האָר־ ציקע ייִדן, ווי אָלע אַנדערע שטעט און שטעטלעך. נאָר כעלעם, מיינע פֿרייַנד, איז אייגנטלעך נישט כעלעם. כעלעם איז די וועלט...

דער ייִדישער הומאָר איז אַ גאַנץ אייגנאַרטיקער, נישט געקוקט אויף דעם, וואָס ייִדן האָבן געוווינט צווישן אַנדערע פֿעלקער אין זייערן אין אַ סך היסטאָריסן באַציִע־ פֿלוסט געוואָרן פֿון די נישט־ייִדישע שכנים. דאָך איז דער ייִדישער הומאָר אַנדערש ווי דער, וואָס מען קען געפֿינען בי אַנדערע. דער ייִדישער הומאָר האָט זייַן אייגענעם טעם; איז אַנדערש צוגעווירצט; האָט זייַן אייגענעם „זאָלץ און פּעפּער", זייַן אייגענעם ניגון. אַ ייִדישן ווירן דאַרף מען קענען דערציילן מיט דעם פּאַסיקן ניגון, ווי דאָס פֿאָלק האָט עס דערציילט.

היסטאָריקער ווילן האָבן, אַז מחמת צוליב דעם וואָס ייִדן האָבן אין אַלע צייטן שטאַרק געליטן, האָט זיך ביים פֿאָלק נעשאַפֿן אַ ליכטיקער, פֿילפֿאַרביקער הומאָר, כדי דורך געלעכטער גיסטיק זיך צו ראַטעווען. „דאָקטוירים היילן לאָכן", האָט ערגעץ געשריבן דער מייסטער פֿון ייִדישן הומאָר, שלום עליכם. דער ייִד האָט זיך אין ס'דוב כדי אָפּצושרייַן אַ צרה, איבערצוקומען אַ גזירה. ייִדן האָבן דורך הומאָר אָפּגעלאָכט פֿון זיך אַליין. אין ייִדישן הומאָר שפּילט דער „קרומער שפּיגל" אַ גרויסע ראָלע.

די אינערלעכע ערנסטע באַציִונג צו מענטשן, צו זאָכן און פֿאַסיזונגען דאַרף זיין דער אמתער זיך פֿון הומאָר. מען דאַרף געדענקען, אַז עס איז אַ גרויסער אונטערשייד צווישן אַ וויצעלע, אַ חכמהלע, און טיפֿן שארפֿזיניק. אַזוי איז עס מיט דעם פֿאָלקס הומאָר, וואָס גייט פֿון מויל צו מויל, און אַזוי איז עס מיטן געשריבענעם קינסטלעריש־ן הומאָר. שלעכט איז ווען דער ייִדישער הומאָר ווערט דערנידעריקט צו שאָנד־אוֹן־שוּנד ווירן, וואָס מען הערט אויף פֿאַרשידענע פֿאַרווייַלונגס פֿראַגאַמען איך אַ סך זומער אין ווינטער האָטעלן. ווירן איך העכערן זיך מייַנט נישט קיין בילליקער בורלעסק...

אָחוץ דעם זיינען איך אונדזער פֿאָלקס הומאָר פֿאַראַן ווירן אין אַנעקדאָטן, וואָס זיינען געבליבן אויף דעם טיטל פֿון אַ פּסוק אין חומש אָדער איך מדרש. פֿאַראַן ווירן, וואָס שטאַמען פֿון חדר, פֿון דער ישיבה, פֿון בא־ רימטע רבנים אין תורה למדנים. די דאָזיקע זיינען באמת ארגינעלע ייִדישע. מעשהלעך האָבן זיך דערציילט חס־ דים אין מחנגדים. ווירן האָבן אויך דערציילט משכּילים אין אַפּיקורסים. אָפילו די פֿארשידענע פֿאַרטיַיטן, וואָס זיינען אויפֿגעקומען אויף דער ייִדישער גאַס, האָבן זיך באַצויגט מיטן ריכטן ייִדישן הומאָר.

די ביסיקע אידאַניע מיט וועלכער עס שפּרודלט דאָס ייִדישע גיליטערטע קען נאָר קומען פֿון ייִדישן האָרץ אין נישט פֿון די מעכטיקע אין דער וועלט. איז דער ייִדישער הומאָר געוואָרן אויסן פֿון דעם געוויר אין קאָמף פֿאַרן ייִדישן קיום, פֿאַר דער עקסיסטענץ פֿון אונ־ דזער פֿאָלק. ייִדישער הומאָר האָט נאָך אַ געוואַלדיקן בא־ סיס אין אונדזערע אייגענע טעג.

Israel's president to visit Canada for CIC dinner

Relations between two countries still considered strong, says ambassador

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Relations between Canada and Israel are still considered to be very strong, despite occasional disagreements, says Haim Divon, Israel's ambassador to Canada.

"We look at Canada as one of our closest friends. We have an ongoing, intensive and intimate dialogue with the government of Canada on various issues," he said in a recent interview.

Divon spoke of the plans under way for Israeli President Moshe Katsav's three-day state visit to Canada in early March as the guest of Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. Katsav will meet with parliamentarians and the media, and is scheduled to be the guest of honour at the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) parliamentary dinner on March 6.

"We are looking forward to having him here," Divon said. "The program being prepared by the government of Canada is a very good one. This visit will be another unique milestone and a good opportunity to review Canada-Israel relations and to speak about the peace process."

The two countries have "excellent collaboration in many fields, from jurisprudence to cultural and academic relations," Divon said. "Canada was very instrumental in the efforts vis-à-vis the Iranian Jews who were detained. Even on the multilateral front, which is of great concern to many members of the Jewish community, Canada is second to the United States in terms of being on our side in international forums.

Ambassador Divon

"It doesn't mean that there are not disappointments, but there are some issues on which everyone disappoints us, including the U.S."

Examples he cited as areas of co-operation included the annual visits of Canadian parliamentarians to Israel sponsored by the CIC; the free trade agreement signed in 1997, which has resulted in the volume of trade being doubled; and the Canada-Israel Industrial Research and Development Foundation (CIIRDF), founded in 1993, which reflects the increasing role played by scientific research in both countries.

A number of joint projects are being explored and implemented, with CIIRDF being extremely active on this front, Divon said, and the two countries are continuing to develop new projects involving exchanges of scholars, students and musicians.

"The nature of the relations between the two countries indicates that we have reached new heights. This doesn't mean that everything is perfect, or that there are no other issues, but we have to continue to educate the Canadian public about issues pertaining to the Arab-Israeli conflict in general and this intifadah in particular."

The failure of the Oslo peace process and the subsequent increase in terrorist attacks in Israel is extremely frustrating and distressing to all Israelis, Divon said. Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's continued practice of saying one thing and doing another is now being recognized by Israel's allies as his unwillingness to find a peaceful solution to the conflict.

"We are at a tragic impasse," Divon said. "The international community, including Canada, has recognized Israel's right to self-defence. If we have the right, we have no other choice but to exercise the right; it is a question of action and reaction... We count on our friends – Canada, the U.S. and others – to make it very clear to Arafat that this intifadah leads him nowhere."

Divon implores the Canadian Jewish community to maintain and strengthen its loyalty and ties to Israel, to stand firm as it struggles in the quest for peace.

"Now, more than ever, we would like to see an end to the tragic events, but in order to be able to be strong during these very difficult days, in order to be able to endure, we count on our brethren – all the Jewish communities, but particularly the one in Canada which is outstanding in its commitment and support to the people of the State of Israel," Divon said.

"Knowing that we are not alone, knowing that we can count on each and every member is a source of inspiration, and in the difficult days ahead, when we will need all the energy we have in order to fight terrorism, which will enable us to hopefully rekindle the peace process, we need the Jewish community beside us."

Divon urges all Canadian Jews to visit Israel – as tourists, to attend professional conferences, to do business – in order to help the economy and boost the morale of the people.

"Without a strong economy, it will be difficult for us to stand against the political pressures which are part of this process.

"We have faced difficult periods but, as in the past, together we will overcome."

Advertisement

Stavros elevates bespoke tailoring to an art form

Architecturally, Stavros Sartoriale on Cumberland St. is a marriage of warmth and elegance. Lofty ceilings, expansive display windows and a floor of fine-veined cream-coloured marble create spaciousness and light. Rich rosewood shelves brim with bolts of fine fabric.

Recently remodelled, Stavros Sartoriale embodies a conscious choice to bring tried and proven craft traditions into the third millennium. Like a fine suit, this store is tailor-made.

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When Stavros first opened his doors in Canada, 40 years ago, there were hundreds of bespoke tailors. Today, he's the last of his kind in Canada; but he's mentoring successors to continue the tradition.

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Stavros tuxedos are crafted from the traditional mohair. It's light in weight, but

firm and lustrous, and doesn't wrinkle easily; this makes for a better appearance with less ironing and cleaning, hence less strain and longer wear.

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Krames marks 25 years aiding Hamilton's poor

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — For 25 years Carol Krames has managed to find a place to live, jobs, food and clothes for those in need – as well as a shoulder to cry on as director of Hamilton's Jewish Social Services.

For her dedication and commitment, her colleagues and friends recently held a dinner to honour her work in the community.

"If you had to use one way to describe Carol it would be that she's a good person," says Bea Matchen, her colleague for the past 18 years. "We have clients who are in dire circumstances, on drugs – tough life situations – and if there's anything positive, Carol will find it. She's always able to see the favourable side of people.

"And she's so resourceful. She surprises me at how quickly she gets things done. Carol's not one to think of an idea and then deliberate: if she thinks about it today, she did it yesterday. She's able to quickly reach a decision and act on it."

Together, Krames and Matchen run a wide range of programs and services that includes counseling, help for the elderly and their families, organizing volunteers, running an adult day program, adult language classes and social programs – from a monthly lunch to theatre trips.

In the maelstrom of her office, it's hard to imagine how Krames gets her work done. There is rarely a quiet moment, and any conversation is inevitably interrupted by a visitor or a phone call.

"I live by my 'to-do' list," she laughs. "Someone recently gave me a Palm Pilot because they thought it would help me, but it just wasn't fast enough! Clients would phone asking for appointments and I couldn't access the diary quickly, so it's back to a day planner for me."

Carol Krames has offered counselling help throughout her 25 years as director of Hamilton's Jewish Social Services. [Julia Kollek photo]

Or a night planner, as Krames can get crisis calls for help at odd hours.

She remembers one night there was a call from a local motel.

"It was from a man who was passing through town and had run out of food. (My husband) Lester drove me over, and as it was right before Pesach, I took him everything I had in my kitchen. He was thrilled!"

Although Hamilton is a small community of about 5,000 Jews, there are up to 60 people at any one time on Krames' caseload.

"People think Jews are immune to social problems, and they are surprised when they hear of the cases I am working with. We deal with everything," she says."As long as there are people, there are going to be problems. Life is all about overcoming problems."

Jewish Social Services (JSS) has been solving those problems since it was founded back in 1932.

"As Jews we have a long tradition of kindness. From the beginning the services were always open to everybody, Jew and non-Jew alike," said Krames. "I never stop to analyze whether someone asking for help is Jewish or not – you just act. My caseload is full of people who hear of our reputation, and who come to us from help. If someone is on the street asking for money, you don't wonder – you have to help. I'd rather get 'taken' than not help someone that needed it."

Krames began her career as a social worker in Philadelphia, where she was born and grew up. Her first job was as a public welfare worker. "It was different then. Everyone knew who you were. Now I wouldn't do it – it's got much too dangerous."

She and her husband moved to Ontario when he was offered a job in his field as professor in psychology at the University of Toronto. The couple and their four children lived in Mississauga. There was no shul in the town at the time, and after talking to others, the couple were instrumental in founding Solel, a synagogue that continues to thrive today.

Twenty-five years ago, Carol saw the ad for her current job in *The CJN* and with her husband's urging, came for the interview.

"When I was offered the job, a prerequisite was that I live here, and so we moved. I fell in love with this city and its community. People here are so supportive. It is a wonderful place because it helps those in need."

She points out that Hamilton is, by and large, an affluent and generous community. "The schools and synagogues are great about helping those who have fallen on hard times, but much more is needed. It can be hard for children in those families to be part of a middle-class community, specially when they compare their apartments with their friends' big houses."

The workload in Hamilton has changed since she started her job in 1976. Early on, her main concern was helping to settle newly-arrived Russian immigrants – many of whom have since gone on to find work and become active members of the community.

Now other families are coming to her for help. There are several cases where a divorce has left a partner with little financial support.

"Problems start when the breadwinner has been laid off, and it's so frustrating when they can't find work."

"The saddest cases I see are when a person has a disability or is mentally sick and is on welfare, and their quality of life is affected."

Krames admits her work can affect her own life because she sometimes feels emotionally overwhelmed.

"Some cases do get you down, but then you look at what you can do."

One achievement was setting up a community kosher food bank. Her husband helped start it 10 years ago when hungry families were coming regularly to the JSS.

"It was supposed to be a short-term project as a response to the Ontario government cuts, but now the community has come to rely on it, and people really need the food. Without this help, people would be on the street.

"A single person on welfare gets only $500 a month, barely enough to pay rent," she points out.

Krames was at first doubtful the project would work, but her husband assured her that with a little patience, it would catch on. While the food bank has become a community fixture, Krames would still like to see more donations, and when stocks are low she is amazed at how considerate the food bank users are of each other.

"If there's only one item left on the shelf, I've heard people say 'Let's save that for someone else'."

With the community's cultural diversity, Krames has started to appreciate the food preferences of different groups. "Our Russian community, for instance, goes for the rice, oil and soup mixes – they don't want peanut butter!"

Asked about her greatest wish, she replies without a moment of hesitation.

"It would be for an endowment fund for the food bank so it would always be there for whoever needed it."

In the meantime, she has no plans to retire.

"I'm having too much fun," she says. "I could have gone to work in a government job and be on a nice pension," she says, "but every day, I'm happy to get up and come to work. I feel so blessed to have a job that I love."

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Sharon meets with PA before D.C. trip

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's recent meeting with senior Palestinian officials has left politicians and pundits alike pondering his true intentions.

Observers are questioning whether the talks Sharon held Jan. 30 in his Jerusalem home were a tactical move aimed at pleasing the Bush administration on the eve of the prime minister's trip to Washington scheduled for later in the week.

Analysis

On the other hand, they wonder, perhaps those discussions reflected a shift in Sharon's outlook and signal an openness for reviving a political dialogue with the Palestinians.

Dovish Israelis are welcoming the talks, but some hardliners are saying Sharon should not be speaking to Palestinian leaders amid the ongoing violence.

In last week's meeting, Sharon met with Palestinian parliamentary speaker Ahmed Karia, top PLO official Mahmoud Abbas and Mohammed Rashid, an economic adviser to Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The talks were the first that Sharon, who has said he will not negotiate while Palestinians continue attacking Israel, has held with top Palestinians since taking office almost a year ago.

At the weekly cabinet meeting last Sunday, Sharon stressed he had not changed his stance that there would be no talks while violence continues.

The meeting had focused on ways to end the violence, Sharon was quoted as telling the ministers. He did not rule out another meeting following his return from Washington, D.C.

Sharon also told the cabinet that he had used the meeting to set out Israeli security demands and to tell the Palestinians that he would consider their requests based on the PA's progress in cracking down on terror.

Sharon said he is ultimately interested in reaching a final settlement with the Palestinians, but without a timetable. Any accord would depend upon developments in the Israel-Palestinian relationship, he said.

Sharon also said the Palestinian delegation had demanded that Israel halt its targeted assassinations, end military incursions into areas under Palestinian-control and lift travel restrictions on Arafat, who has been confined to Ramallah by IDF troops since December.

Some Israeli commentators suggested Sharon's meeting last week was aimed at heading off diplomatic initiatives by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, and, more recently, by Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer and Knesset Speaker Avraham Burg.

Peres learned of Sharon's meeting with the Palestinian officials as he was en route to the World Economic Forum in New York, where he had his own meeting with Karia.

At Sunday's cabinet meeting, Sharon reportedly repeated his objections to a proposal Peres and Karia have been discussing, which includes the idea that Israel's recognition of a Palestinian state should be the starting point for renewed negotiations.

But is this Sharon's real stand? The Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* quoted diplomatic sources as saying Sharon and Peres are in quiet agreement over most of the elements of the proposal under discussion.

Weekend interviews Sharon gave to two Israeli newspapers added to the confusion.

In an interview with *Ma'ariv*, he conceded he would agree to giving up parts of the "Greater Land of Israel" under certain conditions in a final settlement.

But he also told *Yediot Achronot* that he would recommend while in Washington that the Bush administration refrain from all contacts with Arafat.

"I plan to tell [U.S.] President [George W.] Bush next week, 'I advise you to ignore Arafat. Boycott him. Don't have any contact with him and don't send him delegations,'" Sharon said last Friday.

Israeli troops have kept Arafat under virtual house arrest in Ramallah in an effort to force him to crack down on terror. As a result, Arafat has been kept from his globetrotting activities aimed at drumming up support for the Palestinian cause.

U.S. remains cool on Arafat's 'vision of peace'

By NATHAN GUTTMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The United States responded coolly to "The Palestinian vision of peace," an opinion piece by Yasser Arafat that appeared in last Sunday's *New York Times*.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said that while he is "pleased" that Arafat condemns terrorism, "now what we need is action against terrorists."

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres echoed the sentiment Sunday in New York, saying Arafat's condemnation of terrorist groups was a good start, but adding that Arafat needs to back up his words with deeds. "If Arafat will do what he has said, it is a good beginning," Peres said.

Declaring "we can't walk away" from the crisis in the Middle East, Powell said he was pleased that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had met top Palestinian leaders and intended to do so again in the future.

Speaking on CBS television's *Face the Nation*, Powell said he plans to meet soon with members of the Palestinian Authority to discuss efforts to get a ceasefire and resume peace negotiations.

Addressing the World Economic Forum in New York, Peres stressed that Arafat needs to rein in a number of armed militia groups if he wants to achieve his aspirations for an independent Palestinian state.

"Palestinians tell us we have many views in our country. Yes, we have many views, but one gun. They have one view but many guns, and the guns are killing the chances," Peres said. "If the Palestinians do not establish a single authority over all arms, there will never be a state or an authority."

Earlier, U.S. national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said the United States had not yet seen the "100 per cent effort" required to get the peace process going again.

"We've never said that there has to be 100 per cent result before we get back to pursuing a peace arrangement... But he has not done enough, and it is very clear that he can do more to disable the terrorist networks," Rice said.

She said Arafat must rein in attacks sponsored by members of "Hamas and Hezbollah elements around him." The Arafat article was timed for publication before the Feb. 7 talks between Sharon and U.S. President George W. Bush, who has said he is "disappointed" with Arafat's handling of militants.

In the article, Arafat reiterated what he would seek from an Israeli-Palestinian peace accord: "an independent and viable Palestinian state" sharing Jerusalem "as the capital of two states" and a "fair and just solution to the plight of Palestinian refugees."

He also condemned Palestinian "terrorist groups" that attack Israeli targets and said he is "determined to put an end to their activities."

Arafat said that 16 months into a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation, "Palestinians are ready to end the conflict."

In a swipe at Sharon, he wrote: "We are ready to sit down now with any Israeli leader, regardless of his history, to negotiate freedom for the Palestinians, a complete end of the occupation, security for Israel and creative solutions to the plight of the [Palestinian] refugees while respecting Israel's demographic concerns."

In an effort to defend himself, Arafat said "the personal attacks on me" that are "currently in vogue" provide Israelis with an "excuse to ignore their own role in creating the current situation."

An adviser to Sharon called the Arafat article a "publicity stunt."

– With files from JTA

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Future bleak for Argentine Jewish schools

By FLORENCIA ARBISER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUENOS AIRES — The financial crisis that sent Argentina into a tailspin at the end of last year has had a devastating effect on the nation's Jewish educational network.

Education experts predict there will be a "desertion rate" of 25 to 30 per cent from Jewish schools during the coming year, a dire future for what was once considered one of the best Jewish school networks in the world.

The network has attracted a consistently high percentage of Jewish children from the community, higher than most communities in the Diaspora.

Of a population of some 36,000 Jewish children of school age in Argentina, about 17,000 attended a Jewish school last year.

The network has produced its own textbooks and trained teachers and principals who went on to work elsewhere in Latin America.

In greater Buenos Aires alone, there are 82 Jewish schools – 37 kindergartens, 13 primary schools and 32 high schools.

But those totals could dwindle when the new school year begins in March.

Faced with financial hardship, only 50 per cent of the families that have expressed a wish to continue with Argentina's Jewish school system have paid registration fees.

According to Bernardo Kliksberg, president of the Latin American Jewish Congress' Human Development Committee, any desertions from the school network would be a loss for the Jewish world as a whole.

"It increases the spiritual and educational poverty of Jewish family life and it increases assimilation risks," Kliksberg said. "It is urgent to save the soul of every Jewish child."

Daniel Pomerantz, the administrative director of AMIA, the main Jewish institution in Buenos Aires, agrees that a major threat looms.

"With the crisis in the educational system, the Jewish community is in danger," he told JTA. "But not because of anti-Semitism. The problem is social and economic."

Kliksberg said that most of the desertions are "strictly due to reasons of poverty."

Even if schools reduce monthly fees, "families still have to be able to afford transportation, food and school supplies. And many cannot do it any longer," he said.

Batia Nemirovsky, director of the Central Council for Jewish Education in Argentina, said that the country's Jewish educational institutions traditionally have been supported by monthly fees of about $150 per family.

Nemirovsky said that many Jewish families used to pay more than the standard fee to help those that needed scholarships.

"But with the impoverishment process we are now going through, very few families can pay the standard fee," she said. At the same time, the "demand for scholarships is increasing. The slowness in paying is increasing, too."

Nemirovsky spoke of the need to guarantee children a Jewish education as families unable to afford the fees send their children to public school.

"We cannot let the children drop out of the system," she said.

In an effort to deal with the crisis, the Central Council is heading up a committee trying to find ways to reduce educational costs and free up money for scholarships.

The committee plans to organize a buying club to get better prices for school supplies, catering, security, insurance and transportation.

Since 1995, two new Jewish schools have opened in Argentina – but 10 have closed. Soon there may be an 11th: the Doctor Herzl Institute. Located in a working class neighbourhood of Buenos Aires known as Once, the school has taught students for approximately 100 years. It is the oldest Jewish school in the country.

After years with a student body of approximately 800, the institute closed its high school in 2000. Last year, the institute had only 250 students – 50 per cent of whom were on scholarship.

Officials say they are unsure whether they will open the school when classes begin in March.

Rosana Szteinhauz, director of the Jewish department of the institute's primary school, said that parents, teachers and former students are trying to find a way to keep the school afloat.

But finances may prevail over good intentions: the institute's debt is estimated at over $500,000 dollars. Making matters worse, only 34 families have paid next term's registration fees.

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U.S. rejects EU proposal on Mideast conflict

European plan seen as form of pressure on the Americans

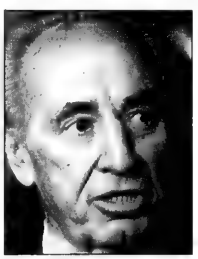
By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The United States has rejected a European plan for an international conference that would renew the political process toward a resolution of the Mideast conflict and would proceed alongside the implementation of security measures to ensure a ceasefire and fight terrorism.

European Union (EU) representatives Javier Solana and Miguel Moratinos raised the idea of a conference at a meeting last Thursday in Washington, D.C., attended by representatives of the United States, the EU, the United Nations and Russia.

As an alternative to an international conference, Solana suggested adopting a French plan for new elections in the West Bank and Gaza, which was formulated in consultation with senior officials in the Palestinian Authority (PA).

Both proposals were supported by the UN's Middle East envoy, Terje Larsen.



Shimon Peres met with Abu Ala, speaker of the PA parliament at the initiative of the EU.

Israel is opposed to both ideas and, according to well-placed sources in Jerusalem, "The European proposals will split the international community and will only serve as a reward and encouragement for the terror of [PA Chairman Yasser] Arafat."

Washington also opposed the Europeans' suggestions, with U.S. officials telling Solana and Moratinos this was the time to focus only on the security issues at hand and to apply co-ordinated pressure on the PA, which, U.S. officials said, is not taking the appropriate and required steps against terrorism.

The Americans also came out against a proposal that the United States, EU, UN and Russia make parallel demands on both the Israelis and the Palestinians.

Despite Washington's position, the Europeans did not give up, suggesting last Friday that it would sponsor the meeting between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the speaker of the PA parliament, Abu Ala. The two agreed.

Solana was unable to make the meeting, but Moratinos and an aide sat in on the talks for a while before leaving Peres and Abu Ala to themselves.

Israeli sources said this was the Europeans' way of telling Washington that if the United States did not increase its involvement in the process, the EU would embark on an independent policy and push the process forward on its own.

The Week in Israel

Jan. 28

• Security officials presented Prime Minister Ariel Sharon with a plan for increasing Jerusalem's security that calls for a system of physical and technological obstacles to prevent terrorists from infiltrating the city.

Jan. 29

• Palestinian gunmen opened fire on the southern Jerusalem neighborhood of Gilo. Six apartments, two civilian vehicles and an IDF position adjacent to the neighborhood were hit by gunfire coming from snipers in nearby Beit Jala. One resident was very lightly wounded by shards of broken glass.

Jan. 30

• Minister of Defence Binyamin Ben-Eliezer met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the southern Sinai town of Sharm el Sheikh. Ben-Eliezer told his Egyptian host that he fears conflict with the Palestinians could lead to a regional war and that a "breakthrough" must be found, with the necessary pre-condition being a cessation of violence by the Palestinian Authority.

Jan. 31

•President Moshe Katsav presided over an official ceremony at Ben-Gurion Airport to mark the arrival of Torah scrolls and other sacred books sent to Israel by the Government of Lithuania. The shipment included several dozen Torah scrolls and 300 holy books confiscated by the Nazi regime during the Holocaust.

Feb. 1

• A senior military official told *Ha'aretz* that intelligence investigators confirm the Karine A, the ship carrying weapons that was intercepted by the IDF, was purchased by Hezbollah for $400,000 and that the Palestinian Authority paid $15 million for the weapons.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Israel finds common ground with India

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

Later this year – a date has yet to be fixed – Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of Israel and President Kocheril Raman Narayanan of India are expected to exchange reciprocal visits.

Their respective trips, designed to mark a decade of formal diplomatic relations, will enhance Israel's growing relationship with India.

Although India recognized Israel in 1948, the year of Israeli statehood, India maintained a frosty attitude toward Israel for decades.

In deference to its huge Muslim population, its membership in the non-aligned movement and its sympathy for the Arab cause, India did not actually establish diplomatic relations with Israel. And until quite recently, Israel had to make do with a consulate in Bombay rather than an embassy in India's capital, New Delhi. India, for its part, did not send diplomats to Israel.

The situation changed radically in 1992, when P.V. Narasimha Rao, the Indian prime minister, decided to upgrade links with Israel. Atal Bihari Vajpayee, India's current prime minister, consolidated them.

Since 1998, India and Israel have enjoyed flourishing bilateral relations. The volume of trade has increased dramatically – from several million to $1.2 billion (US) annually – and military co-operation has grown by leaps and bounds.

India's rapprochement with Israel, which parallels Israel's budding alliance with Turkey, a country which also once spurned Israel, is one of the most important developments in Israeli diplomatic history.

At least two factors account for India's about-face.

• The collapse of the Soviet Union, India's chief arms supplier, left India with an armoury of outdated weaponry. India turned to Israel, which has a knack for upgrading aging military equipment, particularly tanks and aircraft.

• Like Israel, India has a problem with Islamic terrorism, stemming from its confrontation with Pakistan over the disputed Kashmir region. As New Delhi well knows, India can learn from Israel's experience in dealing with Islamic terrorism and a hostile contiguous neighbour.

Given the harsh realities facing India, the military dimension of its relations with Israel have been pivotal.

This was plainly evident during Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' visit to India last month. (He was preceded by Amos Yaron, director-general of Israel's ministry of defence. Yaron's counterpart, Subir Dutta, visited Israel last July).

Peres, having flown to New Delhi a day after an Indian security delegation arrived in Tel Aviv, met with India's leadership to discuss a wide range of issues.

High on the agenda was India's possible purchase of Israel's Phalcon airborne-radar system. India may buy three Phalcons, worth more than $1 billion (US). The United States, however, has asked Israel to defer the sale. Last year, Washington vetoed a sale of Phalcons – which contain American components – to China.

Before the Phalcon deal came up for consideration, Israel sold Green Pine early warning stations to India for $400 million (US) and Barak missiles for $300 million (US). Israel is also refurbishing India's fleet of MIG 21s, MIG 29s and T-72 tanks. In addition, India has expressed an interest in Gil anti-tank missiles and in Elisra electronic warfare systems.

Reports suggest India and Israel may be jointly working to develop anti-ballistic missiles. *Lansa*, an Indian journal on strategic studies, claims that Israel is poised to replace Russia as India's main weapons supplier.

India and Israel have also been co-operating in counter-terrorism. Last March, after Jaswant Singh became India's first foreign minister to visit Israel, the two countries established a joint working group on terrorism.

In Peres' talks with Defence Minister George Fernandes in January, Israel and India exchanged views on terrorism.

According to *Jane's Terrorism & Security Monitor*, Israel is heavily involved in helping India combat Islamic militants in Kashmir.

True or not, India is certainly cozying up to Israel.

Haider apologizes to Jewish leader

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

VIENNA — Austrian far-right leader Joerg Haider apologized last week to the leader of the country's Jewish community and withdrew derogatory remarks about him.

Jewish leader Ariel Muzicant told a news conference he had dropped legal action against Haider in return for written apologies for comments widely condemned as anti-Semitic.

In a speech in February of last year, Haider made a punning reference to Muzicant's first name and an international brand of washing powder, saying: "I don't understand how someone whose name is Ariel can have so much dirt sticking to him." The expression in German can imply a dishonest past.

Known internationally for controversial remarks about Austria's Nazi past – for which he also apologized – Haider made a number of allegations against Muzicant in the speech. These included that the Jewish leader had stabbed Austria in the back during negotiations to compensate Holocaust victims, that he had used his political connections to help his own business and that he did not belong "in the spectrum of democratic forces".

A statement issued last week and approved by lawyers for both sides said: "Dr. Haider has withdrawn all legally incriminating allegations against Dr. Muzicant, in separate formal declarations, with an expression of regret and apology." In the first of five declarations he must now issue, Haider said he had no reason to doubt Muzicant's honor and undertook not to repeat his remarks in the future.

Relishing controversy and confrontation, Haider has also heaped abuse on other European leaders, once describing French President Jacques Chirac as a "pocket-sized Napoleon."

Austria's EU partners, who have questioned the democratic credentials of Haider's Freedom Party, imposed political sanctions on the new Austrian government after it was sworn in, but lifted them in September 2000 after an EU-appointed panel gave the country a clean bill of human rights health.

Israel's Remarkable Sea

Ok, so you know that everyone floats on top of Israel's Dead Sea, one of the world's most famous tourist attractions. That's easy. Now try these fast facts to impress party-goers during the next cocktail conversation.

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- It's not a "sea" at all. The Dead Sea is really a small lake.
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Surreal Gourmet helps you eat like royalty

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Bob Blumer, cookbook author and host of Food Network Canada's the *Surreal Gourmet*, believes it's easy to live well beyond your means.

"If you learn to use simple, fresh ingredients, you can eat well and easily elevate your quality of life," he says.

Blumer, whose latest book is *Off the Eaten Path: Inspired Recipes for Adventurous Cooks* is originally from Montreal. He learned how to cook while he was a student at the University of Western Ontario, "so I would not have to do the dishes."

His food career began in 1991 when he took time out from his job managing Canadian singer and songwriter Jane Siberry to write his first cookbook, *The Surreal Gourmet: Real Food for Pretend Chefs*. In it, he promoted his philosophy of being able to live well despite having little money. "I have always had a hedonistic desire to eat and live well every moment of my life."

He wrote his second book, *The Surreal Gourmet Entertains*, "in order to demonstrate that anyone with a dysfunctional kitchen and mismatched place settings can throw a killer dinner party."

In a telephone interview from his home in Los Angeles, Blumer says he grew up with such "traditional staples" as pot roast, turkey and chicken soup.

"I see food a little differently, however. To me, the presentation is as important as the taste."

His specialty, he says, is "making food that looks like other food but isn't. I have taken what is really pound cake and raspberry syrup and make it look like french fries and ketchup.

"I have also puréed food and presented it on an artist's palette. This past Chanukah, I created a dreidel out of a yam. These are dinner party tricks; at the heart of it all, though, is good food and good flavour."

He gets his ideas from everywhere, he says. "It's what I do; I always think about food."

A favourite of his, he says, is extreme cuisine. "A chapter of my latest book is devoted to such meals as salmon poached in the dishwasher: Use the normal cycle – cool dry is unacceptable because it preserves heat, and the pots and pans setting tends to overcook the fish."

Blumer's "basic pressed-cheese sandwich" is made by placing cheese between two slices of bread, wrapping the sandwich in foil and after preheating an iron to the linen setting, pressing it down for about three minutes. "When you are ready for a greater challenge, add grilled eggplant or roasted bell pepper."

He includes a recipe for "diced" fish. "Life is a crapshoot. But the odds are good that your lucky guests will be impressed by this fish dish," he writes.

DICED FISH

1 20 oz. fillet of a firm-fleshed fish cut 1¼ in. thick
1 tsp. olive oil
2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lime juice
salt and freshly ground pepper to taste
1 tbsp. whole black peppercorns

Make cilantro sauce (See recipe below). Reheat before serving.

Preheat oven to 400. With a very sharp knife, cut fish into 8 1¼ in. cubes. Rub oil over 2 12x16 in. sheets of aluminum foil. Turn up the edges. Place half the cubes in the centre of each piece of foil. Drizzle with lime juice. Add salt and pepper. Seal packages and bake for 10 minutes.

Remove from foil and use the tip of a paring knife to make small holes for the peppercorns. Gently press peppercorns into holes. Spoon sauce onto warmed plates and top with two dice. Serve.

CILANTRO SAUCE

1 tbsp. butter
2 leeks, white and pale green section only, finely chopped
1 jalapeno chili, seeds and membranes removed and diced
2 garlic cloves minced
1 cup vegetable stock
1½ cups lightly packed fresh cilantro
2 tbsp. freshly squeezed lime juice
¼ tsp. salt
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
3 tbsp. sour cream

Melt butter in sauté pan. Add the leeks, jalapeno and garlic and sauté for about 5 minutes or until the leeks are translucent but not brown.

Reduce heat to medium and add the stock. Simmer, uncovered for 15 minutes. Adjust heat as required to maintain simmer. The liquid should reduce by half.

Remove from heat and let cool. Transfer to a blender or food processor and add the cilantro, lime juice, salt and pepper. Purée until smooth. Reheat just before serving. Stir in the sour cream at the last minute.

THE DINING GUIDE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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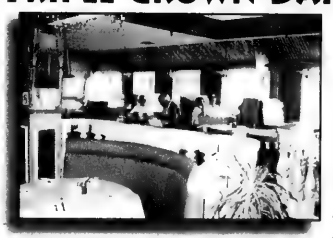
Sandy's is a relaxed, friendly family restaurant, seating 330, with a huge special menu for hungry kids; the warm welcome from proprietors Josie Petsinis and daughter Sandy will make you want to come again. Besides, Canadian favourites like prime rib, they serve Greek dishes, lots of pasta and salads, and fresh oven-baked pizza. Their fish and chips is a Friday lunch hit. The all-day breakfast and weekend breakfast buffet are the best in town. Sandy's is licensed and non-smoking, offers take-out and catering, and is available for meetings and private parties. Major credit cards accepted. Reservations recommended. Wheelchair access.

TRIPLE CROWN BAR & RESTAURANT



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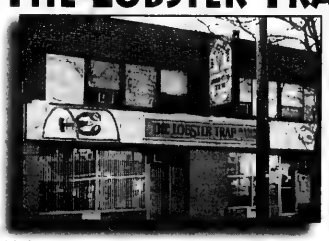

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THE DINING GUIDE

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Pan On The Danforth

516 Danforth Ave. • 416-466-8158
visit us at toronto.com

Open Sun.-Thurs. 5p.m.-11p.m., Fri. & Sat. 5p.m.-12p.m.
Reservations recommended for Fri. & Sat.

As the Danforth's only three-star restaurant, Pan has been pleasing patrons for eight years. Maintaining this high standard, owner Peter Kyriacou and chef John Jackson have added zest to an already compelling and eclectic Mediterranean menu. Noteworthy among the new offerings is Atlantic salmon stuffed with mushrooms and baby spinach, wrapped in a delicate layer of phyllo pastry. Or perhaps you'd prefer jumbo quail, stuffed with sausage, mushroom and shallots, finished with pearl onion and a dark roast chicken and red wine reduction. At Pan, creative flair and elegance are a given. The atmosphere is intimate and candle-lit, great for Valentine's Day, but vivacious, with lively music.

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Baton Rouge Restaurant

7520 Weston Rd. • 905-265-8471

Hours 11a.m.-11p.m., Fri. & Sat. 11-midnight
Reservations recommended for weekend nights.
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Baton Rouge chooses the finest ingredients: crisp lettuces; ripe, ready tomatoes and peppers; the best of the day's catch; hand- selected prime beef. The chefs make dressings from scratch, and grill over fine hickory and aromatic hardwoods; watch them work in the open kitchens. They're finicky; each signature dish must be perfection: baby back ribs, chicken tenders light as air, raved- over dips. At well- spaced tables or tucked into intimate, oversized leather booths, the atmosphere is inviting: greenery and warm brick, burnished mahogany and brass, softly mirrored lamplight. Service is prompt and caring; you'll come back, bringing family and friends.

Christina's On The Danforth

492 Danforth Ave. • 416-463-4418
www.christinas.info

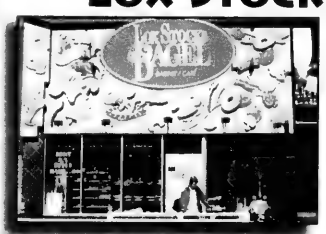
Hours: Mon.-Thurs. 5p.m.-1a.m., Fri. & Sat. Noon-4a.m., Sun. Noon-1a.m.
Live music and belly dancing Friday & Saturday

Christina's is back! Though it never really left the Danforth — physically at least — its glorious rebirth under new owners Bill and Kathy Vomvolakis has restored lost lustre to a treasured dining spot.

Its decor beautifully updated, its menu revitalized, Christina's has recaptured the essence of fine Greek dining and the magnetic ambience it once enjoyed. Portions are generous, prices very reasonable, the wine selection greatly expanded. Fittingly, this rebirth coincides with the return of Christina's original chef.

The oft-used term "Home Cooking" rings true here. From the *dolmades* to the Greek salads, from the succulent leg of lamb to the *Kolokithokefiedes* — minced, mildly spiced zucchini patties with potato, onion and parsley, gently pan-fried to golden crispness — every bite is heavenly. Warmly recommended.

Lox Stock & Bagel



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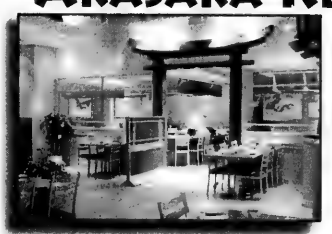

Empress Walk, 5095 Yonge St.
416-222-8188
Richmond Hill, 280 West Beaver Creek Rd.
905-764-9291

Akasaka's second restaurant on Empress Walk is an authentic Japanese dining experience. The dining room has sushi and tempura bars. In the teppanyaki room, the chef works at the centre, and everything is grilled before your eyes. The private tatami rooms host 15 to 25 guests, seated on mats Japanese-style. The teppanyaki menu includes chicken, fish, seafood, and Angus beef. Everything's fresh, with live lobster and crab and a tremendous sushi selection. For lunch, there are complete menus from $8.99; complete bentoh boxes from $11.99; and complete teppanyaki lunches at $10.99.

Ristorante Charlie Brown

1116 Eglinton Ave. W. • 416-783-8111
www.toronto.com/charliebrown

Dinner Tue.-Thurs. & Sun. 5p.m.-10p.m.
Fri. & Sat. 5p.m.-11p.m.

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Watch for the next DINING GUIDE in our April 11 issue of

The Canadian Jewish news

Deadline: Wednesday, March 20th

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2002 OPERATING & CAPITAL BUDGET NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

Please note that a Special Committee of the Whole meeting has been scheduled for Monday, February 18, 2002, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Vaughan Civic Centre, 2141 Major Mackenzie Drive, Vaughan, Ontario, for the purpose of presenting the proposed 2002 Operating and Capital Budget and receiving input from the public.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Finance Department at 905-832-8585, Ext. 8482 The Staff Report will be available in the Clerk's Department or on the web at http://www.city.vaughan.on.ca/html/cityhall/minutes-agenda/main.htm on Friday, February 15, 2002.

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Arts & Travel

Concert showcases Yiddish artists

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

TORONTO — The 33rd Yiddishland Café concert at the Workmen's Circle auditorium presented stories, fables and songs by famous Yiddish artists and paid tribute to Yiddish women poets and composers.

Freelance producer Chaya Thalenberg read fables by the late local writer Peretz Miransky and Romanian Yiddish fabulist Eliezer Steinbarg (1880-1932), including Steinbarg's *Di Shpiz Un Di Nodl* and *Reb Berl's Hoyzen. Reb Berl's Hoyzen* is a story about a rabbi's wife, daughter and mother-in-law, who at first claim to be too busy to fix the rabbi's trousers, but then take an inch off the length while he is asleep.

Thalenberg also read and acted out two allegorical stories by Y.L. Peretz, whose humorous fable about *Di frume kats* was a big hit with the audience.

Violinist Michael Ziskind and accompanist Nina Shapilsky performed songs from *Fiddler on the Roof*. Lenka Lichtenberg, a music professor at Ryerson University, sang works by contemporary composers Chava Alberstein and B. Schaechter-Gottesman, as well as a number called *Du, du* by Aliza Greenblatt, the mother-in-law of folksinger Woody Guthrie.

Lichtenberg was scheduled to sing these songs at a women's festival in Argentina, but the festival was postponed because of the Sept. 11 attacks.

Lichtenberg, who brought husband Rubin Cohen and children Hannah, 11, Rachel, 9, and Benjamin, 7, to sing with her in her closing number, *Ver es hot*, dedicated the folksong *Ver hot aza yingele* to Benjamin. When she referred to her daughters as "*maidlen*," the audience corrected her, saying, "*maidlech*."

The Workmen's Circle cultural committee is presenting five Yiddish films, the first being *Der Purimshpiler* by Itzik Manger, Feb. 17 at 7:30 p.m.

The evening was organized by Nochem Reinhartz and his wife Henya. The next café concert will be April 7, Reinhartz said.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 47.

1 A	2 C	3 T	4 S	■	5 B	6 E	7 A	8 S	■	9 I	10 S	11 A	12 A	13 C
14 L	O	R	D	■	15 E	L	M	O	■	16 D	I	N	G	O
17 O	N	E	I	18 S	R	A	E	L	■	19 A	N	T	E	D
20 H	A	N	■	21 T	E	N	N	I	S	22 S	■	23 C	I	D	E
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39 R	A	T	■	■	■	40 A	K	41 A	■	■	■	42 V	A	T
43 A	U	L	44 A	45 I	46 T	■	47 E	L	48 M	■	49 E	I	N	S
50 B	I	L	L	G	O	51 L	D	B	E	52 R	G	■	■	■	■
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65 A	Y	A	R	66 D	■	67 J	E	W	I	S	68 H	B	O	Y
69 D	A	V	I	D	■	70 A	S	E	A	■	71 A	L	L	A
72 A	R	E	A	S	■	73 M	A	S	H	■	74 M	E	A	L

Arts & Travel

TVO revisits Isaac Stern's 1979 trip to China

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

In 1979, China was just starting to emerge from self-imposed isolation and doctrinaire communism.

In the spirit of that hopeful mood, the Chinese government invited Isaac Stern, the superb American violinist, to visit the country for three weeks.

Accompanied by a pianist, and several of his children, Stern gave a series of memorable concerts and master classes. He also visited the Beijing Opera Company, whose dancers and acrobats dazzled him with deft performances.

Stern's trip was an enormous success, and, fortunately, it was filmed by an expert camera crew.

From Mao to Mozart: Isaac Stern in China, which won an Academy Award in 1981 for best documentary, will by broadcast by TVOntario on Thursday, Feb. 14 at 10 p.m. and again on Sunday, Feb. 17 at 1 a.m.

In this excellent film, Stern, white-haired, wizened and fatherly, comes across not just as an extraordinary musician and gifted teacher, but as an avuncular cultural ambassador for the United States.

From *Mao to Mozart* opens as he steps off an airplane in Beijing and says he is looking forward to this tour with "great expectations."

Isaac Stern at a master class in China.

One can well understand his anticipation. At the time, China was in transition from communism to capitalism. The Cultural Revolution, which had torn the country apart in a spasm of anti-Western rhetoric and violence, was still a fresh, bitter memory.

Banners of Mao Tse-tung and Joseph Stalin festooned Beijing, the streets of the capital were jammed with cyclists rather than cars and the Chinese countryside looked as if it had not changed in decades.

This was the China that greeted Stern and his entourage in June 1979.

Much to his delight, he found a renewed interest in Western classical music, which had been banned during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

In friendly and touching encounters at conservatories with young, upcoming musicians, Stern discovered there was no shortage of talent in China.

Nevertheless, they had much to learn. "The Chinese approach to Western music is somewhat limited," he observes diplomatically after listening to several violinists.

His critique is that their technique is old-fashioned and that they are not accustomed to playing with passion. Yet, he acknowledges, they are quick studies.

At classes with awed pupils, Stern explains how they can best coax beautiful, sonorous music out of their instruments.

"The violin must be part of the body, like another arm," he says mantra-like.

The tradition of Western concert music is most entrenched in Shanghai (a city that harboured European Jewish refugees during World War II).

But even here, Stern's pianist, David Golub, cannot find a suitable piano for a concert. After much discussion and cajoling, a proper piano magically turns up.

Stern's appearance at a Shanghai conservatory is probably the highlight of the movie.

The pre-teen musicians here are extraordinarily talented and dedicated, and Stern is clearly impressed.

Still more poignant, Stern meets the director of the conservatory, a well-spoken man who was confined to a malodorous closet during the Cultural Revolution's darkest years.

Hardly batting an eyelash, the poor man describes the humiliating treatment he was subjected to for 14 long months.

The Cultural Revolution had a profound effect on budding musicians, too.

Stern learns that violinists aged eight to 11 show more promise than their older counterparts. China's political upheavals forced them to abandon the violin during a critical learning period.

Aware of China's turbulent history, Stern urges them to play with their hearts and minds. Technical excellence alone, he declares, will not suffice.

Stern, as the director of one conservatory says, left a deep impression on the people of China. *From Mao to Mozart* has a similar impact.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

MIRVISH TRIES ON ZADIE'S SHOES

Last year at this time, a play that premiered at the Factory Theatre was well on its way to becoming the surprise hit of the season.

Zadie's Shoes was written by **Adam Pettle** and featured his brother, actor **Jordan Pettle**, in a lead role. It won rave reviews and was sold out for every performance.

The play, you might say, has "legs": Mirvish Productions secured the rights to include it in its present theatrical season, alongside more famous theatrical fare such as *The Graduate* (presently on stage with **Kathleen Turner** as the evil Mrs. Robinson), *Syncopation*, *Mamma Mia!* and *The Lion King*.

Zadie's Shoes, with Jordan Pettle, is scheduled to open March 23 at the Winter Garden Theatre for a seven-week run. For tickets, phone 416-872-1212.

* * *

Architect Wins Award: Too often, the people who design the structures that are the most visible emblems of our community and our civilization remain invisible themselves. How many Torontonians, for example, recognize the name **Jerome Markson**?

Many of us are familiar with the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre complex of buildings in north Toronto that includes the Leah Posluns Theatre, the Koffler Gallery and the Lipa Green Building. Many are also acquainted with the nearby Holocaust Memorial. But how many know that these structures originated on Markson's drafting table? His firm, Markson Borooah Hodgson Architects, is also responsible for renovations and additions to Beth Sholom Synagogue and the First Narayever Synagogue.

The firm's credits outside of the Jewish community, both in Toronto and farther afield, are extensive and impressive. Locally, they include the innovative Market Square condominiums by the waterfront and the Frederick Varley Art Gallery of Markham, which the *Globe and Mail* described as "a minor masterpiece." Markson has also completed urban design projects from Dallas to Kuala Lampur.

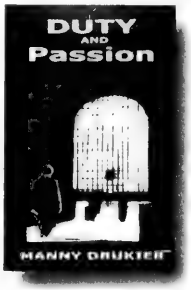
The Toronto-based architect, who studied architecture at the U of T, has been honoured with many awards over his 45-year career. The latest is the Toronto Arts Award for Architecture & Design, which Arts Toronto presented to him at a recent gala event. The jury commended him for having left "an indelible mark of excellence and imagination on our city's buildings."

For more on Markson and his firm, visit the Web site, www.mbharchitects.com.

* * *

What's Happening at Israel's: The Shaarei Shomayim book club meets to discuss *The Last Kabbalist of Lisbon*, by **Richard Zimler**, Sunday, Feb. 10, 8 p.m.

Also, author **Manny Drukier** reads from his new fictional work, *Duty and Passion*, about the life of a survivor and the trial of a Holocaust denier. Himself a survivor, Drukier is the former publisher of the *Idler* magazine and owns the Idler's Pub on Davenport Road. Refreshments; free admission. Monday, Feb. 11, 7:30 p.m.



Both events take place at Israel's Judaica, 897 Eglinton Ave. W., one block west of Bathurst. 416-256-1010.

* * *

AIDS and Art: Planning is already under way for the Home and Style Studio Tour & Sale, an annual fund-raising event that promotes regional artists as it raises funds for local HIV and AIDS organizations.

Entering its third year, the Studio Tour is the brainchild of **Jeffrey Stolberg**, a Toronto-based designer and photographer. During the event, the public is invited into the private studios of artists and designers across the city. "You can meet with the artists who create glasswork, textiles, pottery and ceramics, and even chat with some design celebrities," explains volunteer **Carson Phillips**.

Organizers recently launched a Web site and announced the opening of a contest with a top prize of a trip for two to Bermuda and a second prize of a limousine tour of the event with accommodation at the Fairmont Royal York Hotel.

Manny Drukier

The contest has already begun, even though the Studio Tour does not commence until late September. Details at www.studiotouronline.com

* * *

Arts Briefs

• **The Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra** performs at Trinity-St. Paul's United Church, 427 Bloor St. W. $12-$15. Monday, Feb. 11. 416-693-9953.

• The Art Gallery of Ontario has added new displays to its **Henry Moore** Sculpture Centre, which re-opened in mid-January. The AGO houses the world's largest public collection of works by the renowned British sculptor.

• March 1 is the submission deadline for the Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition, at Toronto City Hall July 12 to 14. Web www.torontooutdoorart.org, or phone Jennifer Rudder at 416-408-2754.

• **In My Parent's Basement:** If, like a lot of our readers, you have this paper by Feb. 6, you can catch *In My Parent's Basement*, a documentary that follows four adults who are forced to move back home with their parents. One of them, Bob, lives with a religious Jewish family, although it's not really a main focus of the documentary. TVO, Feb. 6 at 10 p.m. ET.

•**Neil Simon Play:** Community-theatre group Amicus Productions is running a production of **Neil Simon's** Tony-Award winning play *Brighton Beach Memoirs*.

The play runs Feb. 6-9, 8 p.m. at the Fairview Library Theatre (Don Mills and Sheppard). Tickets are $14 for adults, and $12 for students and seniors. Tickets can be ordered at 416-860-6176.

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CORRECTION

The phone number for ordering *The Wayne and Shuster Years* video in the article by Larry Anklewicz (*CJN*, Jan. 24) is no longer valid. To order the video, call the CBC Boutique at 416-205-7063.

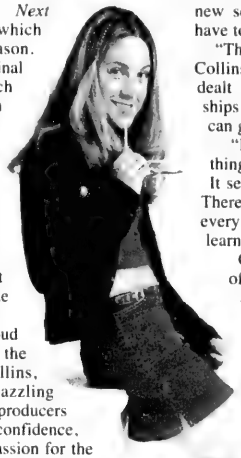
Fifteen-year-old enjoys being the evil one on Degrassi

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — She's vindictive, manipulative and proud of it.

For 15-year-old Lauren Collins, it means she's doing her job.

Collins plays the conniving character of eighth grader Paige Michalchuk on CTV's *Degrassi: The Next Generation*, which debuted this season. Just like the original *Degrassi*, which stopped production 12 years ago, the new *Degrassi* is taking a new generation of teens by storm, and Collins is glad to be part of it – even though she's the meanest of 11 starlets in the 15-part series.



"I'm really proud to be part of the show," says Collins, who has been dazzling casting agents and producers with her maturity, confidence, good nature and passion for the industry since before the age of 10. These characteristics have landed her parts in a variety of commercials and television shows, such as *In a Heartbeat*, which hit it big in the United States.

"My first reaction when I learned I got the part was that this could be really big, like the original. It was scary but I was really happy," she says, adding that the role helps her teach teen audiences about the issues they will face in the coming years.

"It's a show for teens that deals with the issues everyday teens have to deal with in a realistic way," Collins says. "They don't blow it out of proportion. Sometimes they deal with the bigger issues, like in one episode, one of the characters finds out that her father is gay.

Lauren Collins

"That's obviously not something that happens to every kid, but they'll make up for it in the sense that they'll deal with other issues that everyone has to deal with, such as rumours. I think that they've found a healthy median," she says of the show's behind-the-scenes team.

One of the major issues dealt with in the new series that kids in the 1980s didn't have to confront was technology.

"The Internet is a big theme," says Collins. "The one-hour reunion special dealt with Internet stalkers and relationships over the Internet and the dangers it can get you into.

"I think that was a really important thing that had to be dealt with right away. It set the tone for the episodes to come. There's a good moral that comes out of every show and it's important for kids to learn them."

Collins's character is a major conduit of some other important issues, such as underage drinking and being a good friend. "In one episode, Paige gets one of her best friends drunk and steals her boyfriend. She's so mean. I couldn't imagine doing that to one of my friends."

In addition to helping teach her television audiences, Collins also works with children by directing a group of kids between grades 3 and 5 in a community theatre production of Grease. "I used to be in the plays and now I'm directing some of the younger kids, which is so much fun – they're so cute," she gushes.

She thinks the most important thing she can teach her young actors is discipline, something she's developed over the years.

"I work in an adult world so I can't always act like a kid – I have to be prepared when I come to set and know my lines. I can't be goofing around."

And while she has to be responsible and mature, going downtown by herself to auditions and learning to balance academics and acting, she says she definitely likes being a teen.

"My friends are really important to me. When I'm on set, it's hard to give them all the time I want to, so when I'm not working I try to spend as much time with them as I can. We like going to the mall, seeing movies and hanging out at each others' houses."

And sometimes, Collins just likes to "veg out."

"That's what I really like about the show," she says. "They like real kids. I don't feel pressure to stay super skinny and perfect... I'd never stop [eating foods like pizza]. If I was ever pressured to stop that then I'd know it would be a sign for me to not act anymore. I want to stay myself. It's really important to me."

At times, it can be difficult to stay grounded, but she's learned to cope. "I don't want to be one of those kids with a big head and a huge ego. It doesn't appeal to me. My friends know that I hate talking about [acting]. I get so embarrassed when I'm asked about my job and I try to quickly change the subject."

But working in television does have its perks. "I definitely want to save my money. My parents are telling me to save it and I know that's what I want to do – for school, but I really want to get a car."

Though the cast has not yet heard whether CTV will bring the show back for a second season, Collins says she's excited about the prospect of returning as Paige and about the chance to pass on advice and morals to audiences as characters deal with the issues.

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Business Profile

Ambitious siblings anchor film production company

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

A brother-and-a-sister filmmaking team is giving Canadian viewers a tantalizing taste of pop culture.

Shari and Robert Cohen, along with partner Robin Neinstein, are the principals of Toronto-based Media Headquarters, which specializes in documentaries and features on the arts, history and sociology.

They have made films for the National Film Board of Canada, the CBC and specialty channels such as History, Discovery, Bravo! and the Life Network.

Their latest production, *The Travellers: This Land is Your Land*, an endearing portrait of a great Canadian folk group, made its debut at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival last spring.

Another recent production, *The Big Show*, is a glitzy look at the Toronto International Film Festival as its marked its 25th anniversary.

Now, in a fresh burst of creativity, they plan to start shooting two major features in March.

Shari, 29, is blunt in describing Media Headquarters' mission. "We do high-quality, special event programming, which goes against the grain of cheap digital programming."

Robert, 26, is just as emphatic. "Our niche is stories told through the lens of the new generation, our generation."

Their company, established in 1997, was originally known as Cohen Siblings. But after Neinstein, a friend, came on board in 2000, there was clearly a need for a name change.

> *'Won the Ross McLean Award for Best Documentary'*

The trio bring their backgrounds in film, theatre and journalism to the table.

Shari attended the United Synagogue Day School (USDS), studied at Forest Hill Collegiate and earned a degree in fine arts from the University of Toronto.

Drawn to film by a U of T course on experimental video, she then studied journalism at Ryerson, where she won the Ross McLean Award for Best Documentary.

Shari then worked as an editorial assistant and news writer at CBC Newsworld, and as an intern and reporter at a Peterborough, Ont., TV station.

Television journalism, given its time constraints, was not for her. "You can't tell the whole story, there's so much more," she explained. "I found that very frustrating."

In 1995, she produced *Animal Crackers*, a wry documentary about eccentric pet owners.

Her big break came with *Smile with your Eyes*, a touching documentary about a girl with a medical condition that prevented her from smiling and a surgeon who fixed her problem.

Robert, who also attended USDS and graduated from Forest Hill Collegiate, directed plays while studying drama at McGill University. His theatre productions ran the gamut from *Ten Lost Years* to *Cabaret*.

Moving into film, he and Neinstein made *The Cabaret Project*, a "docu-comedy." It won first prize at the McGill Film Festival and was screened at the Montreal World Film Festival.

Back in Toronto, with a McGill degree in hand, Robert worked for a Toronto theatre company.

At that point, he and Shari joined forces to produce *Atom Egoyan: A Road to Elsewhere*, which chronicles film director Egoyan's foray into contemporary opera.

"The opportunity to make a documentary about Atom couldn't be missed," Robert said.

It cost just under $200,000 to make, using funds from CBC, Rogers Documentary Fund, Bravo! and local arts patrons Joey and Toby Tanenbaum.

"That was the beginning," said Robert, referring to his professional association with Shari. "Luckily, it was well received."

Robert is keeping his options open about returning to theatre one day. "But right now," he hastened to add,"film is my addiction."

Robert and Shari, whose father is a dermatologist and whose mother is an art teacher and photographer, consider Neinstein, 26, an "honorary sibling."

After finishing McGill, Neinstein received an MA in motion picture production from the University of Southern California.

Then, honing his administrative and creative skills, he worked for Beacon Pictures, DreamWorks SKG, 20th Century Fox and Fox Searchlight, where, in a coup, he acquired the Academy Award winning *Boys Don't Cry*.

Shari and Robert Cohen with partner Robin Neinstein (right).

"He's taken our company to a new level," Shari said of Neinstein's Hollywood experience.

At Media Headquarters, the threesome have meshed remarkably well. Shari is the executive producer, while directing and producing are Robert's and Neinstein's preserves.

As for his working relationship with his sister, Robert, who is single, said, "We get along really, really well."

Shari heartily agreed. "We work together to solve problems. There is a certain amount of mutual trust. It makes for a happy place to work."

At the moment, the partners are busy making final preparations to shoot a three-part series on modern marriage and a film entitled *Le Mozart Noir*.

The latter is on the life of St. Georges, a largely forgotten 18th century composer whose father was a French nobleman and whose mother was a Haitian slave. One of Marie Antoinette's lovers, he suffered terribly from racism.

Media Headquarters has several other projects in development.

The Wedding Gift, based on a short story, is set in Nova Scotia and revolves around a romance between a woman and a priest.

Chump Change turns on a young aspiring writer faced with a momentous decision: Should he follow his dream and try to be a novelist, or should he stick to his day job?

How to Rule the World charts the phenomenon of globalization.

Looking still further ahead, Robert savours what may lie in store for Media Headquarters."We're very excited about our possibilities," he said. Piping in, Shari observed, "There aren't too many people of our age doing this."

The pair are quite ambitious. "We want to be a major provider of film and TV programming," Robert said. "[Both] in Canada and internationally."

Sonny Goldstein, CFP

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Mount Sinai introduces a number of high-tech tools

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Code Blue. Cardiac arrest! CPR! Get that breathing tube down! Defibrillator on! Clear! Whew – sinus rhythm.

The patient was saved. Everyone on the emergency team performed perfectly. Just one thing – the "patient" was a mannequin, the symptoms and results simulated on a computer, and the emergency procedure done, not on a hospital ward, but in the Surgical Skills Lab of Mount Sinai Hospital.

The mannequin is only one of the latest high-tech tools currently being introduced at the hospital. For junior residents and medical students, the mannequin is a particularly good teaching tool, as it reacts as a human being would, but with no risk to anybody.

It can also be used to simulate emergency situations, so that nurses, doctors, and technicians can practise both their individual skills and how to work as a team. The "body" can be moved, for instance, to the cafeteria, the emergency room or a patient room, to make the experience even more real.

The mannequin is an adult male, but there are plans to eventually have a female and even a child.

Zane Cohen, surgeon-in-chief of Mount Sinai, introduced the demonstrations to a goggle-eyed group of reporters and members of the Leadership Sinai group, which is raising funds for some of the new technology.

Hermes is a computerized, voice-controlled internal camera that can be set up during surgery and monitored from a computer station in the same room, or even in another city or country. It can turn camera lights on and off, zoom in and out, or move up or down.

Cohen explained that with this technology, experienced surgical staff can proctor others, help at a remote site, teach new techniques or mentor someone who was trained at a major centre and then returned to a smaller one. It can also be used with teleconferencing to demonstrate new techniques or compare ways of handling surgical problems or procedures at several different hospitals.

Zeus is another computerized tool for the operating room. One of its latest components is a robotic arm, controlled either by voice or a touchpad. It can perform all kinds of manoeuvres, including searching a body cavity, and even stitching.

"Its movements are more precise [than a human surgeon's] and so it can do things that can't be done with hand-held instruments. As well, it overcomes the natural tremor of the hand," Cohen explained. As a result, more advanced endoscopic surgery can be done.

The instrument can be changed without disturbing the patient, and can be easily disengaged in case of emergency or power failure.

A surgeon sits at an ergonomically sound computer console and manipulates the arm from there. He can also speak to personnel to direct their movements.

Zeus and Hermes can be combined as a teaching tool. Surgical residents demonstrated colonoscopy, where the arm can be used to examine the colon, with pictures sent back and shown on a monitor for use by both the student and the supervisor.

Doctors demonstrate how to deal with a cardiac arrest using a mannequin at Mount Sinai Hospital.

While this process can be used on patients, it can only scan for polyps or tumors. Regular colonoscopy can also remove polyps, a procedure that is essential to prevent colo-rectal cancer.

At the moment, the new technology is used as a teaching tool and in gastro-intestinal investigations and procedures. Cohen said that eventually it will be used by surgeons in other fields, and in other medical procedures, emergency medicine, anesthesia and nursing ("if a nurse can save 30 seconds in treating a cardiac arrest, it could save the patient's life"), as well as by respiratory therapists, medical and nursing students and paramedics.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons considers this new technology important for maintaining professional competence, because surgeons and other medical personnel can be monitored as they perform various procedures, he said.

The distance over which the combined technology can work was demonstrated by a hook-up from a site in Santa Barbara, Calif.

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CJ Kids

All God's creatures

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Many times people don't think very much of those who are little. They think that they don't know anything, or that they are undependable. Children are often treated this way.

This is not a new way for people to behave. In fact, according to *The Littlest Pair*, by Sylvia Rouss, illustrated by Holly Hannon (Pitsopany Press, 2001), it even happened when Noah built the ark.

All the animals watched, "wide-eyed, in awe," as Noah built an ark, as God had commanded him to do. When he was finished, Noah explained that there would be a great flood and that "you won't find a dry place to stand."

All the animals lined up, two of each kind, to go into the ark, so that they would be safe.

But when the littlest pair arrived, everyone got upset. Why? **Because the littlest pair were termites.**

Now, if you know anything about termites, you will know that they can be dangerous to have around. They eat wood, sometimes so much wood that they can make a piece of furniture, or even a whole building, fall apart. Including an ark.

All the animals panicked. "Somebody dooo something.!" begged the cow with a moo. "The lion began pacing and started to roar." And as for the spider, "Her heart was aflutter. Her legs began shaking."

You can imagine how the poor termites felt when the other animals began yelling at them. They started to cry, and got very sad. Luckily, Noah ignored what the animals were saying, and welcomed the termites onto the ark.

A lucky thing it was, too.

CHUBBY & HOTDOG
By Alyssa Gutman
Hotdog, what is all that noise upstairs?
It's Chubby trying out his new ultimate gregor!
PURIM

You see, when it started raining, all the animals started to slip and stumble and tumble all over the place. Even Noah couldn't figure out what to do.

Well, guess who saved the day. That's right – the termites. "We can make sawdust to give you some traction./Just say the word and we'll spring into action."

That's just what they did. Noah gave them some leftover wood, and the termites chewed it all up until it became sawdust. There was enough sawdust to line everyone's stall so that no one would slip and hurt themselves.

Everyone felt very badly for the way they had treated the termites. " 'We're sorry,' they said to the littlest pair. 'We weren't too nice. We were very unfair.' "

There is a lot that you can learn from *The Littlest Pair* – not to judge, to be kind to those who are different from you and to give everyone a chance. After all, as Noah says, "We're all God's creatures and to God, we all matter."

But this book isn't just a way to teach lessons. The colours are lovely, with bright yellows, oranges, purples and blues, and all the animals have really cute faces. I especially like the snake, who has a big smile on his face.

I also like that the animals come on board the ark carrying suitcases.

The whole book is written in rhyme, which you will really enjoy. For instance, "The elephant almost fell off of the Ark./ And right up his trunk slid a startled aardvark."

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CJ Kids

KIDDISH

Jewish Kids' Fun Page
by Ellene Newman and Hallel Newman

the Queen

based on the Midrash

Pouran ran through the hallway, bearing the golden tray laden with almonds, dried apricots, fish, grapes, and two pitas. She reached the Queen's room and knocked.

"Come in," came the voice from inside, "there's so much to do!"

Pouran entered. The Queen sat on a luxurious sofa, embroidering a small cushion. *She was always busy! Not like that last queen, who sat around all day screaming out orders without getting up or doing anything on her own.*

The Queen looked up and exclaimed, "Oh, the grapes!" Pouran, already used to the Queen's unvarying hectic schedule, brought out the grape press.

"Is Her Majesty sure she doesn't want me to press the grapes?" she asked, already knowing the answer.

"Of course not," the Queen energetically replied. "I'll do it myself. Pouran, you know what to do."

Pouran went to the inlaid walnut cabinet, removed the ornate silver candlesticks and began polishing them. Out of the corner of her eye, she watched her Majesty the Queen, knowing exactly what would happen. *Now she's going to cram the grapes into the press*, she thought. *Now she's going to pull down the lever. Now she's going to splatter bright purple grape juice all over her beautiful white dress...* Pouran winced as the Queen did just that.

The Queen carefully poured her juice into a large decanter. *What eccentricities the Queen had! Squeezing her own grape juice! Wasn't the juice from the royal winery fresh enough?* Pouran went to the wardrobe, and sighed as she took out another elegant, beaded white dress. *I only work here once a week, and she has to do this every time?*

The Queen changed into the new dress while Pouran cleaned grape juice puddles off the table and covered it with a sparkling white tablecloth. She set out bowls of fragrant condiments, salt and pepper, placed the two pitas in their handwoven basket, and put out a wine goblet and a porcelain dish. Finally, she set candles into the candlesticks. The late afternoon sun streamed through the window. "Pouran, you may return in two hours to clear the dishes." Pouran obediently complied, leaving the room and carrying the empty tray back to the kitchen.

*****

Manijeh ran through the hallway, bearing the golden tray laden with apples, olives, dates, eggs, and two pitas. She reached the Queen's room and knocked.

"Come in," came the voice from inside.

Manijeh entered. The Queen was lying down on her luxurious sofa as usual. Underneath the sofa was a basket of embroidery which Manijeh had never seen the Queen touch. *She is so lazy! Lazier than the last queen! But at least she's nice. She doesn't get angry and throw dishes like that last queen did. I shouldn't complain... working only one day a week isn't so bad!*

Manijeh gently placed the tray on the table adjacent to the sofa. "Manijeh, you may return in two hours to clear the dishes." The Queen sipped her goblet of grape juice, washed her hands in the little basin next to her, and began eating her pita.

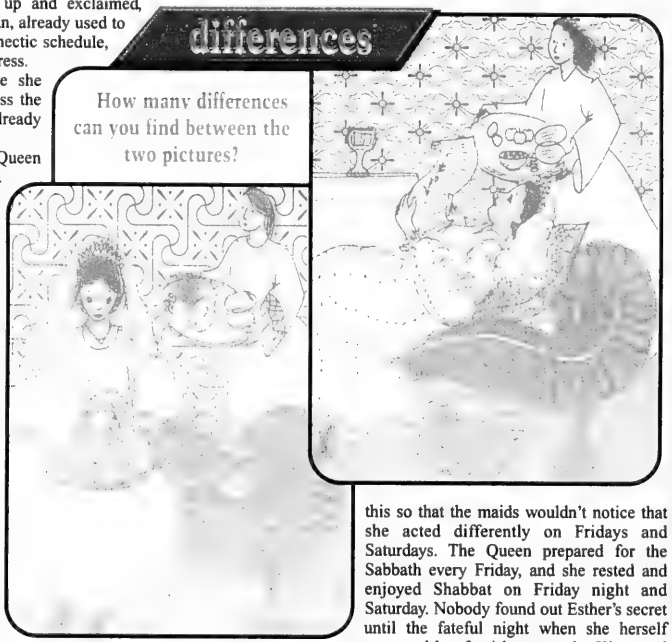
When the maid returned, the Queen had finished eating. "I think I'll rest for awhile now," she announced, and lay down as Manijeh closed the curtains and removed the tray from the table. Manijeh quietly left the room and carried the tray back to the kitchen.

*****

Shushan, Persia, was a dangerous place to be a Jew. But the Queen of the whole world ***was*** Jewish. ***Queen Esther*** employed a different maid for each day of the week. She did this so that the maids wouldn't notice that she acted differently on Fridays and Saturdays. The Queen prepared for the Sabbath every Friday, and she rested and enjoyed Shabbat on Friday night and Saturday. Nobody found out Esther's secret until the fateful night when she herself announced her Jewishness to the King, and saved her people.

differences

How many differences can you find between the two pictures?



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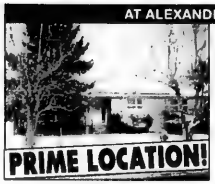

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CEIFETS, Toby – on Dec. 27, 2001, late of 5935 Bathurst St.
DANIELS, Anne – on Dec. 29, 2001, late of 55 Skymark Dr., #306.
KLASNER, Joseph – on Dec. 29, 2001, late of 7825 Bayview Ave., #1111.
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NISSENBAUM, Gerda – on Jan. 20, 2002.
LERMAN, Afthur Fred – on Jan. 20, 2002.
WEINSTOCK, Max – on Jan. 21, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
CUKIERFAJN, Gitla – on Jan. 22, 2002.
STRUZER, Maury – on Jan. 21, 2002, late of 7601 Bathurst St.
SHIFRIS, Semyon – on Jan. 22, 2002, late of 4266 Bathurst St.
VAZ, Deta – on Jan. 21, 2002.
INZEL, Sima – on Jan. 24, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

ESTRIEN, Myer – on Jan. 1, 2002, late of 775 Steeles Ave. W., #211.
ZYLBERSZTEIN, Mendel – on Jan. 5, 2002, late of 12 Goldfinch Ct.
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HONEST PROFESSIONAL
Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, honest, professional, easy going down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, travelling Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship **AD#1112**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Friendly, down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady, seeks a sincere, attractive hard working man for a committed future. She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant. Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

SEXY SIREN
Sexy siren (LOL) Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together Dancing, dining, etc **AD#1355**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-76 yrs old **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
"The key is compatibility." Looking for someone who mutually clicks Our personalities have to mesh. Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs See if our voiced blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo. She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

L'CHAIM
Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female 35 yrs old, 5'2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music. Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also She is looking for an honest relationship **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female 5'5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship **AD#1028**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure. **AD#1136**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family Please reply **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1106**

LET'S MEET
Single female, late 60's , retired professional, attractive, healthy, happy, personality, enjoys a variety of interests, seeks similar male **AD#137**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 46-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life **AD#1041**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family **AD#1087**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs Please call, will meet for coffee **AD#1433**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5' 3", 110 lbs, single no' kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun tobe with, trustworthy, considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looking, good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated Looking for love in all the wrong places Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years Would like a photo. **AD#1187**

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile Together we will make for an award winning performance **AD#1446**

MY GREAT NUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes. Loves music, dancing, movies Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1514**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim, blonde, blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive, professionally available, seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times, She likes quiet times, playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories. **AD#1045**

REACH FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big" Single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, caring and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoys walks, travel, dancing, dining, conversation Seeks male, 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship **AD#1432**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 40 yrs, enjoys a glass of wine, dinner, movies, travel, theatre, and skiing, seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring. Share laughter, fun and friendship **AD#1021**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive female, seeks friendship first with a wonderful man, preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and secure If you are tall and dark it's a bonus, you'll be happy you made the connection **AD#1073**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis, skiing, movies, restaurants, going for walks Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere **AD#1134**

WARM & AFFECTIONATE
Jewish, South African widow, 60 yrs, attractive, slim, 5' 5", warm, affectionate, seeks down to earth Jewish male, and friends who are compassionate and caring **AD#1110**

DINING AND SPORTS
Attractive, professional Jewish female, enjoys sports, fun and movies, seeks a cute man, who is handsome, honest and trustworthy **AD#1333**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Attractive, professional female, sexy with class, enjoys hiking, biking, tennis, water skiing, long walks, with dog, seeks male, with similar interests **AD#1425**

SINGLE FEMALE
43 yrs, 5' 9", brown eyes, attractive, honest, sincere, likes sports, dancing, dining, movies, seeks active, romantic, honest, established male, 40-50 yrs of age **AD#1082**

LOOKING LONG TERM
Single, 47 yr old female, who positive, giving, outgoing, very attractive, and has a good sense of humour, seeks life partner for long term relationship. She likes music, dining and dancing. **AD#1229**

55, DIVORCED
Many interests, dining, sports, dancing, 5' 1", easy to be with seeks interesting male, to celebrate, birthday in December **AD#1430**

DANCE WITH ME
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 4", a non smoker, thoughtful, caring, enjoys theatre, walks, dancing, seeks male, 48-63 yrs, who enjoys life to the fullest, and is financially stable for a long term relationship Must be loving, a kind hearted, warm and honest **AD#1015**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Very attractive, intelligent, 51 year old modern orthodox lady, who likes cooking, nature, travel, and the theatre, seeks possible long term relationship with a warm caring, healthy, sincere, 60 plus man. **AD#1040**

ART LOVER
Attractive female, single, early 60's, enjoys sports, arts, good music, travel, and dining Seeks independent, caring, and affectionate male, who is single **AD#1120**

LOTS TO SEES AND DO
Very attractive, Jewish female, 5' 7", almond hair, blue-green eyes, medium build seeks a Jewish male, above average looks, tall or over, a full head of dark hair, a good personality, upbeat and fun to be with. Someone who can make me laugh and be a mensch overall If this sounds like you, and you wish to meet me, call We can do a wide variety of things **AD#1148**

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS
Female, mid 40's, 5' 7", brown hair and eyes, enjoys candle lit dinners, a good glass of wine, is playful and quiet Seeks male, non smoker, 40-58 yrs old, who wants what the good life has to offer **AD#1273**

Single Jewish female, 65 yrs young Loves theatre, dining, travel, and music Seeks male, 66-73 yrs, with similar interests **AD#1262**

KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOUR
Divorced mom, 35 yrs of age, attractive, honest, sincere, good sense of humour, seeks modern, orthodox man, who is romantic and positive and someone who will slay dragons for me If interested call me **AD#1331**

BE MINE
Single Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, fun loving, and good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 55 yrs young, who is 6 feet tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, a non smoker, and one who loves life **AD#1052**

A JEWEL
Single female, attractive, slim, classy, seeks Jewish man, 50-68 yrs, non smoker, healthy, positive outlook on life **AD#1636**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single attractive, Jewish mom, 5' 5", intelligent, single, kind, sincere good natured, seeks single Jewish male, over 45 yrs, family oriented, kind hoses responsibility, must be over 6 feet tall **AD#1264**

CALL ME
30, single female, Jewish, born in Russia, lived in Israel, seeks man, 35-38 yrs old, weight factor not a problem She is a plus size woman, looking for a tall man **AD#1542**

LOOKING FOR YOU
Single female, with kids, Russian/Israeli descent, looking for someone who likes to dance and go to the movies, loves outings and has similar qualities **AD#1556**

SHARE LIFE'S ADVENTURES
Single mom, mid 40's, brown hair, and brown eyes, seeks male, 40-45 yrs, to share life's adventures, let's have coffee, dinner and wine **AD#1581**

LIFE IS TO BE SHARED
Single mom, 43 yrs old, 2 teens, believes in sharing life to the fullest, outgoing, compassionate, family oriented, great new opportunities for a joyful life exists **AD#1330**

SHARE HER WORLD
Single, pleasant, romantic, 60 years old, who likes music, dancing and travel, seeks someone to share her world with **AD#1218**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Smiling redhead, hazel eyes, senior, loves holding hands, enjoys music, sunshine, theatre, the arts and companionship, please give me a call **AD#1315**

men seeking women

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time Looking for someone to be comfortable with **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale Attention car buffs' 59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty. Interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance Let's have a wonderful life together **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 48 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969 Waiting for you call **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have sleyed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue" **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids Casual to long lasting relationship **AD#1288**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in finding a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile. **AD#1195**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors & traditional male, works a s financial consultant Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, birding. Seeks female, for long term relationship She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble, Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention. **AD#1407**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc. seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1329**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday **AD#1399**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5' 6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks Jewish lady, 62-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking. **AD#1267**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1208**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour. **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5' 9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer, things in life, emotionally and financially, stable, seeks female, with similar qualities **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children. **AD#1502**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1242**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs, 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see. **AD#1546**

CALL ME
Male, 48 yrs, humourous, good natured, friendly, enjoys stock markets, dancing, many other things, if interested, please leave me a message. **AD#1004**

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SHY ONE
Shy male, 6' 3", 220 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeks 30-40 yrs, who enjoys dancing, playing sports, surfing, the internet, and spending, time with family if this interest you, get back to me **AD#1108**

DOWN TO EARTH
Single male, 53 yrs, enjoys sports, dning and dancing, long walks, flea markets, antique shows, rides in the country, loves animals, seeks female, 43-45 yrs, weight not important, must enjoy the same interests **AD#1421**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Grouchy male, 75 yrs, enjoys Florida sunsets, movies, fine food, classical music, social activities, seeks female, attractive, loves to hold hands for companionship **AD#1359**

EASY TO LOOK AT
31 yrs, 5'5", associate producer, lives in central Toronto, brown hair and eyes, down to earth, affectionate, handsome, enjoys dining, movies, outdoors, long drives in the country, flying, gliders, seeks female, 25-33 yrs, down to earth, affectionate, not too hard to look at. **AD#1012**

QUALITY TIME
Single white male, 59 yrs, romantic, warm,caring, self employed, enjoys movies, music, travel, romantic, evenings, seeks female, easy to talk to, good sense of humour, with similar interests. **AD#1354**

CHARMING AND FUN
Single Jewish male, 36 yrs, 5' 11", gray green eyes, brownish hair, enjoys travel, music, movies, coffee houses, sports, seeks female, 25-40 yrs, warm compassionate, caring, good sense of humour, non materialistic. **AD#1245**

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Hockey Night in Toronto

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The backyard rink has an almost mythological status in Canada, sort of like the log cabin to our neighbours to the south. The great Wayne Gretzky practically grew up on one, so it only makes sense that when the Israeli national junior team visits Toronto next week, they'll get the full Canadian hockey treatment, including a jaunt on a 50-by-80-foot rink in the Forest Hill neighbourhood.

The rink is being made available by Michael Budman; he and Don Green are the principals behind Roots Canada. Their contribution is part of a community-wide effort to welcome the 19 visiting members of the Israeli team for their one-week hockey tour of Toronto.

In addition to the backyard skate, the Israelis will play five exhibition games against local high schools and community teams, practise at the RINX skating and entertainment complex, visit the Hockey Hall of Fame, take in an OHL major junior game, tour Jewish schools, and get together with Canadian youngsters.

Coming from a country where hockey is more of a curiosity than a popular sport, the Israelis' hockey immersion will no doubt leave lasting memories (and, quips event co-ordinator Eli Rubenstein, perhaps the mistaken impression that everyone in Canada has a backyard rink). It should also help improve the balance sheet of the Israeli hockey federation, which has fallen on tough times recently as the hard-pressed Israeli government cuts back on spending.

Businessman and philanthropist Edward Bronfman has agreed to to support the Jewish state's hockey program with $25,000, channeled through a family foundation affiliated with the Jewish Foundation of Greater Toronto's endowment fund. He'll also drop the puck at the juniors' exhibition game against the CHAT Tigers, which will be held at the Herb Carnegie Centennial Arena, Bathurst and Finch, at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 18.

Moshe Eizenman isn't sure how many youngsters will turn out for the game, but if history is any indication, the numbers should be good. Two years ago, the Israelis visited Montreal and drew between 500 and 600 cheering youngsters to a game against Bialik, the city's Jewish high school.

Eizenman was at that game and felt the atmosphere and the high spirits; and the identification of the local Jews with Israeli skaters was good for Jewish unity.

He also had a personal interest in the game. Two of his sons, Alon and Erez, have played for the junior nationals as well as the country's senior team, while his third son, Oren, plays for CHAT and the Israeli juniors.

Eizenman believes that a week-long tour by the Israeli team would not only help them improve their hockey skills, but would "link the Canadian and Israeli communities through hockey.

"The team will go to schools and talk about hockey in Israel and life for teens in Israel," Eizenman said.

Jerry Tolinsky, director of development at CHAT, saw the hockey game as "an opportunity to infuse a little bit of support for Israel in our youth" through a game that Canadians love.

That's just what Eizenman is hoping for. "The aim of this project is to foster a relationship between the two communities and if the situation in Israel will become more stable, people from Canada will go to Canada Centre and interact with their Israeli counterparts," he said.

Canada Centre is the recreation complex in Metulla, on Israel's northern border, built largely with funds donated by Canadians. With an Olympic-sized rink, it is home to the junior team, which draws primarily on skaters from northern communities.

Young Canadians have volunteered at the centre, teaching Israelis skating and hockey skills. NHL coach Roger Neilson has sponsored hockey schools at the centre on several occasions.

With the help of local volunteers, the support of the UJA Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto and donations from local businesspeople, the project was quickly brought together.

Jeff Budd, the Toronto-based manager of the junior team, said the Toronto visit will help the Israeli team develop in advance of next year's International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) qualification tournament. Though the Israelis who live near Metulla practice three times a week, their competition level is low. Playing exhibitions versus CHAT and others will help sharpen their skills, he said.

In addition to CHAT, Forest Hill Collegiate will provide competition for the Israelis, as well as select teams from the Avenue Road Hockey Association, the Forest Hill Hockey Association and the Vaughan Hockey Association.

Practice time at RINX has been donated and the team is also hoping to receive contributions of equipment to help replenish the Canada Centre's stocks, Budd said.

For more information about the CHAT exhibition game, call 416-635-2883 ext. 248 or visit www.jewishtoronto.net.

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This could be Russia's year

By LARRY RUCH
Special to The CJN

OTTAWA — Team Canada will take to the ice in Salt Lake City with a very impressive lineup. Any team sporting the likes of Joe Sakic, Mario Lemieux and Rob Blake cannot be easily dismissed.

The Winter Olympics should also be an excellent opportunity for Paul Kariya to stand out and prove his worth. It's time for the Kariyas, Sakics, and Brodeurs to take charge on the ice. It's interesting that we still have to rely on Lemieux, and even a retired Wayne Gretzky, to reclaim our hockey glory. However, without repeating the common concerns for this team (i.e. no Patrick Roy), here are some thoughts.

COACHING

Perhaps the biggest question mark for Canada will be its coaching staff. In a short tournament such as the Olympics, "game coaching" is crucial. Player selection and matching lines requires a coach who can read the opposition and match players accordingly. There is no one better at this than Scotty Bowman or Mike Keenan. Toronto Maple Leaf coach Pat Quinn does not appear as quick. And with the Leafs' Curtis Joseph on the team, he will have to deal with the "do I sit my club goalie and face his wrath all year" syndrome, which seemed to have influenced former Colorado Avalanche head coach Marc Crawford when he refused to sit Patrick Roy in Nagano in 1998. Jacques Martin will do a great job in preparing the team, while Ken Hitchcock, despite being fired recently, brings Stanley Cup coaching experience to the trio. But there is still no better game-day coach in hockey than Bowman.

THE GRETZKY FACTOR

While Gretzky's role as executive director of Canada's Olympic hockey program is welcomed, I am getting the feeling once again that Canada is starting to use the old "pond-shinny shtick" for motivation ("when I grew up, under a freezing but clear Manitoba sky, my dad would water our backyard rink every day at 5:00 a.m. and blah blah blah..."). For years this has defined hockey's romantic spirit and the vital attachment we have towards the game. Unfortunately, while we were writing and singing the praises of our game (thanks Ken Dryden), the Swedes and the Swiss were studying our sport, training and hiring professional coaches to develop their minor hockey players.(I don't know, but the recent Wayne Gretzky commercial, "the Gretzky Puck," seems a bit too much.) Then again, this is exactly how I grew up with hockey, with my dad doing the same things.

But nothing works better on Canadian hockey players than embarrassing them with criticism of their personal performances and applying extreme pressure (again, Mr. Keenan, where are you?). This is no time to get warm and fuzzy.

OPPOSITION

Team Canada's biggest challenge, and every team's for that matter, will come from the Russians. After years of criticizing the Russian hockey federation, Slava Fetisov gets his chance to run the show. The players will be motivated to play for him, and, after years of sub-par performances, they are due.

As for the other traditionally strong teams, hiring Herb Brooks, who coached a surprising U.S. team to gold at Lake Placid in 1980, to lead Team USA is a great move. And don't underestimate the influence of Sept.11 on this team, especially playing on American soil. The Czechs might be relying too much on Dominik Hasek, the Swedes on Mats Sundin and the Finns will miss Saku Koivu. Watch for the Swiss to improve and impress.

STYLE OF PLAY

In order to win, Team Canada will have to come up big at the right moments. Goaltending will not win or lose the tournament. Curtis Joseph, Ed Belfour and Martin Brodeur are more than adequate. The bigger concerns will be the health of Lemieux and the mental strength of Theo Fleury. Team Canada will have to pressure hard, while remembering not to chase the puck wildly, given the bigger ice surface. When the chips are down, the Europeans will not hesitate to quickly shorten their bench and go with three, or sometimes two, lines. Coach Quinn will have to be ready to pick this up. I hope Team Canada does not split up its coaching staff by defencemen and forwards, since this takes away the head coach's ability to match units.

PREDICTION

1. Russia is due. Everything seems in place, and with Fetisov behind the bench, you have a coach the players want to play for.
2. Canada will be the most interesting team to watch but might come up a bit short.
3. After Sept. 11, with the home crowd and a great, experienced team, you have to like the Americans' chances. Perhaps the upset team of the tournament. Brooks is also head coach. He brings the memory of 1980's unexpected "miracle on ice" to the forefront, but he is also an expert in international hockey.

Larry Ruch is program director of Huron Hockey at the University of Ottawa and coached for nine years in Switzerland and Austria.

'Indiana' Bahat?

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

Say the words "Ark of the Covenant" and "archeology," and I'm there – ready for swagger and derring-do with a Harrison Ford lookalike clad in a rakish fedora and bullwhip.

While Prof. Dan Bahat has the whiff of adventure about him – he has, after all, led some two dozen major archeological digs in Jerusalem and is considered a heavy-hitting digger – he's no Indiana Jones. That's probably just as well, because at some point, ark fans need to disengage from Hollywood's melting Nazi faces and get at the truth.

The truth, in this case, is disappointing. Despite the title of his tantalizing lecture – "Where is the Ark of the Covenant?" – there's no way of knowing, where the ark is, or even if it still exists, Bahat says with an almost blasé finality.

Darn. I was hoping that any of the current "Where's the ark?" theories, which range from the believable to the ridiculous, would one day be proven right. To wit: The ark is under the Dome of the Rock; in catacombs beneath the Temple Mount; buried in a cave under the place where Jesus was crucified; somewhere in the Judean desert near where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found; in yet another cave on Mount Nebo, where Moses viewed the Promised Land; in France (!), where it was brought by the medieval Knights Templar; in the basement of a church in Axum, Ethiopia; or, of course, crated and stored in a giant government warehouse in Washington, D.C.

As a senior archeologist at Bar-Ilan University, Bahat, a solid man with a shiny pate and the most impressive push-broom moustache you ever saw, has heard all those and more. He does credit *Raiders of the Lost Ark* with rekindling popular interest in the tale of history's most revered artifact. Another cool tidbit: Bahat knows the real Indiana Jones: an amateur archeologist from Texas named Vendyl Jones, who has stubbornly scoured the caves of Qumran for 20 years in search of the ark, and found little but rocks. "He's a bit crazy," Bahat says of Indy's cinematic prototype, "but I like him."

The ark, as we know by now, was the chest in which the desert-bound Children of Israel carried the Ten Commandments. It resembled, Bahat says, a gilded box on a stretcher, bookended by two cherubs. The Bible says God resided in the ark, and legend has ascribed to it unspeakable powers and allure. After being brought to the Promised Land, it was captured by the Philistines, who were smitten with tumours and swellings for their troubles. It ended up in the inner sanctum of the First Temple, and then disappeared in the Babylonian sack of Jerusalem in 586 BCE.

This we're nearly certain of, says Bahat, brought to Toronto for a series of lectures by the Israel Government Tourist Office. Everything else is pure speculation. But as a purely intellectual exercise, he's willing to entertain all theories. And shoot them down.

I immediately ask whether he's at least curious about what's in that church basement in Ethiopia, guarded only by a mysterious monk armed with a cross who allows no one in. "No," Bahat states flatly. "Because I know there's nothing there." He then turns the tables on his interlocutor: "If you had the ark, what would you do with it?"

"Charge admission," I say immediately.

"Ah…" the professor nods.

As for being touted as a modern-day Indiana Jones, Bahat rolls his eyes. For one thing, he's a medievalist, and his specialty are the tunnels beneath the Western Wall. "I'm not looking for the ark, and I'm not going to for one simple reason," he says dryly. "It doesn't exist anymore and no one will ever find it. The rest is pure nonsense. And all those who introduce me as Indiana Jones… it's pure nonsense. And if you decided beforehand what you're looking for, you'll never find it."

Darn.

But he does leave a door open: Bahat is now searching for remnants of the First Temple, and "Who knows what we'll find?"

That's better. And I'm watching the movie tonight. Again.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can't read them. – Mark Twain

We are part of a literate culture in which naming something gives it a new significance. Indeed, naming is literally signification. Labelling a child with the term "special," as euphemistic as the word attempts to be, is dangerous. In many cases, it transforms a minor learning disorder into a major stigma, sometimes for much longer than the disorder is an obstacle to learning and development.

This explains the motto we chose at the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education for our new special education co-ordinating unit: Tikun Chaim. "Isn't every child special?" sums up for us the notion that every child is a unique type of learner, and that the more we individualize our approach to each child while maintaining a diverse community of learners, the better we will all learn, students and teachers alike.

When we label a child "bright," "slow," "challenged" or "dumb," we have revealed much more about ourselves than about the child's true abilities. We have before us a learner who perhaps conceptualizes quicker and more creatively than the teacher. Call that "bright" or "gifted" and you understand the fear the teacher is feeling more than you understand the way that particular child will learn best.

Or maybe we have a youngster who understands well when spoken to face-to-face, clearly, and in a raised voice. Of course, the hearing problem must be dealt with, but the label "hearing-impaired" tells us very little about the totality of that student.

The great danger of such labelling (useful as it is in categorization and theoretical discussion) is the concomitant step of exclusion. How many times were parents told, in our own Jewish day schools, that a child with a learning problem could not handle the "double load" (another label)? This false assumption that the public school single load is acceptable for average and "below-average children" (more labels!), while the day school double load of general and Jewish studies is for "above-average children" (you get the point!) has wrongly excluded many children who had a right to a full education, and could have handled it.

But that, hopefully, is in the past. We now have principals, parents and teachers who identify problems early, search for creative learning strategies, and include as many children as possible in our schools. While there are still sad stories of children excluded completely from any form of Jewish education, more and more special students are finding their place in mainstream day school classes, at She'arim, at Zareinu, or in supplementary schools.

The labels that were once signals for exclusion are becoming gateways to inclusion, because every child is special.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 34.)

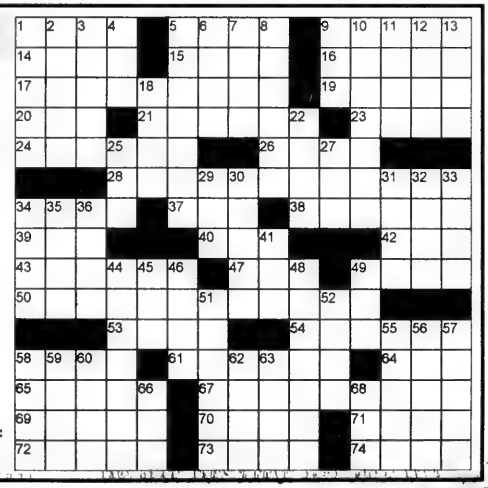
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Jeff Goldblum does it well
5 Arthur and others
9 First name in sci-fi
14 Yahweh
15 Recent fad doll
16 Australian beast
17 Barak's party
19 Wanted a hand
20 ___ Solo
21 Aaron Krickstein's forte
23 Murderous ending
24 ___ Zuckerman ("Beverly Hills, 90210" role)
26 Sculpture type
28 "God Bless America" composer
34 In the thick of
37 Steinem issue
38 Suspicious part of Copperfield's clothing, perhaps
39 Tattletale, to Siegel
40 Police blotter inits.
42 Storage container for Manischewitz
43 Coffee order
47 Scary street of movies
49 One, to Freud
50 Popular WWF wrestler
53 Dancing style
54 50-across, for example
58 With 67-across, matchmaker's quarry
61 Shocked
64 Noted Japanese-American singer
65 Phrase used in purchasing cloth
67 See 58-across
69 Saul's successor
70 On the Red
71 Israeli women's chess star ___ Kushnir
72 Fields of knowledge
73 Elliott Gould movie of 1970
74 Bagel with cream cheese, maybe

Down

1 "Shalom" in Diamond Head
2 Max plays drums for his band
3 Market-watcher's interest
4 "Star Wars" letters
5 Make sad
6 Oomph
7 "So be it!"
8 Doing a cobbler's job
9 Actress Lupino
10 From the heart
11 Part of ADL
12 Like Methuselah
13 Mossad message feature, maybe
18 Ending for mob
22 Some deli sandwiches
25 Free (of)
27 Sen. Roth's state
29 First name in lyricists
30 Unclad
31 *Survival in Auschwitz* author
32 Average Russian
33 Makes after expenses
34 ___ *and Jew*
35 Popular vacation island
36 "___ have to do"
41 Gr. neighbor
44 Whither many Sephardim, after the 1492 expulsion from Spain
45 "___ Crazy"
46 Party wear, sometimes
48 Promised deliverer
49 Trump trouble
51 Impasse
52 Goes to pieces
55 Like earls
56 ___ Gay
57 Pertaining to 69-across
58 Zilch
59 Certain 29-day period
60 Dead Sea Scrolls spot
62 "For ___ jolly..."
63 Amazes
66 He may work with canines: abbr.
68 Genesis son



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This Week

National

Shabbat ballot 'a mistake' Jim Flaherty says. *Page 3*

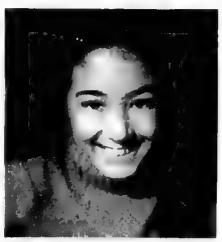
Musical comedy revived after 60 years for university's anniversary. *Page 14*

TAU professor involved in space shuttle research. *Page 21*

On Campus

Jewish Campus Services 'seriously underfunded' JCS president says. *Page 28*

Arts & Travel



Tajja Isen, 10, an up-and-coming superstar. *Page 38*

Church minister describes conversion to Judaism. *Pages 38*

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One day, one hospital... six sets of twins

Six pairs of twins were born on the same day last month at the Rambam Hospital in Haifa. Here we see mothers, nurses, doctors and family members sharing in the newborn joy.

[Israel Sun photo]

Bombardier still bidding on Israeli rail contract

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Bombardier Inc. is denying published reports that it is pulling out of a consortium bidding on a Jerusalem light rail line, but another Canadian company, engineering firm SNC Lavalin, said the threat of working under fire has prompted it to withdraw from a competing bid on the project.

Bombardier spokesperson Lydia Dufresne said the company "is not withdrawing from the consortium.

"A tender is to be submitted in the next few weeks and right now Bombardier is still discussing it with members of the consortium," she said.

Continued on page 29

Canadians win gold in bridge

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — *CJN* bridge columnist Fred Gitelman was part of a six-man team that won Canada's first gold medal in Salt Lake City.

Although it wasn't an officially sanctioned Olympic medal, the Canadian team's gold came at the recent International Olympic Committee (IOC) Grand Prix championship tournament, which included top bridge teams from around the world.

The underdog Canadians shocked the top-seeded entries from Italy and Poland in the final rounds to win the most prestigious invitational bridge event being held this year.

Gitelman, from Toronto, and partner Joseph Silver, from Montreal, assured Canada of a gold in the title match against the heavily favoured Polish team, winning the title by a single trick on the last play of the cards.

See our issue next week for further coverage.

Israeli speed skater Olga Danilov practises her form for Olympic competition. ***Please see related story on page 36.***

[Cory Krygier photo]

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For our expanded 'Mazel Tov' format — please see page 24

The News in Brief

CANADA

No to Icke

VANCOUVER — Two more local theatres have declined to host a two-day seminar by British conspiracy theorist David Icke. Last month, the Ridge Theatre declined Icke space for his talks. Recently, the Vogue and Hollywood theatres have also refused to rent their venues to Icke, whose writings contain numerous references to the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* and other anti-Semitic conspiracies.

ISRAEL

Mob Justice

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian mob stormed a West Bank court house last week and killed three defendants who had been charged with a vigilante killing. The Feb. 5 slayings in Nablus, where two dozen gunmen led a crowd of hundreds of angry protesters, appeared to be part of a clan feud. Associated Press reported that the three defendants were killed in the court's bathroom, where police hid them after the mob charged into the building. The gunmen pushed their way into the bathroom, pumped dozens of bullets into the three and dragged their bodies into the streets, shooting in the air in triumph, AP reported. The three victims had been dressed in Palestinian police uniforms, apparently because court officials, expecting trouble, had tried to disguise their identities.

Bigamy Offense

JERUSALEM — Popular Israeli singer Mati Caspi has been found guilty of bigamy. A court ruled last week that Caspi remarried in the United States in 1994 without having divorced his first wife, an Israeli. The court rejected a religious divorce Caspi obtained from a Beverly Hills rabbi. It said the only rabbinical court authorized to rule on the matter was one in Israel, where Caspi's initial divorce request had been rejected. Caspi could face a jail sentence of up to three years.

WORLD

Trade Centre Opens

MOSCOW — A Russian-Israeli trade centre has opened in Moscow. A group of Israeli businessmen led by Natan Sharansky, Israel's housing minister and a former refusenik, was visiting Moscow for the opening. Israeli exports to Russia totaled $170 million (US) in 2001, an increase of 16 per cent over the previous year.

Students Attacked

PARIS — Some 40 youths attacked a group of Jewish students leaving school Jan. 31 in the Paris suburb of Montreuil. According to witnesses, the assailants, many of whom covered their faces with Palestinian scarves, sprayed mace in the faces of several of the Jewish youths. French authorities are investigating. A week earlier, a school bus carrying Jewish children was stoned as it passed a housing project in the nearby suburb of Aubervilliers.

Ethiopian Ordained

NEW YORK — The Conservative movement recently ordained its first Ethiopian-born rabbi. Rabbi Yafet Alemu, who lives in Jerusalem, formally becomes a member of the group's Rabbinical Assembly at the Conservative movement conference, which ends this week in Washington.

Ghetto Dr. Dies

WARSAW — Dr. Arnold Mostowicz, who treated fellow Jews in the Lodz Ghetto during World War II, died here Feb. 3. He was 87. Mostowicz played an active role in the Resistance and was deported to Auschwitz after the Lodz Ghetto was liquidated in 1944.

Peru's Door Open

NEW YORK — The president of Peru is opening his country to distressed Jews of Argentina. Speaking before the American Jewish Committee last week, Alejandro Toledo said he is considering incentives to bring Argentine Jews to Peru. Toledo's wife, Eliane Karp de Toledo, is Jewish, and in his talk, he expressed fondness for Israel.

Victim Wins Suit

NEW YORK — A U.S. court has awarded $183 million (US) in damages from Iran to the family of Ira Weinstein, who died in a 1996 bus bombing in Israel that killed 25 people. Hamas, which is supported by Iran, claimed responsibility for the attack. The families of two other Americans killed in the attack have already received damages given by the United States against frozen Iranian assets.

Layoffs at Hadassah HQ

NEW YORK — As Hadassah prepares to celebrate its 90th anniversary, the women's Zionist organization has laid off 10 per cent of the staff at its U.S. headquarters here.

Hadassah officials said the layoffs were necessary, and assured that the group's programs will be left intact.

But some insiders say the dramatic cutbacks casts doubt on the organization's ability to remain a leader in the Jewish community.

Hadassah, with 300,000 members, is one of the largest women's membership organizations, and the largest Zionist membership organization in the United States.

Before the cuts, the organization employed some 200 to 300 people at its headquarters, which also includes a volunteer staff.

Among the departments that lost much of their professional staffs were those devoted to public affairs, Washington affairs and Israel, Zionist and international affairs.

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Flaherty: Allowing Shabbat ballot 'a mistake'

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Ontario Tory leadership hopeful Jim Flaherty is accusing his own party of making it all but impossible for Sabbath-observant Jews to cast ballots in the March 23 vote to replace Premier Mike Harris.

Asked in a *CJN* interview last week whether he's disappointed that his party is refusing to allow advance polls for those who observe Saturday as their Sabbath, Flaherty said, "Yes, I am. Quite frankly, the position being taken by some on the [party's] executive is inconsistent with the wishes of the membership."

Party was aware of problem back on Nov. 9

Internal party documents obtained by *The CJN* show that the PC party was aware of a potential problem as far back as Nov. 9. In a Jan. 9 letter to party president Reuben Devlin, Flaherty blasted the Tories, saying that "as a direct result of its decision to hold the vote on a Saturday, the party has disenfranchised entire segments of the community on the basis of their religious observance."

In a 12-9 vote on Jan. 26, the party's executive chose not to consider advance polls, leaving a proxy vote as the only alternative for the balloting, which takes place on a Saturday.

However, as reported in last week's *CJN*, a proxy vote is a non-starter for observant Jews, as it is un-halachic. Three rabbis consulted agreed that it is clearly against Jewish law to appoint someone to perform a specific task that is forbidden for Jews on the Sabbath. That means Jews who are *shomer Shabbat* will be effectively shut out from choosing the next premier of Ontario.

The Saturday vote has disappointed and angered Jewish party members in at least three ridings. They say they are being disenfranchised – just as they were aggressively courted by the party.

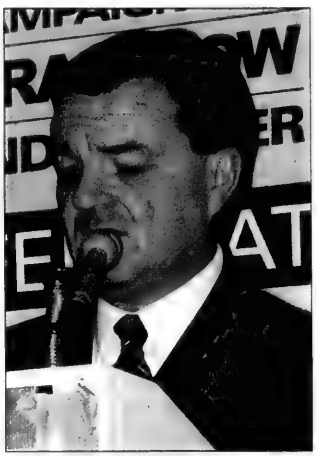
Prior to the rabbis' revelation that a proxy vote is untenable for Jews, Jewish party members were concerned that in at least one riding, York Centre, the Sabbath observant far outnumber the non-Sabbath observant, making one-on-one proxy voting mathematically impossible.

Flaherty, one of five leadership candidates, accused his party of showing poor form.

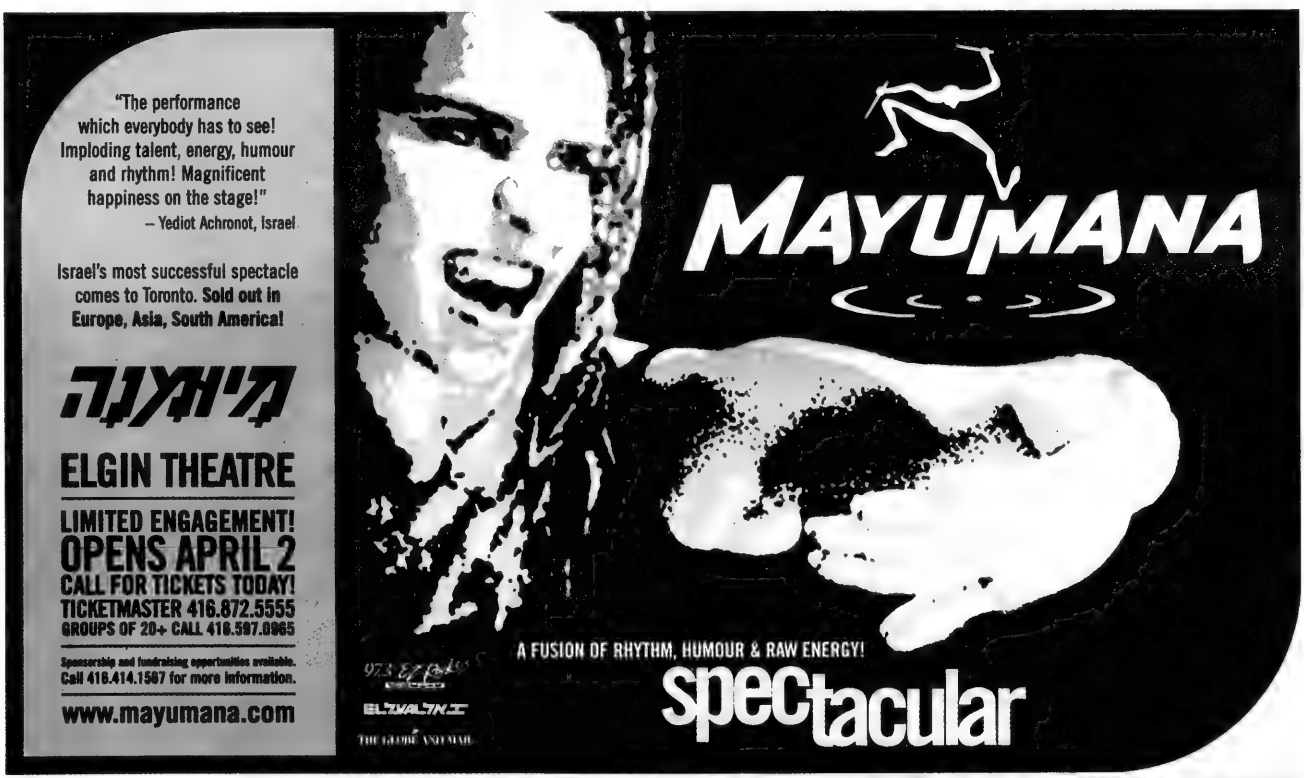
"If the membership were fully consulted on this issue, there'd be no question at all that the executive would be instructed to find a solution that works for the faith communities in Ontario that observe Saturday as their day of rest," he said.

Asked about the executive's decision to disallow advance voting, he said, "they're making a mistake. The entire concept of our party is to be inclusive and welcome everyone to full participation. One of the most important functions the party has is to organize an election for the new leader, and the rules ought to be at least as welcoming as the rules are in general elections in Ontario. General

Continued on page 25



Jim Flaherty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Innocent civilians defined

Merely three days after Yasser Arafat's op-ed renunciation of terror against innocent civilians appeared in the Sunday *New York Times*, innocent Israeli civilians were again attacked and murdered by Palestinian murderers.

It happened in Hamra, a small community of about 40 families in the northern Jordan Valley. A Palestinian breached the community's security fence. But because he wore an IDF uniform, the initial reaction to his entry was slow. He started shooting, killed a sentry and then entered one of the homes, where he was himself gunned down by security forces.

In that home, the intruder shot and killed a woman and her 11-year-old daughter.

Hamas claimed "credit" for the murders. In its gushing praise of their fallen comrade, Hamas released a statement that included the following quote by a brother of the murderer: "My brother faced the settlers face to face. He is a hero."

It is a singularly damnable definition of heroism that celebrates the calculated, cold-blooded slaughter of a mother and her 11-year-old child.

Two days later, a 79-year-old woman was shot to death by murdering Palestinians as she was being driven by her son back to her home north of Jerusalem.

On the same day, a 25-year-old woman strolling in the heart of Jerusalem was killed by a gang of four marauding Palestinian teenagers, who set upon her with a howl of terror and stabbed her repeatedly.

As of this writing, there is a fresh news report that two other civilian women were shot to death by Palestinians near the military base in Beersheva.

Last week's toll of murdered and maimed Israelis provides us, tragically, with an exegetical "commentary" on Arafat's *New York Times* essay, helping us to better understand what he meant by the term "innocent civilians."

It's clear, or should be, to reasonable, fair-minded individuals, that Arafat excludes all Israelis in the term "innocent civilians." In his deceitful, double-speak, coded lexicon of prevarication and charade, what he really means is if they are Israeli, they are neither "innocent" nor "civilian."

Arafat's followers understand the true meaning of his words without the need for commentary. Many westerners, alas, prefer to accept Arafat's mere articulation of lofty terminology, without the slightest reference to the Palestinian Authority (PA) leader's behavioural illuminations and clarifications of his statements.

Nor can these wilfully blind defenders of the Palestinian Authority leader suggest that he does his best, but is impotent in his efforts, to rein in all of the terrorists. For here too, the facts betray their fantasy.

In the first place, the murderers belong to Arafat's own Fatah-affiliated al-Aqsa Brigade and Tanzim, as well as to Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah and any of the other murder associations vying for members in Palestinian society.

In the second place, Arafat and his tightly controlled media outlets constantly praise the murderers for their courage and patriotism as martyrs for the cause.

And in the third place, Arafat's police and security officials routinely release people they have "arrested." Immediately after the Hamra massacre, the PA police released 25 prisoners belonging to Hamas and Islamic Jihad from their cells in Nablus. Among those released were two individuals whom Washington had asked Arafat to arrest. In Jenin, seven more "detainees" were released by the PA at the insistence of the mob.

There are, of course, other "places" to look for the truth about Yasser Arafat's intentions toward Israel and the Jewish people. The most disheartening is the morally inverted ethos that appears increasingly to dominate the society he has fostered.

Ha'aretz last week reported on the macabre, surreal debate about feminism in Islam that has erupted in various Palestinian and wider Arab media in the wake of the suicide bombing by Wafa Idris last month in downtown Jerusalem, in which one Israeli was killed and some 140 others were wounded. The bombing occurred at a busy time of the shopping day, at an intersection in Jerusalem that is comparable to Peel and Sainte-Catherine streets in Montreal or Yonge and Dundas in Toronto. Maximum human carnage was intended and attempted by Idris.

The debate concerned the permissibility in Islam of women carrying out such bombings. The opinions were divided among religious authorities. One religious leader, Hasan Yusuf wrote that "Jihad against the enemy is an obligation borne... also by women." Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, however, partially dissented, saying that "while a woman is entitled to take part in jihad, a man must supervise and travel with her if she is to be gone longer than a night and a day."

The debate did not turn on the permissibility of wanton killing. That was a given. Rather it dealt only with the permissibility of a woman as the killer.

In the Arab world, Idris has been widely celebrated as a hero. *Ha'aretz* reported that "scarcely a day goes by without five to 10 articles being published in praise of her act. Arab pundits compare her to Joan of Arc."

If Yasser Arafat's feelings were hurt because the Idris debate ignored totally his statement on "innocent victims," he can at least take some satisfaction in knowing he was published in the *New York Times*.

— MBD

SeeJN

WARTIME CARVING:
George Armeniakos from Corfu, Greece, poses beside a wooden sculpture that was left with him by a Jewish man during World War II. On one branch of the sculpture is written in Hebrew, "I will not forget my roots," and on the other branches are names of the continents. Armeniakos, 70, had hidden the carving and forgotten about it, but found it again about four years ago when he was renovating his house. He does not know the fate of the man who left him the carving but is seeking anyone who might recognize it.
[Carolyn Blackman photo]

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Research

Baycrest's Rotman Research Institute plays lead role in brain imaging network

The Ontario government is investing more than $16-million to launch BRAIN, a neuro-imaging research network spearheaded by Baycrest's Rotman Research Institute (RRI) and Rotman scientist Dr. Randy McIntosh.

"This unites scientific efforts in brain imaging across the province so we can pursue important issues with respect to human brain function, stroke and rehabilitation, and disease," says Dr. McIntosh, assistant director of the RRI, and the network's lead investigator.

"The Rotman Institute was asked to lead this province-wide initiative because of our reputation in brain and behavioural research," he adds.

Dr. Randy McIntosh

Care

Bereavement group offers support and friendship

Six months after her husband died, Frieda, 78, found she was spending most of her evenings alone. Although she has a grown daughter whom she sees often, Frieda didn't want to burden her with her sadness.

On the advice of a friend, she called the Social Work department at Baycrest and was referred to the Bereavement Group for men and women age 55 and older who have lost a spouse. The group meets regularly and members can come as often as they like. Topics vary according to the interest of the group, but discussions may be about finding home support, financial services, etc.

For more information call Heather Lisner-Kerbel (416) 785-2500, ext. 2550.

Social Worker, Heather Lisner-Kerbel

Other programs...

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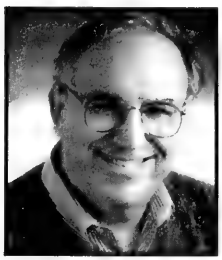
Education

Each month Dr. Michael Gordon, vice-president, Medical Services, publishes a column in the Toronto Star on Aging. Here are excerpts from a recent column:



Dr. Michael Gordon

Personality change calls for medical consultation

How do you know when it's time to seek medical advice about a subtle change in a loved one's memory or personality?

In my experience, I've found that the person closest to the individual in question may not notice the subtle changes for quite a while and simply attributes the problems to age or hearing loss. The spouse or child may be so used to directing activities that they don't realize the other person is participating in decision-making less and less.

When a problem is suspected, it should be brought to the attention of the family physician. Keep in mind that not every event of memory loss or personality change is due to dementia such as Alzheimer's disease. Many medical conditions can cause such changes including the effects of medication, alcohol, underlying illnesses, depression and other types of dementia. A careful medical review, which may entail various tests, is necessary to put the pieces together.

The biggest challenge for a family member is to recognize that an important change has occurred and to seek a doctor's advice. There may be medical interventions that can change the course of the problem.

COC faces controversy over opera *Salome*

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Canadian Opera Company found itself embroiled in allegations of anti-Semitism with its recent performances of *Salome*.

The opera, which ran until Feb. 5th, was directed by Atom Egoyan. *Salome* is based on an 1893 play by Oscar Wilde, which was adapted into opera by Richard Strauss in 1905, and then revised by Egoyan for the current production.

Len Rudner

The character of Salome was developed by Wilde from a few passages drawn from the Christian biblical books of Mark and Matthew dealing with the death of John the Baptist.

King Herod asks his stepdaughter, Salome, to dance for him, telling her to name her price "up to half his kingdom." In return for pleasing King Herod with her dance, Salome asks for John the Baptist's head on a silver platter.

Influenced by Sigmund Freud's theories of the day, the opera portrays Salome as a disturbed woman driven by complex family relationships within a sexually charged household.

In Wilde's version, five Jews are present in Herod's court debating whether the Messiah has come. Strauss portrayed these characters as five Jews who bicker and argue senselessly over religion.

In the current Atom Egoyan version, these five Jews are portrayed as ugly doctors and drug traffickers who brutally rape Salome during her dance. An accompanying film emphasizes Salome's loss of innocence by her sexually abusive stepfather.

In a *National Post* review, Tamara Bernstein stated that she left the opera "feeling violated as both a woman and a Jew."

"If he had to include a rape, why did Egoyan choose the Jews?" she asked. Bernstein suggested mothballing the opera due to its anti-Semitic and misogynous elements.

In a separate article, Egoyan, known for his films *Exotica* and *The Sweet Hereafter*, defended his version of *Salome*, stating that the acts of the Jews are important to his interpretation of the events.

"This, of course, is not a pretty story," Egoyan wrote. "It also happens to be taking place in a Jewish household in a Jewish court."

Egoyan noted the rape is crucial to his interpretation of Salome's actions and that to use any other characters would have been "dramatically ridiculous."

In response, Bernstein stated the current production "amplifies the anti-Semitism that's already in Strauss's opera without critiquing it."

"By turning the five Jews into doctors, drug traffickers and then rapists" Bernstein said that Egoyan has crossed the line of neutrality given "the context of this opera, the history of Jews in Europe and contemporary politics."

"Since when does the ability to write a 'great' opera exempt composers and librettists from moral scrutiny?" Bernstein asked. "[And] why do so many people look the other way?"

"The artistic choices made by Egoyan were troubling," Canadian Jewish Congress spokesperson Len Rudner said in an interview.

"As a Jew in the audience, I felt uncomfortable," Rudner added. "I wish that Egoyan had found some other fashion to layer the issues of incest and revenge while being more sensitive to the viewing audience."

In a letter to the Canadian Opera Company, Rudner suggested that in the future the opera consider allowing Congress to comment on ways in which potentially difficult productions could be handled in a sensitive fashion.

Spokesperson Claudine Dominique said that "the COC is pleased to have established contact with the Canadian Jewish Congress."

However, she added, she is not aware of any ramifications this event will have on future artistic choices.

CJC lauds Mac's handling of alleged anti-Semitic incident

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — New operators are running a Mac's convenience store in Thornhill where a cashier allegedly made anti-Semitic remarks to a group of Jewish teens.

Dan Dugas, an operations manager for Mac's Convenience Stores Inc., said the husband and wife who had been running the store at Bathurst Street and Atkinson Avenue had asked for a transfer in November, and since the Jan. 26 incident, Mac's sped up the transfer request.

Mac's is investigating the incident further, Dugas said.

Len Rudner, director of community relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said the recent move by Mac's shows the company is attentive to the perceptions of the community.

Rudner said he met with the couple, whose daughter allegedly made the anti-Semitic comments.

"These situations are almost always more complex than they seem when they are reported. We have one group claiming someone said something, and we have the cashier's version, which is quite different.

"Because there were no independent witnesses, it is difficult to say what really happened. My general orientation is to give everyone the benefit of the doubt. It is not my place to sit in judgement," said Rudner.

Several years ago, said Rudner, there was a similar incident at the same store and when Mac's investigated, the employee involved was fired. The current Mac's area manager held the same position at the time of the previous incident, but the recently transferred couple were not running the store at the time.

"Mac's has proven that they do take incidents seriously and they do investigate," Rudner said. "What [the company] is doing now, is consistent with the way they behaved before."

CJC Ontario region has tried to establish a relationship with Mac's, said Rudner, so if something happens, the two organizations can decide how to deal with it. "We are building on an existing relationship with Mac's."

The organization has offered to work with Mac's to help them train staff. "Mac's has customer service training, and we've encouraged them to investigate whether further training is required.

"It helps when organizations work closely together rather than go out on an attack. We are attempting to build on the relationship and do the right thing," said Rudner.

Open House and
Cooking Demonstration
Passover Pleasures
Sunday, February 24
Join us for a delightful afternoon of cooking, featuring cookbook author, Norene Gilletz. Norene will be demonstrating recipes focusing on healthy, low fat baking for Passover, as featured in her most recent book, The Food Processor Bible.
Demonstrations will be held at 2:00 and 3:15 p.m.
Copies of The Food Processor Bible will be available for sale.
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'Community's future' sings out loud in Zimriyah 2002

Sixteen choirs from Toronto's Jewish supplementary and day schools took to the stage last Sunday at the Toronto Centre for the Arts for the annual Zimriyah music festival, produced by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education. Dr. Seymour Epstein, chair of the board, praised the approximately 600 students who took part in the two concerts, calling them "our future and our hope." [Jeff Rosen photos]

Let's celebrate success.

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Israel Now and Forever

Closing Celebration

featuring

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- Senior Advisor to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon
- Former Minister of Defense and Foreign Affairs
- Former Ambassador to the U.S.

Thursday, February 28, 2002, 7:45 pm

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Dry Bones
THE NY TIMES PUBLISHED A PASSIONATE ARTICLE BY YASSER ARAFAT...
PROCLAIMING HIS DESIRE FOR PEACE WITH ISRAEL
THEY'RE HAVING THEIR PURIM ISSUE EARLY THIS YEAR?
APPARENTLY SO.

Europe, unhelpful and vindictive

It was not a coincidence that against the backdrop of the visit by Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon with U.S. President George W. Bush in Washington last week, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat announced he had been invited to address the European Parliament on Feb. 18. His announcement was part of a broader statement to his people and to the United States denying any knowledge, let alone involvement, in the ill-fated *Karine A*.

The statement was concise: "The PA had no knowledge of the shipment; it never decided to purchase arms or smuggle them into Palestinian territory and it has never had any dealings with Iran concerning weaponry. However it has arrested the men allegedly responsible for the smuggling attempt, in order to ascertain the facts and close the case."

The European invitation to the PA leader was part of a broader outline for Middle East peace drawn up by the French government that calls for Palestinian elections and for the creation of a Palestinian state to be immediately recognized by Israel and admitted to the UN.

Last week's coddling of the PA leader by the European Union came on the heels of a threat a week earlier by the EU to seek reparations from the Jewish State for having damaged Palestinian buildings built with EU money. "The EU is seriously concerned at the destruction of Palestinian infrastructure and other facilities which help Palestinians in their economic, social and humanitarian development and which are financed by EU donors…The EU urges the Government of Israel to put an end to this practice *and reserves the right to claim reparation…*"

The Europeans seem as much embarrassed for themselves as they are upset with Arafat over the *Karine A* affair. They cannot bring themselves to criticize the PA leader for the violence he allows or the duplicity he practises. On the contrary, they prop him up after each new wave of terror against Israeli citizens.

Yet they find no difficulty in criticizing Israel, and lately, the United States as well. "It is very dangerous," declared Sweden's foreign minister Anna Lindh, "if the U.S. is supportive of the Israeli government and of the confrontation Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has tried to use in the latest weeks…"

This past weekend Israel was again severely excoriated by the EU for its retaliation against the PA after the latest frenzy of murdering Israelis.

But the United States is unable to ignore the mounting evidence of PA complicity in terror and Israel is unwilling to accept as inevitable the murder of its citizens. They refuse any longer to perpetuate blatant mistruths and wishful fantasies about the PA.

The EU's approach to peace in the Middle East is deeply puzzling, to say the least. When combined with the recent alarming wave of anti-Jewish incidents, especially in France and England, and the legal vendetta being waged against Sharon in the human rights courts of Belgium, Europe's approach must be seen for what it truly is: unhelpful and vindictive.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO…

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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The Globe's "Hobeika File"

Your complaint ("From the Editor's Desk," *CJN*, Jan. 31) about the failure of the *Globe and Mail* to be responsible in its recent editorial "The Hobeika File" was further reinforced by that newspaper's choice of letters to the editor. These letter writers, already prejudiced, took the editorial as an invitation to hang Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon without the need for evidence. The *Globe* had the choice, however, at least for the sake of balance, if not for the sake of the facts, of publishing a letter that was backed by an eyewitness report of the actual events at Sabra and Shatila.

In a letter I sent to the *Globe*, I cited excerpts from the book *From Israel to Damascus* by Robert Hatem, who was the bodyguard and driver for Elias Hobeika during the Lebanon War of 1982. The book, which is banned in Syria-controlled Lebanon, can be read on the Internet at www.israeltodamascus.com/thebook.htm.

I cited the following excerpts from Chapter 8 of Hatem's book: "We were to sort out the armed terrorists and hand them over to the Israeli troops at the Cité Sportive… The men were allotted in several units respectively under the command of Joseph Asmar, Michel Zouein, G. Melco and Maroun Mashaalani… Sharon had given strict orders to Hobeika to guard against any desperate move should his men run amuck. They were to behave like a real dignified, regular army – not like 'chocolate soldiers' and coordinate with the Israeli command… After inspection the civilians would be sent back to their homes. However, Hobeika gave his own instructions to his men: 'Total extermination… camps wiped out.' It was Maroun Mashaalani's men, undaunted by their regular and immoderate use of heroine and cocaine who perpetrated the most ghastly slaughters in the camp bordering Ghaza Hospital at the entrance of Sabra…"

The individuals cited in the book can be added to the list of those who would want to silence Hobeika. However, the *Globe* apparently did not want additional information to get in the way of its opinion and chose not to publish my letter.

It will be interesting to see what the videotaped testimony Hobeika recorded before his death will reveal: did he truthfully point the finger at Maroun Mashaalani or did he put the blame on Sharon?

Although I am not the right person to defend Sharon, directing the blame so facilely at him reminds me of the Yiddish saying: "While one gentile is slaughtering another gentile, both will agree to blame the Jew."

Alex P. Korn
Toronto

* * *

More on the Messiah controversy

As an observant Jew, I am proud of the vital work that Lubavitch has done in outreach and the revitalization of Torah study and observance. However, I am deeply troubled by the view held by some that the deceased Rebbe is the Messiah.

Because such a view is so controversial, it is time for the Lubavitch leadership to issue a clear and unambiguous statement on whether or not it considers the Rebbe to be the Messiah. The movement has been sending out conflicting signals on this matter for far too long.

Kenneth Fisher
Toronto

* * *

Look to education, not the court

The best defence against Holocaust deniers and White Power-type propaganda is education. The Nizkor Project has done an excellent job of refuting Zundel's theories, as well as other, similar theories, on its comprehensive Web site (www.nizkor.org).

Such efforts have proven to be much more effective against Internet hate propaganda than the recent court ruling regarding Zundel's Web site. It is folly to believe that court rulings will dissipate anti-Jewish or any other hatred on the Internet. Education and understanding are the best weapons against any kind of racism. Such tactics will keep people like Zundel on the fringes of society, where he belongs.

If we as Jews are concerned about the promotion of racial hatred, then perhaps it's time to introspectively examine the hatred that occurs in our own community, too, such as the anti-Arab invective of most Jewish publications like this one.

Yaacov Gray
Toronto

* * *

Visit Israel now

My wife and I recently visited Israel. We felt more secure in Jerusalem, Haifa or Tel Aviv than we do in large North American cities.

Our brothers and sisters in the Jewish State routinely ask where Canadian and American Jews are now when they are most needed. "Hotels are empty," they point out. "The streets are empty of tourists. By staying home, they are encouraging the terrorists to terrorize! Israel is fighting a war for survival and Diaspora Jews are staying home."

Most terrorist attacks take place in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip and are directed at army positions and/or Israeli settlements. There was no sign of terrorism on Tel Aviv streets. The Carmel Market and Nachalat Binyamin Street were crowded with people, young and old, going about their daily lives, wholly unafraid of being blown up.

In Montreal, anti-Israel Jews rally each week in front of the Israeli Consulate to protest the policies of the State of Israel. Why don't other Jewish groups show their support by rallying each week as well, proudly declaring their love and admiration for their Israeli brothers and sisters?

I call on the leaders of the Jewish community to organize regular rallies in support of Israel every week, every month, and not to let the media spotlight fall only on those self-hating Jews.

We must help Israel defy terrorism by being with our State, there and here, today and always. Am Yisrael Chai.

Baruch Cohen
Montreal

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures. Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Murder of Hobeika resonates in Belgium

In yet another round of Middle East violence, a car bomb in Beirut last month took the life of Lebanese warlord Elie Hobeika. Hobeika, who was a prominent figure during the Lebanese civil war and later a cabinet minister for the Christian Phalange party, had been out of the news until early January when he met with a group of visiting Belgian senators to discuss evidence against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in a case underway in Brussels.

By ED MORGAN

The Belgian case is actually one of two companion cases dealing with violence in the Middle East. The first one started with a complaint laid against Sharon last July. That indictment relates to a massacre of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon's Sabra and Shatila camps some 20 years ago.

The second case started this past November, when a group calling itself the Victims of Arab Terror filed a similar complaint with the same Belgian court against Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. This one alleges that a campaign of violence against Israeli civilians has been waged for the past 30 years.

Both cases are now winding their way through the Belgian legal system. Sharon's lawyers have challenged the jurisdiction of the court to try a sitting head of state, and Arafat's legal team will doubtless follow suit. But the Americans and the Spanish, in turning their attention to Generals Manuel Noriega and Augusto Pinochet, have already determined that a head of state might be subject to legal attack. Unless Belgium changes its law, the cases are likely to proceed.

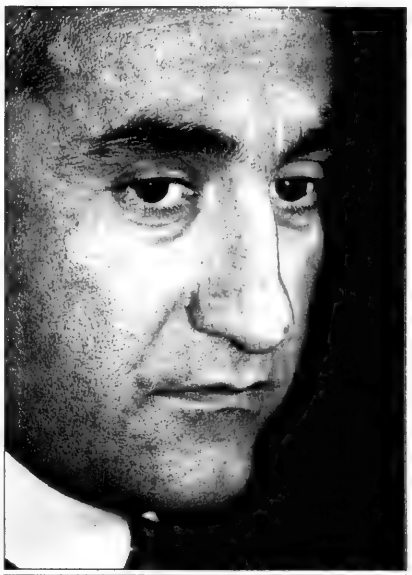
What is one to make of this tendency of the world's courts to take on foreign political leaders? These are not UN tribunals or other multilateral bodies engaging in transnational justice. Rather, these are long arm domestic jurisdictions, with Belgium's being the longest, most universal of them all. Some 30 similar cases are pending in Brussels now that the Belgians have set themselves up to judge anyone anywhere.

Now this experiment in legal process has taken on the most intractable question in the world: in a violent international conflict where civilian casualties have become the norm, who is the terrorist and how is one to tell?

The British courts have traditionally said that "all justice is local." International law starts with, and struggles against, that basic idea. It makes all the legal difference in the world whether a victim is pushed into the Rio Grande or over Niagara Falls from the north side or the south. The local community is the one generally thought to be in the best position to determine guilt.

Historically, therefore, states were restricted to prosecuting crimes committed on their own territory or to bringing diplomatic complaints directly against other states for offensive conduct abroad. Since World War II, however, the prosecution of war criminals has gone international. The 1946 Nuremberg case, and the 1964 Israeli prosecution of Adolf Eichmann, entrenched the idea in legal circles that crimes against humanity are the business of any state that takes an interest. Laudable as this seems, however, a nagging doubt has persisted over the potential for international justice to be arbitrary justice.

As explained by the French court in the 1984 case of Gestapo chief Klaus Barbie, the Nuremberg Charter addresses incidents that qualify as "a major, orchestrated attack on the very dignity of man." The limiting idea of Nuremberg is that while states get to implement international justice, they must do so on the basis of an individualized assessment of massive culpability. The person cannot be a surrogate for the nation or for political redress.



Elie Hobeika in a recent photo.

For this reason, those far-reaching class actions seeking to hold Americans and British liable for such things as failing to bomb the train lines leading to Auschwitz, strike most international lawyers as overstepping the line. There is simply a limit to what can be expected of international actors, just as there is a limit to what one can reasonably expect the law to accomplish. To be effective, legal action needs to be detailed, up close and personal.

Palestinian refugees flock to Beirut in 1982.

While it is still too early to know the specific allegations against Arafat, the Belgian case against Sharon is jarring once this background is kept in mind. The indictment alleges just what a 1984 Israeli commission of inquiry found – that Sharon was negligent in failing to foresee the massacre of Palestinians by the Lebanese Christian Phalange, but that he did not engineer it and that no Israeli soldiers took part. The bloodshed between the Phalangists and the Palestinians came in response to the slaying of Christian Lebanese President Bashir Gemayal and had little to do with Israel's Lebanon incursion.

The disconnect between the Northern European court and the Southern Lebanese events appears to be complete. The Belgian charges deviate substantially from the notion of international justice carefully sculpted at Nuremberg, and can be seen in the international arena floating arbitrarily in the sea of politics. No wonder complainants and defendants, or Sharon and Arafat, can trade places at will.

As if to prove the point, Human Rights Watch wondered aloud last summer about the failure of anyone to bring proceedings against one Elie Hobeika. At the time, most casual observers wondered who the mystery man about whom the world knew so little was. This now seems particularly odd given that the Belgians were interviewing him in January in relation to the Sabra and Shatila case.

The Lebanese businessman and former cabinet minister blown to bits in his Humvee last month was none other than the leader of the militant wing of the Lebanese Christian faction most closely associated with the late President Bashir Gemayal. Hobeika's own lieutenant, in a 1999 book banned in Lebanon, has credited him with leading the Phalange militia that rampaged through the two Palestinian camps in 1982. It was Hobeika's bloodletting that Sharon is accused of, at worst, failing to foresee.

There is a lesson in all this. Some international questions may seem impossible in the abstract, but familiarity with the conflict goes a long way toward sorting it all out. If one party's violence looks just like another's, look a little closer.

Ed Morgan is a professor of international law at the University of Toronto and chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

Sixty years ago

The year was 1942, when we were embroiled in World War II. At the time, I was living in the United States, and had joined the United States army as a volunteer.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

One of my major hopes was to bring my parents over from Europe. They had fled from Germany and were living in England, but although both of their children were already in the United States, their attempts to obtain a visa to join them had been repeatedly rejected.

They used to write to me and ask why I could not be of help to them – an understandable question – but they did not know that the policy of the United States at the time was not favourable to letting Jewish immigrants into the country. But wearing the uniform of a United States officer, I hoped I would be successful.

Even so, it took some more years to bring them over, and the question of why they were so often refused haunted me. I made various attempts to obtain the necessary information, but it was only when the U.S. Freedom of Information Act was passed that I was finally successful.

It was then that I could obtain the stenographic record of my appearance before a five-person committee reviewing my parents' application, as well as the content of the committee's discussion after I had left. I was shocked to read it.

The record shows that after I had left the room, the commitee's discussion was rather brief. One member was ready to admit my parents, but the other four were against it. The transcript showed the reasons were these:

- "We don't need older people in this country, we need younger people."
- "The applicant [that was I], although appearing in uniform, is a Zionist and therefore an unreliable citizen."

I still recall the shock that came over me when I read these lines. It was an unhappy proof of the fact that anti-Semitism was rampant throughout the U.S. Foreign Service, down to the ordinary members of its committees.

The hurt that possessed me when I read the record has never left me. It prevented our family from being together, and the hiatus lasted for all too many years. When my parents were finally admitted to the United States, I was serving as an officer in the U.S. army in Germany and did not see them until a year later.

This is a sad record of a period when anti-Semitism was pervasive and affected all Jews, whether they were citizens or not.

Fortunately, that kind of policy has changed, but its bitter memory haunts me every once in a while.

Personal safety and The Ten Commandments

It is 4 a.m. as I write this. I should be asleep, but my eyes cannot seem to close long enough for slumber to find me. Every noise I hear makes me jump up, throw on my glasses, turn on my light and look around.

Darcie Richler in Halifax

You see, my house was broken into last weekend. While I was away in Montreal for a short visit, back in Halifax, during the night, an intruder violated my privacy by entering through a door carelessly left unlocked by a couple of my housemates. Thankfully, no one was hurt, or even confronted in any way, but aside from the small material possessions that were stolen (none of mine, since I almost obsessively lock the doors of my personal space every time I leave the house), we are all feeling insecure now.

Maybe I cannot sleep right now because a key to the front door was stolen during the break-in. Even though the locks were changed, I am still terrified at the prospect of the intruder coming back for more.

Ah, the joys of being a student. Right now, I would love nothing more than to be back at my house in Toronto, cuddled up with my dog and only a small yelp away from my parent's bedroom. Instead, I am far away and seeing reality for the first time. Halifax is a relatively safe city, especially in the area surrounding Dalhousie University. However, petty crime has been on the rise and this type of burglary is most common.

Things like this simply do not happen to me. I am responsible and careful and often the subject of many jokes because I act like my cautious mother most of the time. Suddenly, though, I find myself not feeling safe on my own. How pathetic. I am sure that in a few days, this feeling will dissipate, but until then, what do I do?

It is not as if I am the first person to have my house broken into. I was not even here when it happened, yet my roommates have managed to pass on the unpleasantness of the experience to me. I could stay elsewhere tonight, but I fear that if I don't stay here now, it will only become increasingly difficult tomorrow.

People cope, most of the time, with problems much larger than this. To me though, this has really been a trying experience. Particularly difficult has been being away from home and having to deal with something uncomfortable, needing family, but realizing that I must learn to muddle through and to manage on my own.

I have not always been known for obeying all the rules, but the Ten Commandments have generally seemed easy to follow. *Al tignov* – thou shalt not steal. It is so sad that we have to lock our doors at all times. It is even sadder that I no longer trust "my neighbour," since I truly do not know who he or she really is.

Perhaps that in itself is the real problem here. The Ten Commandments were given to us so that we could lead lives of order and so people could feel safe and live in fulfilling and meaningful ways, yet not enough people are following these rules anymore.

I refuse to lose faith in those sharing this vibrant city with me, but from now on, I will walk around with slightly more cynicism. I will continue to obey The Ten Commandments, as I believe that they are the essence of a fair and honest society, yet I will keep in mind that not all people will do the same. I am afraid of the dark, but I am even more afraid of what can be lurking there.

I know that everything happens for a reason, but that is not too comforting right now: I know that sleep will find me soon, or at least I hope it will. I have an early class tomorrow and would like to go warn my neighbours about what has happened here. Perhaps together we can prevent another unfortunate incident. In any case, life must go on, even in the not-so-sheltered-anymore-world of an arts student.

Until next month, be safe and well and please keep your doors locked!

Biased reporting in the media war

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has as much to do with the media as it does with guns and bombs.

The media war, as it has been called, is won in the world of public opinion. Flashy pictures of Palestinian kids with Israeli soldiers in the background bring waves of sympathy for the plight of the Palestinians, but these pictures fail to mention that, behind the kids, armed gunmen are shooting at the soldiers.

Bryan Borzykowski in Winnipeg

I'm sure many readers have felt some sort of injustice from reading biased articles that fail to paint an accurate portrayal of this conflict. While I have always thought this, it was only last week that I became passionate about the uneducated and ignorant reporting of many journalists covering this issue.

I recently attended a journalism conference in Ottawa, where various journalists talked about their work. One of the writers who spoke was Jacki Leroux, a reporter for the *Ottawa Sun*. In 1998, Leroux was sent to report on five different conflicts around the world, one of which was the Arab-Israeli conflict. While Leroux spoke generally about her experiences covering these conflicts, I read her 12-page article about the Arab-Israeli conflict called "Mortal Enemies," part 2 of the five-part series.

I was very interested in it because of its subject matter, but my interest quickly turned to anger. I don't usually get very worked up over things that I read, but after reading this article, I was fuming.

Leroux tries to mask her bias, but in fact, this article, which was supposed to convey life from both sides, is one of the most one-sided pieces of literature I have ever read.

To do her research, Leroux lived in the Gaza Strip for one month, part of the time with an Arab family and the rest of the time with a Jewish family living on a settlement there. The article talks about the hardships Arabs have to face, and Leroux makes the Jews out to be land robbers who have stolen Arab property. She does talk about the Jews who live on the settlement, and she does use some of the same drama that she pours on when talking about the Arabs, but in the end, these Jews come across looking crazy for living in such a volatile area.

There is a lot more to say about this particular article: from certain descriptive words the author uses to its layout, it all points towards an obvious Palestinian bias.

I asked Leroux what sort of research she did and I was shocked at her response. She told me that she looked on the Internet and did most of her research after she came home from Gaza.

Articles about this issue generally have some major problems, such as the journalist's lack of knowledge about the conflict. Leroux, who had no prior expertise, found most of her information from the unreliable Internet, and she did her research after she came back. If a newspaper is going to send you to cover a story, I think it wouldn't be too much trouble to read a few books on the subject, or in this case, to talk to a professor of Middle Eastern studies.

The Arab-Israeli conflict is very complicated, but there are still two legitimate sides to this issue. I have yet to come across an article that presents those issues in an unbiased way. For example, if Leroux wants to talk about an Arab family losing a loved one because of the Israeli army, why didn't she also live with a family who lost their child to a suicide bomb?

This issue is difficult to discuss in this space. I could talk about the juicy sound bites or pictures the media love to publish – having an Arab child throw rocks while Israeli soldiers have guns is quite dramatic for the human eye. But in any case, I think the reporting by several journalists on this issue is done without knowledge of the conflict and without enough interviews with people from both sides. Leroux's article is just another that is adding heat to the Arab-Israeli media war.

E-mail me at cjnbryan@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Yasser Arafat faces his moment of truth

Clutching my right hand in a sign of friendship, Yasser Arafat said he understood my concern. Minutes before, I had told him that Palestinian terrorism could well be the bane of the Oslo peace process, launched in a flurry of goodwill and optimism in 1993.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Clad in a pale green military uniform and a black and white kaffiyeh, Arafat had just finished speaking to a North American Jewish delegation at his scruffy headquarters in Gaza City. It was November 1994.

Replying to a number of questions about terrorism, he assured us he fully intended to disarm Islamic fundamentalist terrorists, whom he bluntly described as the "enemies of peace." But he added a caveat: the crackdown would be gradual so as to avoid a Palestinian civil war.

Coming on the heels of recent Hamas and Islamic Jihad suicide bombings in Israel, the first of their kind, Arafat's remarks seemed encouraging enough. But only two years later, in the winter of 1996, Israel was struck by a devastating wave of similar bombings that claimed the lives of some 60 civilians within the span of a few days. Buckling under Israeli and international pressures, Arafat took a series of steps against Palestinian radicals opposed to peaceful co-existence with Israel.

Those of us who supported Oslo as a pathway to a historic Israeli rapprochement with the Palestinians viewed Arafat's belated moves with a measure of hope. Yet, much to our disappointment, our hopes would be constantly dashed.

We – Israelis and Diaspora Jews alike – bitterly learned that Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority and chair of the PLO, regarded violence as a legitimate extension of Palestinian diplomacy. It obviously did not matter to him that violence was an egregious breach of the Oslo accords.

Certainly, the Palestinians harboured just grievances. Jewish settlements in the territories were growing exponentially. Closures and road blocks were hampering freedom of movement and battering the fledgling Palestinian economy. And, at the bottom of it all, Israel's occupation of the territories had still not ended (Israel controls, fully or partially, 82 per cent of the West Bank).

At Camp David and later in Taba, the Palestinians were given a golden opportunity to shake off the occupation and grasp statehood. But instead of embracing these objectives, the Palestinian Authority instigated an uprising, now in its 16th month.

No less a personage than Hosni Mubarak, Egypt's president, has bewailed the Palestinians' short-sightedness. "Huge opportunities to resolve the conflict presented themselves and they were all lost," he declared last week, referring not only to Camp David and Taba but to previous chances at peacemaking in 1947 and 1967 spurned by the Palestinian leadership.

There is more. Almost two years ago, Ehud Barak, the then Israeli prime minister, agreed to withdraw from about 90 per cent of the West Bank and all of Gaza in exchange for an end-of-conflict pact. Encouraged by President Bill Clinton, he sweetened his offer at Taba. No Israel leader had ever offered the Palestinians so generous a deal.

The Palestinians balked, claiming the offer was badly flawed. They wanted sovereignty over the Temple Mount in eastern Jerusalem. And they could not accept Barak's apparent vision of a Palestinian state, carved into three distinct cantons and thus lacking territorial contiguity and viability.

Yet, in the opinion of many analysts, the deal breaker was the Palestinian refugee issue. Arafat demanded that millions of refugees be allowed to go back to their former homes in what is now Israel. His demand for the "right of return," had it been implemented, would have completely altered Israel's Jewish character through incremental demographic means. It would have also made a sham of the much-debated two-state solution, the only possible basis of a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli dispute. In other words, Arafat's troubling insistence on the "right of return" called into question his very acceptance of Israel's existence as a Jewish/Zionist state.

Arafat's harsh reaction to Israel's offer – which Barak suspended after calling a general election – might have been seen as a tough negotiating tactic had he come up with a counter offer. But instead of patiently working with Barak and Clinton to achieve a breakthrough, Arafat opted for armed struggle, which he had promised to abandon. No wonder Israel is so disillusioned with him.

Last December, after Hamas suicide bombers killed 26 civilians in Jerusalem and Haifa and a further 10 Israelis near the West Bank settlement of Emmanuel, the United States and the European Union prevailed upon Arafat to call a halt to what he himself described as all "terrorist activities."

Yasser Arafat

During the subsequent lull, the West Bank and Gaza were relatively quiet, although Israel continued to carry out pre-emptive operations aimed at Palestinian militants who had either slain or were planning to kill Israelis.

Hamas broke the lull on Jan. 9 by shooting dead four Israeli soldiers in Gaza. Israel retaliated on Jan. 14 by taking out Raed Karmi, a leader of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, which is affiliated with Arafat's Fatah movement. Three days later, a gunman from that group killed six Israelis in Hadera.

This atrocity prompted Israel to further clamp down on Arafat – with whom Prime Minister Ariel Sharon severed ties and declared "irrelevant" late last year – and to briefly reoccupy the Palestinian town of Tulkarem in Area A, under the administration of the Palestinian Authority.

But in the eyes of the Israeli government, the Karine-A affair, in early January, was the defining moment, the event that exposed Arafat's true intentions. Loaded with 50 tons of weapons, including rockets, munitions and explosives largely purchased from Iran, Israel's arch enemy, the Karine-A was intercepted in the Red Sea by Israeli commandos, the second Palestinian vessel to be captured since May.

Bound for Gaza, the ship was piloted by a Palestinian Authority captain. It would strain plausibility to believe that Arafat, as he heatedly claims, was unaware of the shipment. Clearly, the weaponry was meant to bolster the Palestinian Authority's armoury in anticipation of a protracted military confrontation with Israel.

In response to these and other events, Israel, in repeated incursions into Area A, has continued to chip away at symbols of Palestinian sovereignty. Israeli helicopters have bombed Arafat's fleet of helicopters, leaving him stranded in Ramallah, torn up the runway of his airport in Gaza and strafed his police buildings. In addition, F-16s have levelled a variety of other Palestinian installations and bases, and tanks have enforced the current blockade of Arafat's compound in Ramallah. Sharon has said the siege will not be lifted until Arafat extradites the killers of Rechavam Ze'evi, the minister of tourism who was assassinated last October.

Facing the dreary prospect of an insufferably long Israeli siege, and having been accused of tolerating and enhancing terror by Washington, Arafat finds himself in dire straits, shunned by Sharon and President George Bush, both of whom have refused to meet him. Last week, in a meeting with Bush at the White House, Sharon urged him to abide by his boycott of Arafat.

The isolation into which Arafat has been thrust is serious, but he has weathered crises in the past: Jordan in 1971, Beirut in 1982, the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon in 1983 and the Gulf War in 1991.

Cognizant of his low-ebb status, Arafat, a master of half-measures and half-truths, has launched a public relations campaign to rehabilitate himself. In a recent op-ed piece in *The New York Times*, he condemned attacks against Israeli civilians, reiterated his support of a two-state solution and, for the first time, voiced understanding of Israel's "demographic concerns" with respect to the "right of return." Yet Arafat, who has detained 195 militants and placed Hamas' leader under house arrest in recent weeks, has yet to conclusively prove his sincerity as a fighter of terrorism.

In self-defence, Arafat claims he cannot combat terrorism, or end the intifadah, without concrete and significant political concessions from Israel. There is some merit in this point, as Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has observed. And the fact that Sharon – an ardent opponent of Oslo – is unwilling to concede more than 42 per cent of the West Bank (or about 10 per cent of Mandate Palestine) as part of a final agreement is also extremely problematic.

At the end of the day, however, Arafat needs to demonstrate that he is prepared to smash the terrorist infrastructure in the interests of peace. As U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has said, Arafat must choose between peace and terror. If he remains idle, he cannot be considered a true partner in peace. And if he lacks the courage and strength to confront "the enemies of peace," as he put it eight years ago, he should step aside and let history take its course.

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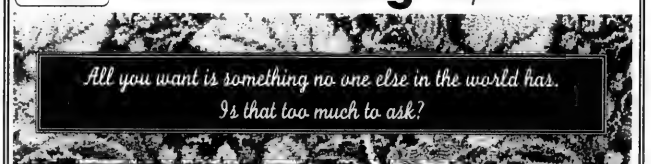
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Maintaining Jewish ethics in business not complicated, panel says

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Maintaining one's Jewish ethical principles in the business world is not as complicated as it might appear, according to members of a recent panel on Money, Morality and the Marketplace.

The event was sponsored by Beth Jacob v'Anshei Dridz Congregation, where the panel was held, the Jerusalem College of Technology and the University of Waterloo Jewish studies program.

Panelists were Rabbi Asher Meir, research director, Jerusalem College of Technology Centre for Business Ethics; Rabbi David Lapin, president, Strategic Business Ethics Inc. in Los Angeles and founder of the South African Institute of Business Ethics; and Mark Schwartz, lecturer on business ethics at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania.

The discussion focused on the issue of whistle-blowing, that is, making wrongdoing known, inside or outside an organization.

Basically, Rabbi Meir said, according to Jewish thought, one shouldn't be a talebearer – even when the tale is true. This is contrary to the secular notion that truth is an absolute defence in cases of slander. Jewish law says one must not insult, cause damage or embarrass someone.

This is also, he said, contrary to the media imperative of "the right to know."

Jews are supposed to see the good in people, and assume that even if someone did something wrong, it was probably a temporary lapse and he or she is repentant.

In order to make whistle-blowing acceptable, the rabbi said, five conditions must apply. First, one must be absolutely convinced that the story is true and not merely supposition. Then, the issue must not be exaggerated. In other words, to stay a person stole something is not the same thing as calling him a persistent thief.

The intention must be to provide an obvious benefit, rather than being self-serving or acting out of vindictiveness.

Also, it must be impossible to achieve that benefit by any other means.

Finally, when one does decide to take action, it should not cause unnecessary suffering. The person may deserve to be censured, but not wind up being fired.

Another business technique that is forbidden according to Jewish law is insulting the competition.

One can never compare one's own service with that of the competition or use derogatory statements, Rabbi Meir said.

One must speak objectively, he explained. One may say, for instance, that the car one is selling has fewer kilometres on it or gets more miles per gallon than someone else's, or that a microprocessor offers greater speed at a better price, but one may not say anything derogatory about the other person.

Work evaluations are another touchy issue. If the supervisor has a clear knowledge of an employee's shortcomings, he is allowed to pass that on. However, he must refrain from conjecture. Rabbi Meir questioned the increasingly common practice of peer evaluation, fearing that it has a great potential for vindictiveness.

One must beware when writing letters of recommendation. "You have to make sure that the information reaches the employer, and not, for instance, a credit company, a shadchan or a busybody."

Rabbi Lapin warned of the danger of "Jewish business ethicists becoming self-righteous moralists." That's why whistle-blowers are treated so badly, he said.

All cultures and people with all levels of education have an innate knowledge of right and wrong, he insisted. The issue, Rabbi Lapin said, is "can we get people to do what's right, even if the cost is high." That will happen if people believe in the purpose of what they are doing, he said.

Jewish theology does not consider business to be intrinsically evil, since, like everything else in the world, it was created by God. It must, however, be carried out with a desire to provide goods and services that are genuinely needed, and in a moral and ethical way.

"We must focus on how to do what is right, not how to stop what is being done wrong," he said.

Rabbi Jay Kelman, rabbi of Beth Jacob and co-chair of the evening along with Jim Diamond of the Jewish studies department of the University of Waterloo, said the purpose of programs such as this is to generate interest in business ethics.

"I would like to create a culture in which such issues are important," Rabbi Kelman said.

To that end, he said, he wants to start an institute of business ethics, which will offer programs on the topic, as well as a newsletter.

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גידי קורן וחברים

No man's land
רוצו לראות את הסרט היוגוסלאבי המדהים הזה לפני שיֵרד מן המסכים. זהו סיפורם של חייל סרבי וחייל בוסני שנקלעים לחפירה בשטח ההפקר שבין חצבאות הנלחמים. זהו סרט על העיוותנות שמחפשת סנסאציה, ועל האר"ם שמפקידיו חושבים בעיקר איך לכסות את התחת שלהם. אך בעיקר זהו סיפור עצוב על חיילים שמנסים לצאת ממלחמת האזרחים האימתה הזאת בחיים. חסיפור ישאיר אתכם לשבת על קצה הכיסא במשך שעה וחצי. לא פלא שחסרט זכה בפרס התסריט של פסטיבל קאן. עשר בסולם קורן.

The Reader
קראתי לאחרונה ספר מדהים שאתני יודע אם כבר תורגם לעברית. זהו סיפורו בגוף ראשון של נער גרמני בן חמש עשרה שפוגש אישה יפה בת שלושים ושש שמפתה אותו. ועד הוא בחלום המדהים שכל נער בן חמש עשרה חיה רוצה לחווֹת, חיא נעלמת יום אחד.
ולפני שאתה מבין שלא מדובר פה בספר ימה רגיל, עוברת חעלילה מספר שנים קדימה, והנער הוא עכשיו סטודנט למשפטים שנשלח לצפות במשפט של פושעי מלחמה, ושם הוא מגלה שאחוזתו חיתה שומרת במחנה עבודה, ועסקה במיון נשים יהודיות חלשות שאינן יכולות לעבוד, לחישלח לאושוויץ. וכשראחנה נשים יחודיות עלות באש בכנסיה, לא חיא ולא חברוחיה מצאו לנכון לפתוח את חמעגל.
חספר מכסח בצורה מרחנקת את חמשפט האת שליחתה למאסר עולם. חבושה של חדור של אחרי חמלחמה חתגיסין לתבין את מה שאי אפשר לתבין- כולם מטופלים בצורה מדחימה על ידי חסופר ברוארד שלינק, שהוא שופט בבית משפט בגרמניה. חוא גם מתאר את שברי האישי בשל תאחנה שלא מיצתה את עצמה.
בשנות שחחזה של האישה בבית חכלא אין האיש פוגש את אחובתו, אך לאחר שגילה שחיא אאלפבתית, חוא מקליט עבורה ספרים שלמים כדי שתוכל לחקשיב לחם. בורחחה מסבירה לו מדוע חתמה חיחה לעבוד באס- אס ולא לקבל חצעת עבודה בחברת סיקנס, שבח ציפו ממנה לחיות מסוגלת לקרוא.
חוא פוגש בה לראשונה שמוך לשחרורה חמוקדם בגין חתנחגות טובה. וכך חוא מוצאר את חמפגש:

"האחר הרחם אהבתי האחות את הרית שלה. היה לה רית ענק, טרי. לשואים היו שמה השם. עם הזו קרית עזה. לשואים הרחתי אותה הסקרטת של מיה, אחנלת הבוגר. אחר לנרחות ותחיה. שפן ליכים לשקחם הקטנים שלהם.
וכמה שחרתי לזה וניסיתי לעזות את הרית שלה ואמנה רית של אחה בקנה. אחר. אך אה יוצה את הרית הזה שלי אמרה הסבירת בזחות בקטנת הרית של אחר לשחת הו שחה אחסכרחת של בתי בקנים כאו קלה. חנה הינה לנרה אך לרית ככה".
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Peace not on the horizon, says leading analyst

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Prof. Efraim Inbar doesn't come right out and say, "I told you so" when asked about the state of Israeli-Palestinian relations.

Although he was always a skeptic when it came to the Oslo peace process, he acknowledged it had a tremendous allure – an almost hypnotic, drug-like affect on many Israelis.

"It opened a new age where peace might be possible," he said. "It was a powerful message. We are suckers for peace. Basically, [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat brought them back to reality.

"Israelis were on a peace trip for several years. Now is the cold turkey period, and it's not easy."

As director of the BESA Centre for Strategic Studies at Bar-Ilan University, a think tank created with the support of Montrealer Tom Hecht, Inbar's job is to keep tabs on developments in the region that affect Israel.

His focus in recent years has been Israel's strategic alliance with Turkey and the emerging relationship with India, but it has been impossible to ignore the conflict in his front yard. Based on his analysis of the nature of the Palestinian national movement and its leadership under Arafat, Inbar is not optimistic that a solution will present itself anytime soon. There's plenty of stomach for a fight on both sides, and the conflict promises to continue into the foreseeable future.

"My main message is that there are situations in life where there is no solution," he said. "Israelis have learned to live with low intensity conflict. We have the upper hand in the conflict with the Palestinians."

Instead of expecting to solve the conflict, "we should focus on managing it."

Inbar presented his analysis of the current situation in a recent series of lectures and meetings in Toronto, Hamilton and London.

As he describes it, the Palestinians made the decision to ratchet up the level of violence 1½ years before the intifadah actually broke out. Israeli intelligence reported that finding to then-prime minister Ehud Barak, but he "refused to act on it," Inbar said.

"He was engaged in wishful thinking. Peace is a nice dream. Sometimes you don't want to hear bad news. It's only human."

For Arafat, violence – the modus operandi of the Palestinian nationalist movement – held out the promise of coercing greater concessions from Barak as well as the chance of "internationalizing" the conflict by bringing in outside forces, Inbar said.

Palestinians have always maintained a "detonator theory" in which their conflict with Israel would spill over into neighbouring Arab countries, he said, but neither Jordan nor Egypt is interested in fighting Israel on behalf of the Palestinians.

Arafat has succeeded in alienating his American interlocutors, who are fed up with his lies and are concerned that he turned to fundamentalist Iran to stock a freighter with arms that promised to escalate the conflict to new levels, Inbar said.

Given that Arafat has been courting the United States, the move is inexplicable, he said, except that "people do stupid things. He [Arafat] didn't think about all the consequences."

Looking farther afield, Inbar, who recently published *The Israeli-Turkish Entente*, said the two states are moving closer on a number of fronts.

Their strategic relationship finds Israel and Turkey sharing intelligence, strengthening their ties to the United States and engaging in trade (Israel sells weapons to Turkey). Israel also wields what influence it has in Washington to promote Turkish interests, while Turkey permits Israeli military aircraft to operate from its eastern bases, sending an important deterrent message to Syria, Iran and Iraq, he said.

The countries share common problems as well. Both are beset by Islamic radicalism, both face threats from neighbours armed with weapons of mass destruction, both are suspicious of Russian attempts to return to the region, both want to reduce Russian and Iranian influence in Central Asia and both have problematic relations with Europe.

Inbar, who was born in Romania and who emigrated to Israel as a boy, is also involved in informal meetings with Indian colleagues.

As with Turkey, India and Israel share interests and concerns. India also faces Islamic radicalism and terror and the two countries share intelligence in that regard.

Israel is also helping the Indian military upgrade its Soviet-era equipment and sells it new weapons (India is interested in the Arrow anti-missile system, a joint U.S.-Israel project). In addition, India offers a market of 1 billion people for other Israeli goods. The joke in Israel is that between them, the two countries represent one-quarter of the world's population, Inbar said.

As India increasingly orients itself to the West and "grows out of this third world anti-American *nareshkeit* [silliness]," Israeli and Indian interests increasingly coincide.

CORRECTION

A recent article quoting Gordon Wolfe, executive director of Jewish Family & Child Service, misstated certain poverty levels.

The correct information is: The poverty level for a single person in Ontario in 2000 was $353 a week. Welfare brings in $120 weekly, while disability payments total $215 a week. JF&CS tops up financial assistance to $242 a week for a single person.

The CJN regrets the errors.

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Prof. says no difference between left, right wings

By PABLO FUCHS
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Left-leaning post-Zionists are no different from right-wing revisionists, an Israeli professor said at a recent lecture at the University of Toronto.

While their political ideologies and motivations are totally opposite, "the end result of either movement's victory would be exactly the same: a pan-Semitic state that would benefit the elite in the Jewish community," said Eran Kaplan, the 2001-2002 Ray D. Wolfe Fellow at U of T.

Revisionist Zionism, Kaplan said, was started in the 1920s by Vladimir Jabotinsky. The movement was based on the notion that Jews could not wait around for the British to grant them a state in Palestine, but had to seize power themselves.

Jabotinsky and his followers believed the only way to establish an independent, Jewish state was through violence, said Kaplan, a 33-year-old native of Tel Aviv. They envisioned a state where both Arabs and Jews would live side by side under a European Jewish leadership.

The post-Zionists, who began to spread their message in the 1990s, are at the opposite end of the spectrum, Kaplan said. They believe that since Israel was created at the expense of the Palestinian people, Zionism is thus colonialist and racist and has exceeded its purpose. They wish "to remove Zionism as the main expression of Jewish identity and in its place, establish a secular state in modern Israel" where Jews, Arabs and any other inhabitants would live together in peace, Kaplan said. This would re-introduce the notion of the wandering Jew and would instil tradition and history as the main sources of Jewish identity.

So, how could these two opposing theories end up with the same result?

Although the processes would be different, Kaplan said, the result would still be a pan-Semitic state with Arabs and Jews living side by side, but both oppressed by the ruling majority, the Ashkenazi European Jews, who would control the country's capital much as they do today.

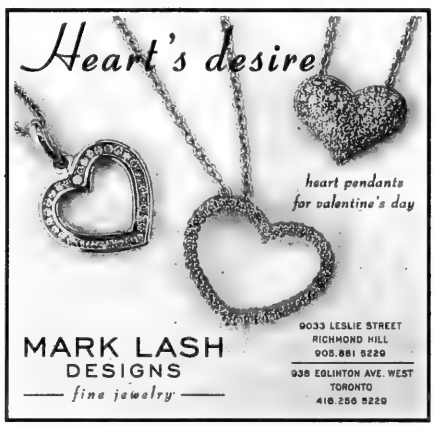
Since in either case the conditions of the working class would further deteriorate while the standing of the European elite would be enhanced, Kaplan said he considers them both to be on the right side of the political spectrum, although the post-Zionists' intentions are nothing of the sort.

The revisionist movement still exists in Israeli society today – the current right-of-centre party, the Likud, is a descendant. But post-Zionism, which has created ripples through Israeli society in the last decade, is a new political movement, Kaplan said.

Kaplan, who addresses these issues in his doctoral thesis, said this debate has all but disappeared in Israeli society in the last 16 months.

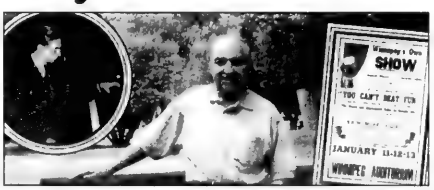
"As a result of the current intifadah, Israelis are more concerned about securing peace than discussing the state of their political existence."

But, he said, as soon as the political situation with the Palestinians is somewhat resolved, debates of internal issues will surely once again dominate the Israeli political landscape.



Musical comedy, teenage dreams are revived after 60 years

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter



Sam Seetner is seen on campus last summer and (inset) rehearsing for original production.

TORONTO — Sam Seetner, a retired Toronto dentist, is reviving a dream he had as a teenage playwright at the University of Manitoba.

More than 60 years after his original musical comedy, *You Can't Beat Fun*, premiered at U of M, the satire of university life will be running again as part of the school's 125th anniversary celebrations.

Seetner, a Winnipeg native, collaborated with librettist Earle Beattie on the show's 18 original songs. Billed as the "slaphappiest satire on campus life," it opened in 1940 to rave reviews and sell-out crowds, and had a hold-over performance at the Winnipeg Auditorium.

Seetner says that as a youngster, he had had dreams of becoming a musician, but "my father encouraged me to be practical and become a dentist. My musical career came to a halt when I entered dentistry school."

He says he is thrilled the university chose to remount his play, which will have a cast of 80 plus a chorus. "My dream is to see it on Broadway. This could be start of something very big."

The first run of the play starred such people as *Let's Make a Deal* host Monte Hall; Morley Margolis who went on to become an opera singer under the name Morley Meredith; and Monte Syme, now a Detroit rabbi known as Rabbi Robert Syme.

About a year ago, Seetner, who has not written anything since, donated the rights to the play to the university.

"Coincidentally, it was at a time when the school was planning its anniversary, and they decided to include it as part of their celebrations."

Paul Paterson, a professor at U of M's school of music and producer of the current version of *You Can't Beat Fun*, says the stars of this play are following in great footsteps.

"The school of music does not usually do musical comedy, so this is a chance to be involved in an energetic, upbeat show, one that promises to be as amazingly hilarious and incredibly delirious as the original."

Seetner plans to travel to Winnipeg with 11 family members for the Feb. 20 opening of the play, to be held at the Walker Theatre.

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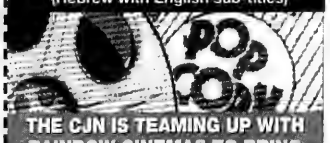

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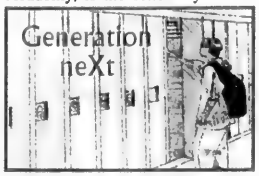
Knowledge for knowledge's sake

By JASON ROTSTEIN, MARK DANIELS AND LIOR BRAUNSTEIN

After obsessing over exams for weeks, we feel the need to gain some peace of mind concerning the focus of education. When Plato made the effort to establish the Academy, is the school system of today what he had in mind?



In our hearts, it is knowledge that we yearn for, not a meaningless number assigned to our grades or high school experience. The process of learning and education cannot be measured on a simple scale of letters. Unfortunately, we have little time to contemplate our present predicament. As students, we are bogged down with work and lack the luxury of having unlimited time to broaden our horizons. Sadly, many of us abandon all pretense of pursuing knowledge for knowledge's sake.

Throughout our high school career, we seek moments of inspiration that might orient and direct us. It is this very inspiration that governs us and motivates us to excel.

However, the value of our education gets hidden behind all the attempts by the government to reform school practices. Often, its priorities overshadow the needs of the voracious mind for constant inquiry and exploration. Those long hours spent poring over textbooks and problem sets will only pay off in the real world if we assert our individual commitment to knowledge.

To date, much has been said about Ontario's new four-year curriculum. Many educators are recommending an additional year in which to complete the required credits. Unfortunately, for many students, this suggestion would merely become an excuse for indolence. With globalization exerting its influence in Canadian politics, it is knowledge, above all else, that we must prudently preserve.

When we began high school, we treated it as just another step to something better. We were encouraged to complete the necessary credits that would afford us a position in the world of tomorrow. Yet, as we approach our destination, we realize the purpose of the work and the dedication required to complete it far exceed the weight of a simple "admission slip" to university. The gestalt of our high school experience, far greater than the sum total of our credits combined, is the joy and appreciation of knowledge.

The democracy we find ourselves in as citizens prizes a diversity of ideas and opinions, those very same opinions we have been trained through our studies of Jewish morals and values to successfully impart to the world.

For centuries Jewish tradition has prided itself on hard work and motivation to survive against all odds. We cannot forsake the community ethos that has enabled us to become an *am sgulah* – a chosen people. Let us continue to embrace this tradition.

The authors are students at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. They plan to graduate this spring.

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Jewish Life

Only El Al

By RABBI YEHIEL BENAYON

Through A Sephardi Window

There is a constant state of excitement in an airport, people coming and going, greeting each other or taking leave. Today I, too, am a part of this excitement. I'm standing in the long cordoned line, waiting to check in.

Directly in front of me is an old acquaintance, now a school principal in Israel. He is returning after a tour of recruitment. There, by the side, I see a striking young Russian couple. I recognize them right away; I had just married them a few weeks ago. They are here to see their grandmother off.

Evidently, there is a mission on this flight. Lots of mostly middle-aged men are talking to each other. Each, it seems, has found the solution for the conflict in the Middle East and are taking this with them to Israel.

Two sisters join the line; their father has passed away. The funeral could not wait, but they wish to sit shivah as a family nevertheless. I offer them my condolences.

A young man stands not too far away. I later learn that he is a Canadian boy who has volunteered in the Israeli Defence Force. After boot camp, his parents brought him home. Now he is returning for the remaining 18 months. Both parents watch with much pride and concern; the father holds back the tears but the mother cannot.

More students are off to their studies in Israel. Entire families see them off. All around me more people, each I am sure with their own story.

It is my turn at the security check. "Your ticket and passport, please. Where do you live?" the young man asks. I grin incredulously. Doesn't he remember greeting me yesterday on Shabbat in the synagogue? He smiles back but continues his questions... Did you pack your own bags...

On board, I find the plane is already quite full with passengers. It seems this flight originated from the American West Coast and the passengers are all as eager to get to Israel as I am. The announcements begin, in Hebrew, of course, and right away, I am home. You see, my days in Israel are as precious as they are few; with El Al, the trip itself is very much a part of the wonderful experience, for it all starts as soon as you get on board. Where else can you get a minyan over the Atlantic Ocean or tune in your headset to a Torah lesson or Jewish/Israeli music?

But these are not the only reasons I fly El Al. Perhaps it is also because El Al is the national carrier of Israel. Maybe too, because El Al, out of respect to Jewish tradition, grounds its entire fleet of planes for the Sabbath. Possibly, as well, because the very week I was flying, an El Al plane flew to Lithuania in order to return to the Jewish people hundreds of centuries-old scrolls that had been stolen by the Nazis. Probably also, because in 1990, during one of the great moments of the century, Operation Moses, El Al planes and pilots evacuated 18,000 Jews out of Ethiopia in less than 24 hours. And, every time there is a regional conflict and other airlines quickly suspend their flights, only El Al loyally maintains its schedule.

But, almost certainly, it was that middle-of-the-night experience in the '80s as we, a few dozen North American rabbis stood on a windy runway of Ben-Gurion Airport, waiting to welcome one of the first planeloads of Russian immigrants. From the heavens came this massive machine, one that roared to a deafening stop before us, and out from it came a prophecy about a people and a promised land. That machine bore the star and colours of Israel and the letters El Al. Yes, certainly it was that moment, when our bones turned to jelly and we wept uncontrollably, that I decided that I would only fly El Al.

The Canary Island Inquisition

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Roots & Remembrance

Back about 1890, Anglo-Jewish historian Lucien Wolf noted a curious fact: several of the first Jews to settle in London after the Jews were re-admitted into England in 1655 had "hailed from a little archipelago in the east Atlantic, which had never before figured in Jewish history, and which, so far as I know, has not even yet found a place in that record."

Intrigued by this significant historical puzzle, Wolf planned to visit the Canary Islands in 1894 but cancelled his trip when, by a fortuitous coincidence, he found that the English Marquess of Bute had acquired 76 volumes of the very papers that he was determined to see.

The records of the Canariote Inquisition provide a gold mine of details about the small, obscure community of crypto-Jews, never numbering more than 400, that had been persecuted by the Catholic Church for three centuries. Essentially, the records document the Church's attempt to seek out secret Jews, sorcerers and other heretics in the Canary Islands between 1499 and 1818.

Wolf studied the papers meticulously for three decades, eventually extracting the Jewish cases and publishing them in English translation with a luminous scholarly introduction. The book, *Jews in the Canary Islands*, appeared under the auspices of the Jewish Historical Society of England in 1926. Recently, the University of Toronto Press republished it as part of a series of rare and worthy historical reprints.

As Wolf explains, the records offer a lurid chronicle of the Inquisition's iron grip on the so-called "New Christians" who practised Judaism in secret. Many had escaped to these remote islands from Spain and Portugal after 1492, but some, including a family named Beltran, had arrived in the 1480s or earlier.

Up to 1505, and for intermittent periods thereafter, the Conversos on the Canaries had "easily relapsed into their old Jewish life," Wolf writes. They prospered as merchants, professionals, landowners, silversmiths, butchers and other tradesmen.

But when the anti-Jewish mania reached hysterical pitch, a wave of denunciations led to arrests, torture, trials and autos-da-fé in which Jews were burned alive, often on the most flimsy evidence imaginable. In 1506, for example, one Marcos Goncales was denounced for washing shirts on Saturday night and hanging them out to dry on Sunday morning. Children confessed under torture that their parents spoke Hebrew and did not cross themselves in prayer.

Ship captains were warned, upon penalty of excommunication and loss of their ships, not to give passage to the heretics: the Church wanted them destroyed. Even so, many managed to flee to Madeira, Flanders, the West Indies and even Palestine (1524).

In 1662, a long series of denunciations by Gaspar de Perera provided "a remarkably vivid picture of Marrano life" throughout western Europe, Wolf relates. An "alleged Judaiser," de Perera provided more than 20 "spy" reports on the London Jewish community, naming officials and describing "their social life, their political status, and even their personal appearance." He also named the founders of Dublin's Jewish community, who are otherwise unknown to historians.

It is, perhaps, a classic case of something good coming out of something bad. Wolf laments that an even more detailed set of records, known as *Causas*, was destroyed "during the popular rejoicings" when Spain's Inquisitorial Office finally shut down in 1818: the *Causas* contained elaborate genealogical evidence that had been gathered for many crypto-Jewish prisoners, as well as verbatim transcripts of their cross-examinations and trials.

Still, for all it does contain, *The Jews in the Canary Islands* is a remarkable historical document. Seventy-five years after the book's first appearance, the U of T Press deserves praise for making it accessible again.

Jewish Life

Potok's stories remain etched in the mind

***Old Men at Midnight*, by Chaim Potok, Alfred A. Knopf, 2001.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Chaim Potok is among the most popular of American Jewish writers. His first novel, *The Chosen* (1967), its sequel *The Promise* (1969) and *My Name is Asher Lev* (1972) established his reputation as a thoughtful and provocative portrayer of the joys and sorrows of traditional Judaism's encounter with western secularism.

Conflicted characters are at the core of Potok's books. Reared in an atmosphere of piety and Orthodoxy, they yearn for a more inclusive, warm and inviting Judaism, with more positive attitudes toward the creative and healing aspects of art, music and literature.

Shining through all of Potok's books are an emphasis on Jewish scholarship, rich portrayals of Jewish family life and faith in humankind's ability to ultimately overcome formidable problems.

Old Men at Midnight consists of three dramatic novellas, set in America, Europe and the Soviet Union, that span the 20th century. They are held together by the presence of Davita Dinn, the protagonist of Potok's earlier novel, *Davita's Harp* (1985), who listens sympathetically as the three major figures in the disparate stories relate salient episodes from their lives.

In the first story, *The Ark Builder*, set in Brooklyn in the summer of 1947, 18-year-old Davita offers English lessons to a young student who spent three years in a German slave labour camp. He is the sole survivor of a Polish town with a once-thriving Jewish community. She gradually learns about the destruction of his town, and especially of the synagogue's ark, which had been lovingly rebuilt as a symbol of communal hope by the boy's martyred teacher.

Ten years later in *The War Doctor*, Davita, now a graduate student, meets Leon Shertov, a one-time Soviet officer and official of the KGB who defects to the West. During World War I, Leon's arm was saved from amputation by a Jewish Soviet army surgeon.

Years later, Leon again encounters the doctor, who is implicated in the so-called "doctors' plot," the infamous scheme invented by Stalin to foment anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. Although Shertov can't save the doctor's life, he himself undergoes a spiritual transformation – once again, the result of the doctor's inspiration and faith.

In the final episode, *The Trope Teacher*, Davita, now a well-known novelist, comes to the aid of a distinguished historian and philosopher, who is suffering from a memory block while trying to complete his memoirs. Out of his regained recollections emerges the figure of a Polish émigré, a Mr. Zapiski, who, unable to eke out a living in America, insists upon returning to Poland, which is about to be invaded by Nazi Germany.

Zapiski is described in this manner: "And why did he walk moving his left foot forward in a shuffle and his right foot trailing? Shuffle and scrape, shuffle and scrape, an awkward drag-footed gait. A small, bumbling, stooped man who wore his hat low over his eyes and his jacket or coat collar up, his neck squeezed into his shoulders, looking to all intents and purposes like a turtle in the act of withdrawing into its shell. He had a habit of shaking his head in a sort of nervous twitch, jerking it from side to side, as if trying to disentangle himself from some web in which he had been caught."

Carefully and skilfully crafted, compelling and poignant, these stories remain etched in the consciousness.

Mishloach manot, part 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

The ninth chapter, verse 19, of the Book of Esther states: "Therefore the Jews of the villages, that dwelt in the unwalled towns, made the 14th day of the month of Adar a day of gladness and feasting, a holiday, and of sending portions to one another" **[http://www.breslov.com/ref/Esther9.htm #19].**

That's why this Feb. 26, thousands of years after the Book of Esther was written, Jews around the world will be scurrying from doorstep to doorstep depositing baskets laden with goodies at the homes of friends and strangers, too. Today, a look on the World Wide Web at one of the most delightful customs in the Jewish calendar: mishloach manot.

Why does the megillah command us to perform this mitzvah? Surprisingly, one source of this tradition is traced to the evil Haman. As Rabbi Yehudah Prero says on the torah.org site, "Haman described the nation of Israel to Achashverosh as a 'people scattered abroad and dispersed amongst the people.' Some commentators explain that Haman was pointing out that the Jewish nation was vulnerable because... there were disagreements and disputes among them so that in their hearts they were scattered and dispersed... To foster feelings of closeness, kinship, and love, we send gifts to each other on Purim" **[http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/purim/5757/vol2no29.html].**

Rabbi Prero also says that we express our happiness on Purim through festive feasts that not everyone can afford. But because we do not want "to embarrass the poor, the rich give poor gifts, and the poor give gifts to the rich. All the members of the nation of Israel give indiscriminately to their brothers and sisters so all can celebrate Purim properly, without any shame" **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/purim/unity.htm].**

It is hard to imagine, but the mitzvah of mishloach manot was practised during the horrors of the Warsaw Ghetto. From the writings of Hillel Zeitlin in 1942, we learn that Jews exchanged food during Purim in the ghetto. The article, "Solidarity and vitality during the Holocaust," says, "at the end, each Jew remained with the same meager quantity of food, but the fact that his poor meal represented the fulfillment of the mitzvah of 'mishloach manot' revived his soul, reinforced his inner strength and even aroused a feeling of song and joyousness within him" **[http://www.pardes.org.il/articles/shoah.html].**

Some of the truly moving stories of mishloach manot tell how a solitary bundle can change the lives of the recipient and the donor. In "Rediscovering Purim: A Bronx Tale," we meet Bernie, a man who lives in a run-down neighbourhood that had once been a thriving Jewish community. Through the delivery of mishloach manot, Bernie reconnects with traditions that had been forgotten years ago **[http://www.jewishmag.com/41mag/bronxpurim/bronxpurim.htm].**

Several sites go into great detail about how to perform the mitzvah properly. The L'Chaim site examines such issues as the proper time to deliver mishloach manot, the amount of food to be sent and the importance of using an agent to deliver the gift **[http://www.lchaimweekly.org/cgi-bin/calendar?holiday=purim115]**. The Darche Noam site looks at the custom through traditional sources such as the Gemarah and the Rambam **[http://www.darchenoam.org/articles/web/holidays/ar_purim_mm.htm]**.

Although the megillah clearly states that we should exchange food on Purim, curiously, there is no blessing for the mitzvah. Rav Yechiel Weinberg comes to a lovely conclusion about this issue. If there were a blessing, it would have included the word *v'tzivanu*, "and He has commanded us." But it is preferable to give mishloach manot out of a love for your fellow Jew. If one gave because one was commanded to do so, the element of love would be lessened **[http://www.aecom-shul.com/Torat_Shmuel/5758/tsTetzaveh.html]**.

In that light, Clal, the National Jewish Center for Learning and Leadership, has created a prayer that can be recited as you are putting together your mishloach manot: "May I prepare and give these gifts with a full and open heart. May we be blessed on Purim and on each day of our lives with light, gladness and honour and with the gift to express our friendship" **[http://www.clal.org/rl21.html].**

Now that we know why we send mishloach manot, next week we'll see what should go into our gift boxes.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Greater Toronto Area

Noah Meltz: 'Short in height, great in stature'

By PAUL SOCKEN

Guest Voice

I am devastated at the loss of a true friend, an exemplary Jew and a magnificent human being.

Many people can give you anecdotes about the countless acts of personal kindness and exceptional generosity of spirit of Prof. Noah Meltz. Here's mine.

I came to him about 12 years ago, not long after we had met, to seek his advice. He spent a very long time examining every aspect of the issue I had asked him about and finally gave me his considered opinion. The next day, he called me and said that he had thought about the problem some more and wanted to add a further idea for me to consider.

That was Noah Meltz.

He cared deeply about the people who were fortunate enough to call him a friend. Their problems were his problems and he would not rest until he had done his utmost to assist those who came to him. He could give you nothing but his best. That was the mark of his friendship. That was the mark of the man.

Noah Meltz was short in height and great in stature. When former prime minister of England, Lloyd George, was met by a voter, she told him that she imagined him to be much taller.

The prime minister responded, "Madam, in Wales, where I come from, we measure a man from the neck up."

If that is the criterion for measurement, I would submit to you that Noah was a giant – a great mind and equally great in warmth and humanity.

For all of his very many achievements in the academy, from his Princeton PhD to his principal's position at Woodsworth College at the University of Toronto, it is his human qualities – his quiet dignity and self-effacing manner – that will remain with and inspire me.

He did not pursue honour, but was held in the highest esteem and was valued everywhere he went for what he had to offer and for who he was. He did not just worry and talk about Israel, he moved there and cast his lot with his people.

Noah Meltz was a great scholar and teacher. He taught by example. I learned by observing his conduct and listening to his words that integrity is real and need not be compromised; that a gentle, caring word and manner are possible in this otherwise hurried and insensitive world; that true yiddishkeit is not made up only of abstract principles or learned discourse or rituals but consists of concrete actions and reaching out in service and love in this broken world; that optimism is a powerful antidote to cynicism and despair; that each one of us can make an important difference; and that one person really is a whole world.

When Jews ask for long life, they ask for *yirichas yomim*, length of days, not years. Who wouldn't want a very long life if given the choice? But we are not given that choice. The only one we do have is to make the days we are allotted lengthy ones, filled with accomplishment and meaning. I cannot think of a single person who has fulfilled that call to *yirichas yomim* more than Noah Meltz.

He was the very embodiment of goodness, compassion, kindness and love for his family and friends and acquaintances. And, in the end, that is all we can really ask for.

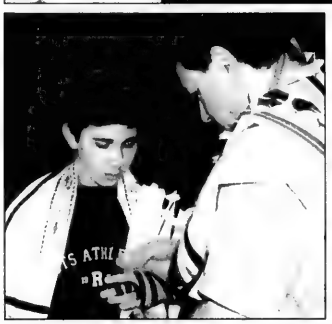
When all is said and done, the world is a poorer place for its lack of Noah Meltz. He has done all that could have been asked of him and it is our sacred duty to honour his memory by following in his path and striving to achieve even a portion of his merit.

Paul Socken is a professor of French at the University of Waterloo.

Greater Toronto Area

It's a (World Wide) Wrap

Above and below are scenes from Beth Tikvah Synagogue's participation in the second annual World Wide Wrap, a project of the Conservative Movement's Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs. At least 174 groups representing more than 8,700 people participated in the Jan. 27 event. [Harvey Mandel photos]



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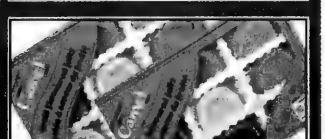

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Boys' Basketball	Sunday, March 17, Thursday, March 21, Sunday, March 24 8:00-10:00 p.m., Information Sessions & Tryouts
Girls' Basketball	Sunday, March 17, Thursday, March 21, Sunday, March 24 at 6:00-8:00 p.m., Information Sessions & Tryouts
Boys' & Girls' Golf	Monday, February 25, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Information Sessions in Room #202
Boys' & Girls' Soccer	Sunday, February 17, 9:00-11:00 a.m. Information Session in Room #120
Girls' Softball	Sunday, February 17, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 noon Information Session in Room #120
Boys' & Girls' Swimming	Sunday, February 17, 10:00-11:00 a.m. Information Session in Room #120
Boys' & Girls' Tennis	Monday, February 25, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Information Session in Room #202

Since the maximum Toronto contingent is 90 athletes, it is possible that some of the above sports or gender/age groups may not be represented at the Games. Not withstanding a fair tryout format, the final decision for inclusion on the team is at the discretion of the coaches and committee.
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Tryouts and meetings take place at the Bathurst Jewish Centre, 4588 Bathurst Street.
For more information call Grant Smith at: 416-636-1880, ext. #257
or e-mail: athletics@bjcc.ca.

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Members of Club Darwin pose for a team picture about 47 years ago.

Club Darwin meets after 47 years

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Memories of Club Darwin's first meeting in almost 47 years are bittersweet.

Less than a week after the October reunion, members learned that Jack Ugar, who travelled from California to attend, had died.

Irvin Harendorf, one of the original 18 members of the club which was formed at the Bloor YM & YWHA, said that an article in *The CJN* had triggered the reunion.

"Another club had recently met, and I thought we could do the same," Harendorf said. "Sixteen of us attended, some of whom had kept in contact over the years, but there were others we had not heard from in almost 40 years."

Ugar, who belonged to Club Darwin with his older brother, had been anxious to see the members again, said Harendorf. "We were devastated when we heard the news about his death."

In the '50s, Harendorf said, the Bloor Y was the meeting place for young Jewish teenagers. "We formed different clubs, and each club had an adviser who helped organize sports teams and social events.

"We grew up together. We never had to plan where we were going or what we were going to do. We had the Y. We practically lived there in our spare moments.

"Whether it was for a club meeting, a cultural event, a sporting event such as volleyball, basketball or floor hockey, or for dances in the lounge, it was a wonderful place to meet."

The club won several sports league championships, and in 1956 won the David Dublinsky Memorial Trophy, a special award that year that went to the most outstanding teen club at the Y, said Harendorf.

One of the boys' favourite endeavours, he said, was getting a driver's licence. "I don't know why. Few of us had any access to a car."

Harendorf often thought about the club over the years, he said. "I wondered what happened to some of the members. We just lost contact with some, and I never knew why.

"When I read about the other reunion, however, I decided to track everyone down. Imagine, everyone came but two people. We all had to same feelings about the time we had spent at the Y."

The club plans to make a donation to the Miles S. Nadal JCC in Ugar's name. "How ironic that the building where all of us spent most of our leisure, fun and sporting lives, should be undergoing a renovation at this time."

Club Darwin is planning another meeting for May or June 2002.

TJA OHR MENACHEM BAKE SALE: More than $550 was raised at a recent Toronto Jewish Academy Ohr Menachem bake sale in aid of a family who lost two parents and two children in a suicide-bombing at a Jerusalem pizza restaurant last year. The Grade 3 class, under the guidance of teacher Rivka Caro, baked and sold the cookies. The cheque was presented to Zale Newman (right), chair of the CK Fund, which raises money to help the family. Seen with Newman are, from left, Caro, school principal Henya Schechter and students Jonathan Kormendi and Netanel Saprikin.

TAU prof involved in space shuttle research

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Colin Price is a man who can make dust particles sound interesting.

The South African-born professor in the Tel Aviv University (TAU) department of geophysics and planetary sciences, who is currently on sabbatical at Environment Canada, spoke about the university's role in the upcoming 16-day space shuttle mission known as MEIDEX (Mediterranean Israeli Dust Experiment), at Canadian Friends of TAU's recent annual meeting.

The mission, scheduled for liftoff in June, was proposed by TAU's department of geophysics and planetary sciences, following a 1995 meeting between then-Israeli prime minister Shimon Peres and then-American president Bill Clinton, during which Clinton offered Israel the opportunity to have an Israeli astronaut on a U.S. space shuttle.

Colonel Ilan Ramon, an F16 pilot in the Israeli air force who is training for the mission at NASA and who will be Israel's first astronaut, is a TAU graduate, Price noted.

Ramon and his team will conduct studies on the characteristics of desert dust while in space. The significance of dust particles includes the role they play in rainfall generation and possibly in the earth's climate, said Price.

"On a more practical side," he noted, "they're important for aviation, not only [in terms of] visibility, but dust can get injected into engines of aircraft and cause a lot of damage."

The particles can also cross the ocean and affect its biology, he said. "A lot of the problems with coral reefs in the Caribbean are due to dust... from the African continent."

And why is Israel particularly suited to this type of study? Israel has "some huge dust storms," Price said. "We have many years of experience observing, and we have the equipment. We can contribute to this mission."

All data will be collected by ground stations and returned to TAU for analysis, he said.

In the event that there is no dust to be filmed, Price, whose area of expertise is the connection between lightning activity and the earth's climate, suggested looking at thunderstorms at night, and at sprites, a phenomenon discovered about 10 years ago and characterized by brief, low-intensity flashes of light above the level of the lightning. (Dust is visible only during the day.) "There are lots of thunderstorms, especially in the tropics," he said.

At the meeting, held at the Barbara Frum Library, incoming Canadian Friends president Arthur Siegel succeeded Ira Schecter.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Feb. 18, is deadline for Feb. 28 issue and Monday, Feb 25, is deadline for March 7. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Saturday, Feb. 16

RELIGIOUSLY INCORRECT

Nishma presents Religiously Incorrect, a panel discussion of current events from a Torah point of view. Topic: Serving God with Joy. Moderated by **Rabbi Benjamin Hecht**. 8 p.m., Nishma Centre, 322 Wilson Ave. 416-630-0588.

Sunday, Feb. 17

TRIBUTE TO RICHLER

The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents A Tribute to Mordecai Richler, Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario, 5:15 p.m. (members only) and 7:45 p.m. Three films based on Richler's short stories. Tickets available 15 minutes prior to screening. 416-924-6211.

STUDY PROGRAM

Downtown Jewish Community School Family Life Series, Different Perspectives on Judaism with **Rabbi Nechemia Deitsch.** Topic: The Master Plan of Creation: The Baal Shem Tov's Unique Conception of Divine Providence, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Miles Nadal JCC. 416-924-6211.

LITURGICAL CONCERT

A gala liturgical concert featuring choirs from Beth Tikvah Synagogue and Blessed Trinity Parish Church, 3 p.m. at the church, 3220 Bayview Ave. Music by **Srul Irving Glick**, Festival String Quartet, harpist **Erica Goodman,** organist **Michael Schuck, Cantor Benjamin Maissner**. Proceeds go to childhood cancer fund, Hospital for Sick Children Foundation. 416-221-3433 ext. 352.

BASIC HEBREW

Jewish Russian Community Centre WITS (Women's Institute of Torah Study) introduces a 3-part course on Basic Hebrew for men and women, 7-8 p.m. followed by The Jewish Mystical Experience 8-9:30 p.m., **Rabbi Tzvi Freeman**. Register, **Chana Weisberg,** dean of WITS, 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

ORAYNU CONGREGATION

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism presents 2100: Will There Still Be Jews?. Rabbinic candidate **Eva Goldfinger** reports on the American Jewish Identity Survey 2001, conducted by the Center for Jewish Studies, City University of New York, 7:30 p.m., Bernard Betel Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. RSVP 416-385-3910.

JEWISH HUMOUR

Shaarei Tefillah Sisterhood presents An Evening of Jewish Humour with **Michael Lebovic** and **Allan Farkas**, 7:30 p.m. Tickets: 416-787-1631.

JEWISH FILM SERIES

Crossing Delancey (1988) with **Amy Irving**, 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue. 416-221-3433.

SYNAGOGUE MUSIC

Concert, The Evolution of Synagogue Music, Salamone de Rossi to Srul Irving Glick, features the Festival String Quartet and the Beth Tikvah Choir conducted by **Srul Irving Glick**, 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue, 416-221-3433, ext. 0.

Monday, Feb. 18

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

For parents and families of Lesbians and Gays. Information, **Ruth** 416-763-9111.

Tuesday, Feb. 19

BOOK REVIEW

Adath Israel Sisterhood book review series focuses on *Love of a Good Woman* by **Alice Munro**, Facilitator **Heather Kassel**. 8 p.m.

Continued on page 23

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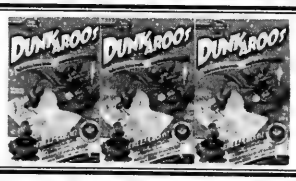

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800 Steeles Ave. W. and 8190 Bayview Ave. *THORNHILL*; 2900 Steeles Ave. E. *MARKHAM*.

What's New

Continued from page 22

ONE GOD – THREE FAITHS

The Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto and St. Anne's Anglican Church discussion with **Shabir Ally** of Islamic Information, **Rabbi Sol Tanenzapf** of Beit Rayim Congregation and **The Rev. Victor Shepherd,** Tyndale Seminary, 7:30 p.m., at the church, 270 Gladstone Ave. 416-598-4242.

SEXUALITY

Rabbi Steven Saltzman of Adath Israel Congregation, leads a discussion on Jewish Attitude Towards Sexuality, presented by Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood, 7:30 p.m. at Beth David. 416-633-5500.

CHUG HATANACH

Chug Hatanach meets to study the Book of Ezekiel, chapters 6 and 7, 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue.

Wednesday, Feb. 20

UNIVERSITY BOUND

Calling all parents of university/college-bound children! Educator **Judy Libman** offers practical suggestions for understanding and helping your children at this important stage of their lives. 7:30 p.m., at Beth Tzedec Congregation. 416-781-3511.

CPR COURSES

National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto section is offering courses, with demonstrations and practice, on adult, child and infant CPR, 6:30-10:30 p.m., Council House, 4700 Bathurst St. 416-633-5100.

THREE SCROLLS

Congregation Darchei Noam 3-part series begins with the Book of Esther with **Seymour Epstein**, 8 p.m., 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). **Gwen** 416-638-4783.

YIDDISHKEIT

Looking into the origins of Yiddish expressions with **Shirley Kumove**, 8 p.m., Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Ave. 905-889-2252.

MINIATURE GOLF

Glow in the Dark Miniature Golf: Tikvah chapter, Jewish Women International, invites women in their 20s and 30s to join in a social evening of miniature golf, 7:30 p.m. at the Putting Edge, at Hwy. 7 and 400. **Karen**, 905-707-2331.

SAFE MEDICATION USE

Seniors Safe Medication Use Program, **Tracey Phillips**, Metropolitan Toronto Pharmacists' Association, 1:30-2:30 p.m., Wagman Centre. Register, 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.

Thursday, Feb. 21

SIX WAYS TO ASK GOD

Toronto Jewish Healing Project series, Six Rabbis: Six Ways to Ask God continues with Dealing With Disappointment When Prayers Aren't Answered with **Rabbi Philip Scheim** of Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**,416-944-3359.

And What Else Is New

REFORM JEWS OF INDIA

Friday, Feb. 22, 8:30 p.m. at Temple Har Zion, **Ezra Moses** discusses The Reform Jewish Community of India, following services. An evening of prayer, discussion and oneg Shabbat. 905-889-2252.

CLASS ACTIONS

Class Actions, Germany and the Second World War: Litigating the Holocaust, with attorney **Morris Ratner** of San Francisco/New York. A behind-the-scenes look at Holocaust class action lawsuits. Sponsored by German Lawyers Association and the Canadian Centre for German and European Studies, York University and l'Université de Montréal. 7-9 p.m., Barristers' Lounge, Osgoode Hall, 130 Queen St. W. RSVP 416-736-5695.

DROP-IN-PROGRAM

Rabbi-in-residence drop-in program: Learn What I Learn, See What I See with **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer,** Sunday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Feb. 17-21 at Beth Tzedec Congregation, in the library and study. For anyone, all ages. Spiritual quests welcome. 416-781-3511.

SHABBATON

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham hosts **Rebbetzin Esther Jungreis,** director of the Hineni Heritage Centre, New York, for a Shabbaton weekend, Friday, Feb. 22 and Saturday, Feb. 23, speaking on How to Stop Intermarriage Without Sounding Racist, Friday, 6:30 p.m., and Saturday after services, 83 Green Lane, Thornhill. Open to the community, especially youths and university students. Friday night dinner. RSVP, 905-886-0420.

MEGILLAH READING

Women's Megillah Reading: Megillat Esther, by women for women. Tuesday. Feb. 26, Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Shacharit 9:15 a.m., Megillah, 9:45 a.m.

ONE FAMILY: TWO HOMES

Jewish Family & Child Service offers One Family: Two Homes, a 3-session group for families experiencing separation and divorce. Children (ages 6-16) participate in age-appropriate groups. Starts Thursday, Feb. 21, 6:30-8:30 p.m.. Lipa Green Building. Register. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Associated Hebrew Schools Middle School Grade 8 production of *The Wizard of Oz*, Saturday, Feb. 23, 8:30 p.m. and Sunday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m., at Kamin Education Centre, 300 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill. For information/tickets, 416-494-7280. Tickets also sold at the door.

TEL-AIDE

Tel-Aide: The Jewish Distress Line is starting training sessions for new volunteers. Interested volunteers please call 416-636-9695 and leave your name and phone number.

FOR SENIORS

Wagman Centre looks at how to purchase a computer, with "computer maven" **Henry Campbell**, Wednesday, Feb. 20, 3-4 p.m. Book by calling 416-785-2500, ext. 2267.

New adult choir at **Baycrest Terrace** singing English, Yiddish and Hebrew selections, meets Friday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m. to noon. **Mara**, 416-785-2500, ext. 2275 or **Anna**, ext. 3573.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Feb. 14, sing-along with **Yitzchak Argeman;** Feb. 21, video; Sunday, Feb. 23, Purim party with live music and light supper; Feb. 28, literature evening, reading and stories. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Join **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors Club: Sunday dance Feb. 17, 7-10 p.m.; Saturday dance, Feb. 23; Casino Niagara Feb. 14, March 14; Casino Rama, Feb. 20; Collingwood, Feb. 28. Dancersize class Thursdays, 10 a.m. with **Kitty Cohen**. Membership open. 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Depersonalizing Depression – How Can You Help Yourself and Others? presented by the Canadian Mental Health Association, Thursday, Feb. 14, 1:15-2:15 p.m.

Israel and Terrorism by **Gadi Anavi**, regional director of the Aliyah Office, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Therapeutic Touch with **Sharon Mehl**, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. **Joan Turner**, ext. 126.

Sleep/Wake Disorders Group meets Tuesday, Feb. 19, for discussion on Sleep-A Self Evaluation, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Joan** , ext. 126.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Feb. 19, bingo; Feb. 26, Purim party. **Anna**, ext. 110.

Movie, *Moulin Rouge*, Sunday, Feb. 17, 2:30 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Lunch and Learn, Thursday, Feb. 14, noon. **Prof. Stuart Schoenfeld**, Current Perspective on Israeli/Palestinian Relations. Co-sponsored by the Michael Bernstein Chapel of the Nadal JCC.

Between Stages Playwright's Workshop series presents *The Unanswered Question*, a play about **Leonard Bernstein** by **Martin Julien,** starring **Steve Cumyn, Phillipa Domville, Richard Greenblatt**.

Good Age Club: Thursday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m. Annual Purim Festival with vocalist **Harry Jerome** and pianist **Ted Winuk.** Purim treats.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Sunday, Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Purim Extravaganza for the whole family at BJCC. Ext. 0.

Sunday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Purim event at the Jewish Discovery Museum. Ext. 456.

Wednesday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m.: Jokes: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters, a lecture by **Ted Cohen**, presented by Koffler Centre of the Arts and Albert and Tammy Latner Jewish Public Library at Leah Posluns Theatre. Ext. 352.

Early Childhood Department: Spaces open for September Tic Tac Two, 9:15-11:15 a.m. to mid-June. Ext. 351.

March 10, April 9 and April 18, interactive satellite broadcast from New York to participating JCCs, includes foremost thinkers and scholars. Presented by the Koffler Centre of the Arts, Kolel and Toronto JCCs. Call ext. 271 or 416-924-6211.

March 11-15, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Red Cross/Lifesaving instructor certification. A course for those who have a current Bronze Cross and Aqualeader Award. Required to teach Red Cross swimming lessons. Register. **Graham**, ext. 252.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 18

Mazel Tov MOMENTS

We cannot guarantee the date a picture will appear. Please limit all greetings to 25 typewritten words. We reserve the right to edit all items and condense any that are longer than that.

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

Mazel tov to Dr. Jason Hershorn, awarded best overall optometry student at Nova Southeastern University in Florida. Proud mother Sandy and brother Michael.

Mazel tov to our parents Jerry & Frances Freud on your 40th anniversary. Love from Lisa, Stuart, Alan, Kevin, Sean and Dylan.

Happy first birthday to Brandon Davis. Lots of love from mom and dad, Eva & Rich Davis, grandparents, great-grandparents, aunts and uncles.

This four-generation picture includes great-grandma Doris Jacobson; her daughter, Mary-Ellen Himelfarb; her daughter, Sharonna Liatsidis; and her daughter, Rebecca Liatsidis.

Mazel tov Doris & Norman Hertz on your 50th wedding anniversary. Love, Sherrie, Joel, Barry and Paul Hertz, and Penny, Alan, Steven and Mark Goldreich.

Mazel tov to Jack & Roselyn Shecter on your 50th wedding anniversary. With lots of love from your children and grandchildren.

Happy first birthday Ashley Benchluch, with all our love, mommy, daddy, saba, safta, abuelo, abuela, boobi, zaza, aunts, uncles and cousins.

Mazel tov to Pnina & Allon Bross on your 25th anniversary from your children David, Adee, Jonah, Ave, and your parents Tamara & Mietek.

Happy first birthday Ashley Brianne, daughter of Sherri Goodfield & Craig Barber, sister of Justin and Jason, granddaughter of Aileen Goodfield and Norine Barber.

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Greater Toronto Area

Allowing Shabbat ballot 'a mistake,' says Flaherty

Continued from page 3

elections provide for advance polls to avoid this kind of difficulty."

As he sees it, the best solution – "a total answer" – would be an advance poll with a preferential ballot, meaning a voter could pick more than one contender should voting go beyond one ballot.

But, he said, "I'm less concerned with the method at the end of the day than I am with making sure that no one is disenfranchised."

Would like to see advance polls

Flaherty believes the party can still be persuaded to allow advance polls, and says he's "going to continue to work on this to ensure that a solution is found."

He'll have to wait until Feb. 23, when the deadline for signing up new members passes. After that, "we'll be able to demonstrate objectively and factually to the executive the number of members who would be excluded and disenfranchised by the vote being confined to a Saturday," he said. "We'll be able to dramatize the issue and show them what the consequences are for members of our party. So I encourage people to become members, because it will make the submission all the more compelling."

Flaherty's team put out a press release last month, saying the party "has made it impossible for a large segment of Ontarians to participate in this important process. The executive of the party needs to rectify this oversight."

Jeff Bangs, executive director of the Ontario PC party, responded by accusing Flaherty of ignoring the party's provision for a proxy vote, and of trying to score political points with a constituency that has welcomed the Tories' Equity in Education Tax Credit for religious schools, which Flaherty has championed.

Flaherty declined to comment on Bangs' remark, stressing that while only a small minority of voters would be affected by the Saturday balloting, "if we believe in strength in diversity and an all-inclusive approach, then it's mandatory that we take whatever steps are necessary to ensure that no one is disenfranchised."

Asked whether he stands most to lose without the Jewish vote, he said, "That may be true. There's no question I was the architect of the tax credit, and [it] had certain support [among] people who believe in faith-based education in Ontario."

In January, party president Devlin indicated in a letter that the leadership steering committee lacked the authority to address the Sabbath voting issue, and Devlin asked whether the campaign wanted the issue addressed by the executive, to which Flaherty agreed.

Kolel sees attendance spike after Sept. 11

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Since Sept. 11, Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, has seen a 40 per cent increase in the number of students taking courses, says its executive director.

"People are feeling a need to reconnect with each other and with their background; they're changing the way they are looking at things," says Gail Gould.

"Many of us are feeling very insecure, largely due to what is happening in the world, and they want to cocoon in terms of exploring themselves. We [at Kolel] are trying to fill that need for self-exploration."

Along those lines, a group of young adults who met at a recent course on Jewish spirituality has gotten together to help Kolel plan programs relevant to them, Gould says.

"We did a survey to determine their cultural, social and religious needs and we plan on responding to those needs," she says.

"They are searching for a connection and we want to give them a safe, non-threatening environment in which to explore Judaism."

Through its courses, Gould says, Kolel attempts to create a community that invites members to experience, learn and understand traditional Jewish thought and practices, and apply them in the modern world.

"We also try to provide an accessible environment where members of the community can better understand and practise their Judaism," she says.

Courses this winter include Lamaze-l Tov, for expectant Jewish couples. This course examines anatomy and physiology, breathing and relaxation techniques, parenting skills, and discussions on such things as brit milah and baby-naming ceremonies, choosing Hebrew names, and the expectations of being Jewish parents.

Doing Jewish 1 is a class for those searching for an entry point to a modern and meaningful Jewish life, or for those who want to enhance their present Jewish observance.

At a weekly lunchtime gathering, participants will discuss the latest world issues, and by looking at Jewish texts they will try to discover a Jewish view of current events. Topics include war and retaliation, cloning and social welfare.

Other courses include Conversations About God, Women in the Tanach, Talmud for Dummies and Exploring the Zohar.

For information, call Kolel at 416-485-7007.

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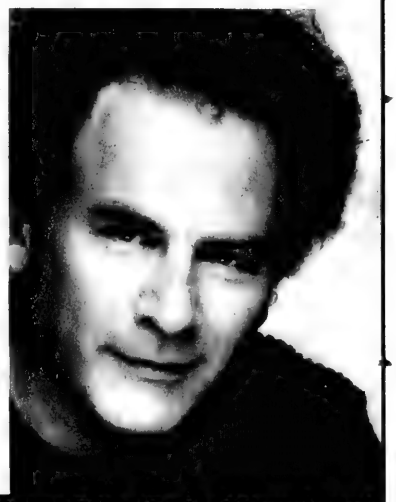
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Citron gratified at tribunal's Zundel Website decision

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Some time around 1978 or '79 – it was so long ago, she can't remember precisely when – Sabina Citron first heard about Ernst Zundel.

Citron was founder and spokesperson for the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association and at the time, the organization was being flooded with complaints from Jews and non-Jews alike about materials distributed by Zundel that whitewashed the Nazi regime.

Citron, who had been monitoring the local neo-Nazi scene for some time, was disgusted by what she saw.

"It was hate propaganda using Holocaust denial as a springboard to yet again assail Jews," she recalled.

Not being the retiring type, Citron and the CHRA launched a legal action against Zundel and in 1981 had his mailing privileges suspended.

Although the ban only lasted one year, it represented the first time she would confront Zundel in a legal arena. Two weeks ago may have marked the last. That's when a tribunal constituted under the Canadian Human Rights Act upheld a complaint brought by Citron and the Toronto Mayor's Committee on Community and Race Relations that a Web site operated by Zundel offered materials likely to expose Jews to hatred or contempt.

The two-person tribunal ruled that articles downloaded from Zundel's Web site, which denied the Holocaust and which claimed Jews lied about it to extract reparations from Germany, did indeed violate the Canadian Human Rights Code.

"Based on our view that the Zundelsite materials characterize Jews as 'liars, cheats, criminals and thugs' who have deliberately engaged in a monumental fraud designed to extort funds, we regard it as highly likely that readers of these materials will, at a minimum, hold Jews in very low regard, viewing them either with contempt, scorn and disdain, or hatred, loathing and revulsion," the tribunal's decision stated.

Though the tribunal ordered Zundel to cease and desist from continuing to offer such material, Zundel had left Canada for Tennessee more than a year ago.

In a "ZGram" posted on the Web site under the name of Ingrid Rimland, Zundel's wife (the tribunal found Rimland took her marching orders from Zundel) states her husband "is utterly out of the Tribunal's jurisdiction and his detractors' clutches ..."

She goes on to call the decision a victory for censorship and the hearing "a legal lynching party."

For her part, Citron is gratified at the tribunal's findings, believing it contains an important educative component and sends a clear signal of what is unacceptable in Canadian society. As for Zundel, "I'm thrilled he isn't here. Good riddance. We didn't need him here in the first place."

Sabina Citron in 1988

Between the time she launched the first legal challenge to Zundel 20 years ago and the denouement of the Internet case two weeks ago, Citron also initiated a criminal case which attracted international attention.

In 1983, she charged the German-born propagandist with spreading "false news" in connection to his distribution of the Holocaust-denial pamphlet, *Did Six Million Really Die?* A second pamphlet, *The West, War and Islam*, which was aimed at a Muslim audience, was also the subject of the charges, but in a 1985 trial, the Crown did not pursue its prosecution with any vigour.

In two separate cases, a jury determined that Zundel knowingly spread lies about the Holocaust, but in 1992 the Supreme Court of Canada in a 4-3 decision overturned the false news law, saying its violations of free speech were not justifiable in a free and democratic society.

Unsuccessful attempts to convince the attorney general of Ontario to charge Zundel under federal hate propaganda law – which the High Court had upheld in the Keegstra case – left Citron frustrated and believing Canada was not serious about protecting all its minorities from vilification.

In the mid-1990s, a little before she raised the complaint about the Zundel Web site, she filed a civil action against him for defamation, claiming material on the Web called Holocaust survivors, and her specifically, liars.

That case is still on the books, but was not actively pursued while the human rights case was under adjudication, she said.

Citron is considering how actively she will continue with the case, and whether there is a way to enforce the tribunal's order against Zundel, given that he no longer resides in Canada. In the next few months, she will also see if she can convince the Web host for the Zundelsite to refuse service to their client.

Citron rejects critiques the high profile cases have provided Zundel, an obscure, marginal character beforehand, with tons of free publicity.

"The long struggle at least educated people," she retorted. "Zundel's name is dirt and no one would listen to him except the most hardened people or the young and naive.

"There is such a thing as bad publicity," she continued. "Bin Laden gets a lot of publicity, all of it bad. What does it prove?"

As for the future, Citron, a Holocaust survivor, plans to write a book about her wartime and post-war experiences.

Nevertheless, she admits to slowing down. "I'm not going to do this forever," she said. "I did my share for 35 years, now it's time for younger people to pursue this."

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Bone marrow transplants often poorly understood

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — One of today's medical procedures that is arousing a great deal of interest – not to mention hope in those who need it – is the bone marrow transplant. However, in spite of newspaper articles, fictional (or fictionalized) television programs and much speculation, it is a poorly understood process.

Jay Feinberg knows all about it. In 1991, he was diagnosed with chronic myelogenous leukemia. His doctor assured him that his would be an easy death. Small comfort to a 22-year-old foreign exchange analyst just beginning his life.

His only hope, he was told, was a bone marrow transplant.

Bone marrow is a substance that is found in the hollow cavities of the body's large bones. Along with peripheral blood (the blood that is in the capillaries, veins and arteries), it is the best source of stem cells, the undifferentiated cells that can replace diseased cells.

As is the case with all transplants, the donor's blood must be compatible with the recipient's. The best chance is a close relative – a parent, child or sibling – or someone in the close family.

In Feinberg's case, his two older brothers were perfect matches for each other. But not for him.

The next best chance is someone from the same ethnic background – for Feinberg, an Ashkenazi Jew.

The Feinbergs decided to take a proactive approach. They began to organize mass screenings in Jewish communities in many countries, including the United States, Canada and Israel.

Torontonians and Montrealers may remember the screenings that were held for Feinberg in the early 1990s. More than 55,000 people were tested. When it appeared that only a partial match was available, Feinberg, whose condition was rapidly deteriorating, decided to go with that.

Then the miracle happened. A friend in Milwaukee decided to have one last drive, to help, if not Feinberg, then others. When the organizers were packing up, a young woman helping out decided to be tested – the last person. She was a match.

Feinberg, after a rocky first year, is now doing well and is symptom-free. He has devoted his life to educating and encouraging people to add themselves to bone marrow registries around the world.

At this point, he told *The CJN* in a recent telephone interview from the Florida offices of his organization, Gift of Life, there are about 3½ million people on various United States bone marrow registries, 100,000 in Israel, about 220,000 in Canada and 7½ million worldwide. There are also registries in Europe, Australia, South America and Asia, all linked by computer.

When a person is diagnosed with a disease requiring a bone marrow transplant, especially cancers of the blood and immune disorders, a search is done in all the registries; so it is entirely possible, as happened recently, that a person on the Gift of Life registry was discovered to be a match with a child in Italy.

Someone who is a match is brought into a local hospital. Under general anesthetic, a needle is inserted into the iliac crest in the lower back, and the marrow is extracted. There is some discomfort in the area for several days.

If peripheral blood is used, the donor is given the drug filgrastin, which stimulates the production of stem cells. The stem cells are then drawn out in a procedure similar to the harvesting of blood platelets. The drug causes flu-like symptoms.

The recipient, meanwhile, is put on a rigorous and often painful round of radiation and chemotherapy which eradicates his or her diseased immune system. The stem cells are given intravenously. They migrate through the circulatory system to the hollow cavities of the bones, where in a few weeks, they begin to manufacture healthy blood cells.

This does not mean that a patient is out of the woods. A very common side effect is graft-versus-host disease (GVH), where antibodies against the new marrow develop in the body. Feinberg explained that while one doesn't want too much GVH, a little bit seems to have an anti-leukemic effect.

"There are billions of leukemia cells, and the radiation and chemotherapy don't destroy all of them – it just takes a few to restore a full-scale case of leukemia."

GVH, in mild form, Feinberg said, kills those few remaining cells.

There is no cost for the searches, which are done by transplant co-ordinators in the patient's hospital. The costs of the donation and the transplant are born by the national health insurance plan (as in Canada) or by medical insurance companies. If the insurance company refuses to pay, there is usually money available either from individuals or through non-profit organizations such as Gift of Life.

A spokesperson for Canadian Blood Services, the institution that runs the blood system in Canada, including bone marrow transplants, said that the decision as to whether to use stem cells from bone marrow, peripheral blood, or the latest technology, umbilical cord blood, depends on the clinical situation of the patient.

Those who wish to be listed in the Canadian registry must be between 17 and 59, and in good health. One can register either by mail, telephone (in Toronto 416-974-9900) or at the Web site, www.bloodservices.ca.

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I am trying to lose weight. I find the hardest time of day is when I get home from work and I'm preparing dinner. I am starving and will grab the first thing I see. Do you have suggestions to help curb this hunger?

A. I have several suggestions. Make sure you eat protein at lunch. Also, in order to be less hungry in the late afternoon, have a planned snack around 4 p.m. or on the way home from work. Try yogurt, nuts, fruit, raw veggies, tomato juice or milk. If that fails and you still walk in the door starving, pour yourself a tomato juice, pull a bag of cut-up raw veggies out of the fridge or grab a piece of fruit. If you have a plan in your mind ahead of time, you're more likely to stick to it and less likely to grab the chips.

Q. I am noticing that organic foods are becoming much more available and "mainstream." I am wondering what your opinion of them is.

A. I am thrilled to see how many organic products are available in "regular" grocery stores today. I am a huge believer in eating as much organic food as possible. After all, if we have the option of buying equally nutritious foods that are free of often dangerous pesticides and chemicals, why not choose these? I am particularly fond of organic milk, eggs, grapes, raisins, strawberries, apples, orange juice, meat, chicken and soy products. I firmly believe that the fewer preservatives, chemicals and additives we put in our bodies the better, especially in our children's small bodies.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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Jewish Campus Services 'seriously underfunded'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Last year, Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) shocked some members of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's allocations committee when it sought a baseline budget increase of approximately $250,000.

Although the quarter-million dollar increase was not forthcoming, outgoing JCS president David Gotfrid, speaking at the organization's annual general meeting held at the Lipa Green building, expressed his pleasure over progress made in negotiating with the federation.

"It was acknowledged that the student population was seriously underfunded," he said, and grants were allocated "with the understanding that if the money, or some of the money, becomes available in the future, these grants will become part of our annual budget."

Staff salaries are the most seriously underfunded item, said Gotfrid, who has been succeeded by Larry Sonenberg. Less than two years ago, he noted, JCS received a one-time grant to "bump up" the salary levels, which he indicated were below the salary levels of colleagues in other local Jewish communal organizations. Part of last year's grants also went to maintaining salaries at the new levels.

"I think we really must continue to push to get the salaries up to the appropriate levels," he said. Gotfrid commended the calibre of the staff, but said that increased salaries are necessary to retain staff members and attract new ones with qualifications like degrees in Jewish communal service.

He also announced that construction on the long-awaited, new Jewish student centre on the outskirts of the University of Toronto's downtown campus is expected to begin in late spring or early summer.

The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life, for which a ground-breaking was held in May 2000, will be located at the northwest corner of Huron Street and Harbord Avenue.

The organization has spent the better part of the last two years negotiating to obtain a second, adjacent lot, he said. "We're now looking at a 10-to-11,000-square-foot building."

Gotfrid charged student board members, four of whom are continuing on a one-year term, to look at their involvement with JCS as a "beginning. There are a lot of Jewish communal organizations that will be turning to you over the next 30 and 40 years to fill the roles on their boards and their executives."

Zac Kaye – executive director of JCS for the past seven years since its inception as the umbrella for Jewish student organizations on university and college campuses in Toronto – expressed gratification at the increased diversity and number of JCS programs as well as the diversity of its students, over the past years.

Among key areas of concern for the future, he noted, are Israel-related issues and the potential for anti-Semitism on campus. "We made a decision at Jewish Campus Services that a priority was the hiring of an Israel affairs co-ordinator, even if we didn't have the money."

Stuart Lapowich, who took on that role in November, is primarily responsible for pre- and post-Birthright programming for participants in the free 10-day Israel trip, and for creating a "pro-Israel agenda" on campus.

"The biggest single challenge, I believe, to Jewish students on campus is the lack of knowledge our students have in knowing what the case for Israel is all about and being able to articulate it clearly," said Kaye.

Students are deeply shocked at the passion and knowledge of others who challenge them on Israel-related issues, he added.

Funding an Israel affairs position is "probably the most vital educational initiative" JCS can undertake, Kaye stated. Among other initiatives he cited as necessary are the development of more opportunities for students to go to Israel, more seminars like the Israel Advocacy Weekend held this month, the development and nurturing of student leaders, and fund-raising for refurbishment of the JSF's quarters at York University.

SORORITY TORAHTHON: From left, Andrea Rafael, Cheryl Siegal, Simone Krasnov, Robin Epstein and Miriam Hambourg show off the challahs they made at an all-night Torahthon (study session), at York University. Epstein organized the program for the Jewish sorority Delta Pi. Speakers included rabbis Aubrey Glazer and Moshe Kirsh, Naomi Aram, Rachael Turkienicz and Susan Jackson, on topics including Kabbalah and Jewish identity. Money raised at the event will be given to Jewish Family & Child Service to help abused women.

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Coast to Coast

Winnipeg's Russian Jews get a place of their own

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Russian Jewish community now has a place where members can feel at home when they are far from home.

Second Wind, which was formed last fall, has about 40 members and holds programs every month or so featuring Russian Jewish singers, and musicians and poets from Russia, Israel and North America.

"It's part of a circuit [these performers] are on," says president Igor Levin.

"There is a network of Russian clubs throughout North America including great clubs in Toronto and Montreal."

Levin, a computer technician who is originally from Rostov, estimates that Winnipeg's fast growing Russian Jewish population is well over 500.

He and his wife Elena, Second Wind's secretary, came to Manitoba nearly four years ago. They found they missed the rich cultural life they left behind in Russia.

He says that earlier attempts to form a club for Jews from the former Soviet Union did not work out.

The Levins helped start Second Wind with support from Jewish Child and Family Service who helps cover the cost of the club's events.

JCFS resettlement worker Rina Roytberg who emigrated from the former Soviet Union 13 years ago, books space for the club programs at the Asper Jewish Community Centre and helps publicize club activities.

The programs are publicized through Roytberg's Russian language column in the local *Jewish Post and News*, in a Russian-language radio show, on the club's Web site – www.russianwinnipeg.net – and by word of mouth.

Visiting entertainers are paid from membership dues and occasional fund-raising concerts featuring local Russian Jewish musicians.

Coming up for Second Wind are evenings with celebrated Russian Jewish poet Igor Guberman who lives in Israel, and poet Alexander Gorodnitskij. "It looks like we are going to have a busy year," Levin says.

Bombardier still bidding

Continued from page 1

Jillian MacCormack, speaking on behalf of Montreal-based SNC Lavalin, said "there is no mystery about it. We had to withdraw because there were a number of technical problems.

"We work in volatile regions around the world all the time. It's another thing when you are under constant direct fire from both sides all the time."

MacCormack said the threat of violence "made it unsure on the financial side. If you have a work stoppage if something is bombed, would we be compensated?"

Reports from Israel had erroneously indicated Bombardier, also based in Montreal, had pulled out of an international group of companies that was preparing to tender an offer on the construction of a Jerusalem commuter rail line that cut through areas acquired by Israel following the Six Day War in 1967.

Reuters news agency reported that pressure from Palestinian officials may have prompted Bombardier and SNC Lavalin to withdraw from competing consortiums bidding on the project.

In its report, Reuters cited an unnamed Israeli source involved in the project who blamed the Palestinian Authority for opposing it.

The unnamed source was quoted as saying Arab states still can exert pressure on outside firms considering business ventures in Israel.

But MacCormack rejected reports SNC Lavalin reacted to pressure from Palestinians. "We received absolutely no threats from the Palestinians," she said. "We had no contact with them at all."

Bombardier's spokesperson also rejected the idea that the company reacted to pressure from Palestinians. "Bombardier did not receive any calls or letters from the Palestinian government or any representative," Dufresne said.

The company's transportation division did send a letter to its representative in Israel, but the letter dealt with commercial issues related to the consortium's bid, she added.

Benjamin Noy, Israel's economic consul to Canada, also rejected suggestions that pressure from Palestinian sources could cause Canadian bidders to withdraw.

Companies considering ventures in Israel are motivated by business considerations, not political ones, he said.

Noy said there is no evidence of a resurgent Arab boycott similar to the one employed in the 1970s against companies doing business in Israel. Countries at peace with Israel – Jordan and Egypt – are precluded by terms of the treaties from participating in a boycott while Israel's immediate neighbours – Syria and Lebanon – don't have the economic clout to do so, he said.

Gulf states, he continued, "do what is profitable for them and I don't think the Gulf States will [revive] a significant boycott."

Bombardier, a world leader in rail car design and manufacturing, and SNC Lavalin were involved in competing bids on a multi-million project that would see construction of a 14-km light rail line in Jerusalem from Pisgat Ze'ev in the north via downtown to Mt. Herzl.

Figures for the value of the project vary. Reuters said the first phase was valued at $14 billion while Noy said $400 million US ($641 million CDN) was a more accurate figure. A press release issued by the Israeli ministry of finance in July 2001 put the figure at 1.7 billion Israeli shekels, which was worth $583 million (CDN) last week.

Noy said the light rail project is an important infrastructure investment that will benefit all Jerusalem residents, whether Jewish or Arab.

"It has to be viewed like any other infrastructure projects, roads or hospitals," Noy said. "Its goal is to improve the standard of living of all people who live in the area."

Arabs, he pointed out, make use of Israeli hospitals, travel to work in Israel and visit there. "This is going to better their situation and that of Jews who live in Jerusalem, so this has nothing to do with politics."

Noy said his inquiries from sources in Israel did not indicate there was any Palestinian pressure on consortium bidders. However, he said, the project was extremely complex.

The contract is for a BOT project: "Build, operate and transfer," he said. In addition to constructing the rail line and supplying the rolling stock, the consortium would be required to operate it for a time and eventually turn it over to Israel.

"That's a complicated project with risks," particularly if there are no government guarantees, Noy said. Participants might want to stay away rather than take on a risky venture, he added.

Bombardier has been involved in other projects in Israel, Dufresne said. It has already supplied 14 four-car double decker trains to the Israel railway authority, with options for 16 more four-car trains. The company is also considering bidding on a light rail project in Tel Aviv.

Young leadership awards presented

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The winners of two key awards for community volunteers are modest when it comes to their accomplishments.

Ivy Kopstein sees the Jewish Federation of Winnipeg/Combined Jewish Appeal's 2001 Max Nathanson Young Leadership Award as a reward for work she does because she enjoys it.

And Grant Zipursky, the recipient of the federation's Harry Silverberg Leadership Development Award for 2001, is surprised at receiving the honour.

The two annual awards recognize individuals in the community who are between the ages of 25 and 45 who have built up a track record of volunteer time in Federation/CJA activities and the community as a whole and show leadership potential.

Kopstein, a mother of two young children, began her volunteer activities with the Sara Sommer Chai Folk Ensemble. "Once I had my children, Elaine Goldstine (the CJA women's campaign director) decided I needed to be more involved in the community and got me started with the CJA," Kopstein says.

She started as a canvasser in 1996 and has since served on the budgets and allocations committee, the millenium committee and has been involved in the community's long term planning process. For the last three years, she has been a member of the women's campaign management team.

One accomplishment she is particularly proud of is co-founding the annual Family Matters program three years ago. The next Family Matters evening, she says, is being held in April in conjunction with a national Women's Leadership Conference.

In the larger Jewish community, Kopstein volunteers her time in the Shore Elementary school and serves on the boards of Shalom Residences (Winnipeg's equivalent of Toronto's Reena Foundation) and Camp Massad.

She is new to the Massad board. "My 10-year-old went to Massad for the first time last summer and loved it," she says.

Zipursky, a sales representative and father of two, was also first invited to become a CJA canvasser in 1996. For the past three years, he has chaired the $500 to $999 division and has trained other canvassers. This year, he joined the federation board.

"In this community, once you become involved, they really like to take you on," he says.

Zipursky is also co-president of his synagogue, the Chevra Mishnayes, and is a member of the Joseph Wolinsky Collegiate parent advisory committee.

"I have a strong sense of community," he says. "We need volunteers. I like to take an active role. The only way to be vocal is to be involved."

Zipursky and Kopstein will receive their awards at the community's annual Koved Evening at the end of May.

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Stop funding PA, says Alliance's Stockwell Day

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Canadian government should cut all financial support to the Palestinian Authority until Yasser Arafat shows that he is serious about fighting terrorism, says Canadian Alliance leadership candidate Stockwell Day.

Speaking at Congregation Beth Israel Beth Aaron, Day said he finds it strange that a country that is so careful about hate speech is funding, through the Canadian International Development Agency, textbooks that "tell Palestinian children to hate Jews."

Furthermore, he asked, why is Canada is giving money to the Palestinian coast guard, which was caught smuggling arms intended for the PA, when Canada's own coast guard is under-funded?

He said Canada should also ban Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad from this country and shut down their "fund-raising fronts." Day said these groups support terrorism and build weapons of mass destruction intended for civilians.

"They have two main enemies: the United States, 'the Great Satan,' and Israel, 'the Little Satan.'"

Day spoke to about 65 people in his only public appearance during a one-day campaign swing through Montreal. His strongly pro-Israel talk drew some applause and a standing ovation at the end.

Referring to Arafat's recent article in the *New York Times*, Day said he doubts the Palestinian leader's sincerity in writing that he wants to stop terrorism and is opposed to the deliberate targeting of civilians as a means to advance the Palestinian cause.

"We've heard this from him before and seen precious little action. He has not arrested the assassins of cabinet minister Rehavam Ze'evi or the Karine A smugglers, who may be part of his own security apparatus.

"He allows Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad to openly operate in his own territory."

Day said Canada has not been strong enough in its condemnation of Palestinian terrorism. He is concerned that the Chrétien government is "losing its will" to stand by the United States and Israel in combating terrorism originating in the Islamic world.

"Canada must stand with the U.S. and Israel against this 'axis of evil,'" he said, using U.S. President George W. Bush's phrase. "We cannot be bystanders groping for a middle ground that does not exist," he stated. If the current war extends beyond Afghanistan, Canada should support it, he said.

Canada has an "unbalanced" policy on the Arab-Israeli conflict, he said, and should more closely follow U.S. policy, which is to either vote against or boycott anti-Israel United Nations resolutions or decisions taken by other international organizations.

Day thinks that new Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham holds some notions that will set Canada further apart from the United States. "He is in the mould of Lloyd Axworthy [a former foreign minister]. He has 'soft-power' ideas and is from the 'root causes' school that blames U.S. foreign policy or poverty in the Gaza Strip [for terrorism]."

Day said there should be no blurring between the "evil" of terrorism, which he defined as the deliberate targeting of civilians, which Israel has suffered, and "the tragic collateral damage in warfare.

"For a long time, reporting on that has not been directed in the manner it should," he said.

At the same time, Day said Israel should recognize Palestinian statehood, as long as all the Arab states recognize Israel. He referred to "Palestine" a couple of times in his speech.

He advised the Palestinians to use as their role models moderate Muslim countries like Turkey and to shun the paths of Iraq and Iran.

His appearance was chaired by the synagogue's spiritual leader, Rabbi Reuben Poupko, who said Day "deserves our hearing. He has eloquently defended Israel and the Jewish community when under assault, without regard for political gain.

"Stockwell Day says the same thing no matter what audience he addresses. What he says to us, he says to an Arab audience... He speaks the truth as he sees it."

Day reiterated his promise that he would support a federal tax credit for parents who send their children to religious schools.

Families who choose religious schools are "performing a public good" and that should be recognized, he said. He likened such a tax break to the one now given to parents who save for their children's university education.

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CIC conference expected to draw hundreds

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Israeli President Moshe Katsav will be the guest of honour at the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) 17th Parliamentary Dinner and Policy Conference to be held in Ottawa on March 6.

Moshe Katsav

Although Parliament will not actually be sitting at the time, plans for the conference are well underway.

The event, expected to attract hundreds of participants from across Canada, had been planned before Parliament's schedule was changed.

"The community has told us that it needs a vehicle to give expression to their solidarity and support for Israel," said Shimon Fogel, CIC executive-director.

"What is driving us [in proceeding with plans for the conference] is the desire to provide a forum for people from across the country to come together and show that support... we decided to go ahead, regardless of how many parliamentarians attend."

This year's conference will be bigger than ever, combining three separate conferences to draw participants from all segments of the Jewish community.

On the day preceding the main event, 250 grassroots leaders will attend an advocacy training conference run by Local Israel Action Teams (LIAT), a network of over 30 groups set up across Canada over the past year to actively engage in pro-Israel grassroots activities.

"This will be a great opportunity for the groups to learn from each other. All the communities will benefit from the top-notch speakers we are bringing in," said Fogel.

On March 6, over 500 students from campuses across Canada will participate in their own student conference.

"Outstanding people are coming in from Israel and the United States to work with the students and to enable them to work more effectively on their campuses," said Fogel.

Workshops will look at such topics as the challenges students face with respect to Israel, dealing with Arab propoganda, and helping students feel more comfortable with their Jewishness in a sometimes unfriendly milieu.

The policy conference will offer a unique opportunity for the Canadian Jewish community to hear from Israelis representing the whole political spectrum.

Speakers will include Members of Knesset who will provide their perspectives on how they see Israel moving forward. Other speakers include Margaret Wente from The *Globe and Mail*; Alison Smith of CBC TV; Pierre Maisonneuve of Reseau de l'Information; and Martin Himel of Global TV News and the *National Post*.

Canada's new Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bill Graham, will speak at the luncheon. Keynote speaker at the Parliamentary dinner will be Prime Minister Jean Chrétien.

The CIC Parliamentary Dinner Web site is www.cicweb.ca. Information is also available by calling 613-234-8271.

CJ Food

Seniors enjoy tasty treats at Purim

By LINDA MOREL
Special to The CJN

People at the Hogar Hirsch home for seniors celebrate Purim every year, says Irene Lubasch de Munster, of Buenos Aires, who assists at the home and is a member of Hadassah.

She describes how elderly residents and their caregivers prepare for their annual Purim party, making posters and invitations and designing masks and costumes. They hire musicians and decorate the dining room. Several residents judge who's wearing the best costumes.

"Like every good Jewish festivity, the celebration ends with food," says Lubasch de Munster. "The most distinctive treats are, of course, hamantaschen."

This Purim, Hadassah, the international women's Zionist organization, is celebrating its 90th anniversary.

Active in more than 30 countries, Hadassah volunteers support two hospitals in Israel, medical research and Jewish education. They are advocates for women's rights, working tirelessly against domestic violence, and encourage women to vote on election day.

"I first learned about [mishloach manot] when I was 15 years old," says Terri Elbaum, a Hadassah volunteer from Los Angeles.

"Our rabbi's wife left a plate of Purim goodies on our doorstep. I never forgot this and knew someday I would prepare baskets for friends and family and secretly leave them on their doorsteps to find and enjoy."

Now a wife and mother, she bakes for Purim, no matter what.

Not long after an earthquake in 1994, Elbaum and her daughters turned out hamantashen by the dozen, surrounded by plastic drop cloths while workmen repaired the damage to her house.

Elbaum loves to bake and has invented original recipes, including chocolate and apple-nut fillings for hamantashen and her own chocolate chip mandelbread.

Esther Caplan, former regional president of Hadassah Pacific Northwest and current leadership development chair of the Seattle chapter, has fond memories of Foulare (pronounced Foo-lar-eh), pastry baskets filled with hard boiled eggs (see recipe below).

Caplan's recipe hails from her Turkish great-grandmother. She says the crisscross pieces of pastry covering the eggs to form the handles of the baskets symbolize Haman's incarceration. Baked with and without shoes or feet, baskets featuring these appendages are traditionally reserved for males.

Like the rest of the women in Caplan's family, though, her two daughters prefer the pastry to the eggs.

"As children, they wanted baskets with shoes because they offered more of the stuff they loved," she says. "To make the girls happy, my husband used to sneak them pastry shoes."

Several years ago, the Caplan family entertained a doctor who was visiting Seattle from one of Hadassah's hospitals in Israel. They took him to their Sephardi synagogue for festivities and to hear Megillat Esther.

"While he enjoyed celebrating Purim American style, the thing that really thrilled him was the Foulare," says Caplan.

From the other side of the world comes another family story and a recipe for Filled Raisin Cookies.

"I have been baking these cookies for so many years that I haven't thought about the story behind them in ages," says Claire Baer, a volunteer from Stony Brook, N.Y., who admits to learning how to make these "hidden hamantashen" from her mother-in-law 51 years ago.

The recipe originated with the great-grandmother of Baer's husband, who worked as a cook in a Christian household in Berlin. Every Purim, she not only baked filled raisin cookies for her family, but also for her employers.

Although they devoured them quickly, she never told the Christian family why she made them only once a year.

"These cookies once followed my daughter to college, and now her family looks forward at Purim to the large tin of cookies that I send them," says Baer. "My youngest granddaughter counts cookies and advises her family how many each person will receive."

Of course no recipe exchange at Purim would be complete without hamantashen, triangular cookies shaped like Haman's hat.

Years ago when Betsy Karpenkopf, daughter of a former Hadassah president, was in 11th grade, she studied Russian in a class taught by Mr. Renhack, a Catholic from Brooklyn.

"He was a portly man who loved food," Karpenkopf says, explaining that if any of his students arrived in class without their books or homework, the punishment was to bring baked goods the following day.

"Well, I forgot my homework one Purim, so I presented him with a plateful of hamantaschen made from my mother's recipe," Karpenkopf says. Mr. Renhack took one bite and said: "Mmm, cream cheese dough. That's not very traditional, is it?"

He was correct; cream cheese is an unusual ingredient in hamantaschen dough. However, foods with fillings follow a Purim tradition, symbolizing the story that unfolds.

FOULARE: Turkish Purim Eggs
By Esther Caplan

no-stick vegetable spray
1 cup vegetable oil
½ cup ice-cold water
salt to taste
3 cups all-purpose flour
1 dozen hard-boiled eggs, cooled with shells on

Preheat oven to 350. Coat baking sheets with no-stick spray. In a large mixing bowl, combine oil and water. Slowly mix in flour and salt, adjusting if necessary by adding more water or flour to get Playdough consistency. Make a golf ball-sized ball. Gently press an egg into the dough ball. Shape dough around it forming a basket that covers about ½ inch around egg. Repeat 5 times – 6 eggs in all. Repeat for remaining 6 eggs.

Shape 6 pieces of dough into the shape of a shoe and press into baskets. The baskets should sit in the heel of the shoes. Crisscross two strips of dough per egg and lay across eggs, pressing strips into dough baskets to form a handle on each of the 12 baskets. Bake for 20-30 minutes or until dough is golden brown. Cool to room temperature. Serve on a plate, break open baskets, remove eggs from shells, and enjoy.

FILLED RAISIN COOKIES
By Claire Baer

Pastry:
no-stick vegetable spray
⅓ cup butter, room temperature
1 cup sugar
1 egg, beaten
½ cup milk
1 tsp. vanilla
3½ cups flour
¼ tsp. salt
3 tsp. baking powder

Prepare Raisin Filling (recipe below). Preheat oven to 375. Coat cookie sheets with no-stick spray. Cream butter. Mix in sugar, egg, milk and vanilla. Slowly add remaining ingredients, beating well. On a lightly floured surface, in batches, roll dough ⅛ inch thick.

With a 2½-inch cookie cutter, form circles. Place a ½ teaspoon of filling on each circle and cover with another circle. Crimp edges with your fingers. Cookies resemble round ravioli. Not wasting dough from surface, repeat until no dough remains. Bake for 10-15 minutes or until edges lightly brown Cool. Yield: 32 cookies.

Raisin Filling:
15-oz. box black raisins
2 tsp. flour
¼ cup sugar
¾ cup water, or more if needed

Place ingredients in a small saucepan and stir. Simmer mixture, mashing until raisins soften and thicken. Cool before handling.

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IAF retaliates for killings; strikes at Gaza

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — In the third reprisal air strike in less than a day, Israeli jets and helicopter gunships struck the main security complex in Palestinian-ruled Gaza City on Monday, sending clouds of smoke and debris over the horizon of the main urban hub of the Gaza Strip, witnesses said.

There were no immediate reports of casualties from the raid, which appeared to be the latest in a series of Israeli reprisals on Gaza after Palestinian shooting and rocket attacks in the Negev on Sunday.

IAF gunships hit the same area late Sunday, hours after two Palestinian gunmen sprayed gunfire at a café near an army base in Be'ersheva, killing two women soldiers before being shot dead themselves.

Palestinians also launched Kassam rockets at an unpopulated area of the Negev on Sunday. They caused neither damage nor injury, but represented a challenge to dire Israeli warnings of the consequences of such rocket fire.

Army Radio reported that security forces were investigating the possibility that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's ranch might have been the intended target of the rocket attack.

Palestinian hospital sources said three civilians and seven security forces were injured, none seriously, in the Sunday night raids on the compound. Helicopters also struck foundries in the northern Gaza Strip the army said were used to make munitions.

Meanwhile, IDF forces were prepared Monday for possible entry into Palestinian cities along the West Bank's Green Line border, in response to future firings of rockets from those areas, or as a preventative measure to head off such firings.

IDF soldier holds a piece of the Kassem 2 launcher found in Gaza. [Israel Sun photo]

Israeli security sources said that the military response to Sunday's Be'ersheva terror shooting and to the firing of the rockets would be harsh, but would at this stage not include irreversible steps against the Palestinian Authority (PA).

"The operation must make this clear to the Palestinians: we will not abide turning rocket firings into a routine," a security source said. The IDF operation is expected to include taking over an area of territory under formal PA control, close to sites from which rockets have been fired.

IDF troops and tanks briefly raided the Palestinian-ruled West Bank city of Nablus early Monday, clashing with gunmen some 200 meters from the town's PA headquarters, in a response to terror attacks launched from the city. Palestinian security sources and witnesses said IDF tanks backed by helicopters entered Nablus from the east before dawn.

The IDF force withdrew a few hours after the raid began, witnesses said.

Sharon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer met at Sharon's ranch in the western Negev overnight. The three decided to take harsh retaliatory measures in response to the rocket and continuing terror attacks. No details of the planned response were made public, and it was unclear if the Nablus action was discussed.

An IDF spokesman said infantry and engineering units operated in an area in the southeast of Nablus following attacks that had originated in the city and "in order to prevent further such attacks." He gave no further details.

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Today, majestic Masada is the most popular tourist attraction in Israel outside Jerusalem. The former Judean desert fortress rises on its eastern slope, 450 metres above the Dead Sea, which is the lowest point on earth. Based on its striking natural beauty, Masada National Park was recently placed on the World Heritage Committee list of the most prestigious sites on earth. Here, you'll find buildings originally constructed by Herod the Great, implements used by the Zealots and the synagogue in which they prayed.

Masada National Park is open every day of the year, except Yom Kippur, from sunrise until one hour before sunset. The cable car operates from 8 am – 4 pm, but it shuts down earlier on Friday during the winter. There's a small entrance fee to this magnificent open museum of Jewish history.

And speaking of museums, in Israel there's virtually one on every corner. Keep your eye on **Travel Israel** next week.

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Iran missile trial fails, casualties reported

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

A recent trial of the Iranian Shihab-3 missile failed when the engines exploded, reportedly causing a number of casualties. Experts say the repeated failures in the engines of the ground-to-ground missile will undoubtedly delay its production – but this doesn't mean Iran lacks operational missiles capable of reaching Israel.

Western sources say the failed trial took place three weeks ago, and for the first time, the blast claimed casualties and, according to one source, lives. No official Iranian announcement of the mishap has been made.

The first trial launch of the Shihab-3 took place in July 1998 and caught Israel and other countries by surprise. Iran said the launch was a success, but closer scrutiny suggested otherwise. The missile stayed airborne for about 100 seconds, then crashed. Experts said an engine problem caused the failure.

Iran also declared the second test-launch a success. It later emerged the Iranians had installed a North Korean engine in the missile, not an Iranian one. North Korean know-how has been instrumental in the development of the Shihab-3. But recent efforts to harness Russian expertise in dealing with the engine problems of the Iranian missile have failed to yield positive results.

Israel succeeded in convincing the United States of the need for a third deployed battery of Arrow anti-ballistic missiles to counter the Shihab-3, whose range is estimated at 1,300 kilometres.

Experts say the Shihab-3 failures will only delay the program. They note other countries are trying to develop ballistic missiles, suggesting it is only a matter of funds and time before one will be ready for production.

Another possibility is that if Iran seeks to have the Shihab-3 ready for deployment, it may choose to use the more reliable North Korean engines. North Korea also provides missile technology to Syria and Egypt.

Iran is also developing a Shihab-4, with an estimated range of 2,000 kilometres. The development of the long-range system has caused some concern in western Europe. Despite Tehran's promises to Europe that it would halt Shihab-4's development, it appears Iran is continuing with the project.

U.S. told Israel will react to any Iraqi strikes

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NEW YORK — The United States understands that Israel "will not sit quietly" if Iraq attacks it in response to any American assault on Saddam Hussein, senior American officials told Prime Minister Ariel Sharon this past weekend.

The officials also promised Israel will be told in advance of any American plan to attack Iraq, so that it can prepare its defences.

These were two of the key assurances Sharon had sought in his Washington meetings with U.S. President George W. Bush, Vice President Dick Cheney and National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice last Thursday.

His hosts did not give Sharon any details of the next stages of the U.S. war on terrorism, saying they have not yet made any final decision. But both Sharon and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, who was also in Washington last week, said they received the impression that the United States is determined to act against Iraq, and that Iraq is currently the focus of its Middle East policy.

Israeli sources said that Iraq will also be the focus of Cheney's visit to the region next month, which will include a two-day stopover in Israel.

Ben-Eliezer told his American counterpart, Donald Rumsfeld, that Israel is preparing for the possibility of an Iraqi strike against it in response to an American attack, including the possibility that it could use chemical or biological weapons. Iraq did not use such weapons during the Gulf War, but Israel believes it may do so this time, Ben-Eliezer said.

A senior Pentagon delegation, led by Undersecretary of Defence Doug Feith, will visit Israel next month for a meeting of the joint Defence Policy Advisory Group (DPAG), which has not met since October 2000. The talks will apparently centre on preparations for an American attack on Iraq.

Sharon also discussed the Iranian threat with his hosts – Tehran's efforts to obtain nuclear weapons, its support for anti-Israel terrorism in Lebanon and the territories, and its efforts to foment discontent among Israeli Arabs.

In addition, Sharon warned of the danger that the northern border could heat up, citing incidents such as Hezbollah's recent firing of anti-aircraft missiles at Israeli air force planes on Israel's side of the border. The United States believes that Iran is behind Hezbollah's activity, but Sharon said the organization could not act without encouragement, or at least tacit consent, from Syria, the de facto ruling power in Lebanon.

The Americans then promised to warn Syria against permitting any escalation on Israel's northern border. Sharon said the question of restarting Israeli-Syrian negotiations did not arise.

Feb. 4

• IDF lawyers drafted guidelines for targeted killings of Palestinian terrorists. They state such actions should only be undertaken to prevent a terrorist attack and not as a punitive measure.

• Five Palestinian gunmen, two of whom were members of the radical PFLP, were killed in a car explosion in the Gaza Strip.

Feb. 5

• Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak accepted the credentials of Gideon Ben-Ami, Israel's new ambassador to Egypt. Ben-Ami is Israel's seventh ambassador to Egypt.

• Israeli police nabbed a suicide bomber on a bus heading to Jerusalem.

• Israel intercepted a shipment of eight Kassem 1 missiles hidden beneath a cargo of fruit aboard a Palestinian truck between Nablus and Jenin.

Feb. 6

• Three Israelis were killed and at least four were injured when Palestinian terrorists infiltrated the moshav of Hamra on the West Bank. One of the terrorists was killed. The following day, the IDF retaliated by bombing PA headquarters in Nablus.

Feb. 7

• After a meeting in Washington with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, U. S. President George W. Bush said the United States would continue to pressure Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to take all possible measures to prevent terror.

Feb. 8

• Israeli security officials stated they believed Wafa Idris, a Red Crescent volunteer from Ramallah used a Red Crescent ambulance to enter Jerusalem last month on her suicide mission. One Israeli was killed and more than 100 were injured.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

French Jews want anti-Semitism on table

By ANDREW DIAMOND
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

PARIS — With presidential elections approaching, French Jewish leaders see an opportunity to air their grievances with a government they believe has waffled in its response to anti-Semitic aggression.

The election landscape became slightly more treacherous this week as Jean-Marie Le Pen, longtime leader of the extreme-right National Front, announced he has the signatures of 500 elected officials needed to run in the first round of presidential elections this April.

During some three decades on the national stage, Le Pen has made no secret of his anti-Semitic views, a tactic that has contributed to his support in conservative areas of southeastern France.

On a national radio show in 1987, Le Pen called the Nazi gas chambers a "detail" of World War II. The comment earned him widespread notoriety – and was followed by the strongest electoral returns of his career: in the first round of the 1988 presidential election, Le Pen amassed nearly 15 per cent of the vote.

Since that time his support has waned. A large contingent of National Front members defected in 1999 and formed a new centre-right party, the Republican National Movement, under the former party secretary of the National Front, Bruno Megret.

Following Megret's lead, Le Pen is trying to reinvent himself as a more "respectable" candidate of the centre-right.

"I am not perfect," he said recently about his history of anti-Semitic remarks, which Le Pen now refers to as "unfortunate phrases."

Le Pen, 73, appears to have toned down his rhetoric for his fourth – and, in all likelihood, final – presidential bid.

But his "France First" platform still contains an anti-Jewish plank.

In December, a National Front primer entitled "Le Pen Was, Is, And Will Be Right" revisited the candidate's past views on the Jewish "lobby" in France.

"We would be wrong to forget the role of the Jewish Masonic International of B'nai B'rith," Le Pen said.

"This powerful and hidden minority has chosen to erect invisible barriers inside the French people."

So far, it appears doubtful that Le Pen's new posture of "respectability" will appeal to many voters in the political centre.

The French daily *Le Monde*, for example, greeted his campaign announcement with derisive cartoons and the caption, "He presents himself as 'a man of the centre-right,' but his program has not changed."

While Le Pen may not be a viable candidate for president, his presence in the contest may be problematic for Jewish organizations seeking a stronger government response to a rise in anti-Semitic attacks.

In the latest such incident, anti-Semitic vandals defaced a statue in Paris honoring Alfred Dreyfus, scrawling a Star of David and writing the words "Dirty Jew" on the statue.

In a case that sparked a wave of anti-Semitism in France, Dreyfus, a Jewish captain in the French army, was falsely convicted of treason in 1894, publicly degraded and sent to Devil's Island, a penal colony in South America. He served five years of a life sentence before receiving a presidential pardon.

In three other anti-Semitic incidents earlier this year, groups of Arab youths stoned Jewish teenagers and schoolchildren in Paris suburbs.

Most of those incidents passed under the radar of the French media, but the French dailies did discuss anti-Semitic violence at the end of 2001.

In a presidential campaign that thus far has emphasized rising juvenile delinquency and the need for greater security from attacks by teenagers, French Jews are depending on media attention to force the two presidential frontrunners, incumbent Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, to take more assertive positions on anti-Semitism.

Many French Jews believe the inclusion of such discussion in the campaign is more important than who wins.

French Jewish leaders have for a long time criticized both leading candidates for downplaying the seriousness of anti-Semitic incidents. With Le Pen's entry into the race, they face an additional challenge as they seek to make their voices heard.

In the past, Le Pen has made insinuations about the "Jewish lobby's" alleged power over the national media – a message that some fear could colour and confuse coverage of Jewish issues.

Authors & Poets

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British MPs want to prosecute Muslim hate preachers

By SHARON SADEH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

LONDON — Members of parliament last week called on the British government to arrest and prosecute Muslim extremists who advocate harming Jews.

The MPs issued their appeal after gathering evidence that appears to connect some Muslim militants to illegal acts of incitement.

The MPs wrote to Home Secretary David Blankett about Muslim extremism after British authorities decided a month ago to end the investigation of five young people suspected of circulating materials that called openly for the killing of Jews.

Authorities concluded there was a "lack of evidence" to guarantee a conviction, since the materials were distributed in just one north London neighbourhood, and because they were not believed to pose a danger to public order.

British media also reported last week about four Muslim preachers whom Labour MP Andrew Dismore says have proliferated anti-Semitic propaganda. Dismore said he can't understand why steps haven't been taken against the four.

One of the men, Abu Hamza, the imam of a north London mosque, has been seen on video telling youths to kill anyone who does not believe in Islam.

Another, Bakri Muhammad, the leader of the extremist Al-Muhajiroun group, has preached openly in favour of killing Jews and took steps to recruit British youths for the Taliban.

London police and the MI5 security service have not taken direct steps against the four since they have provided information about activities of terror organizations that has helped authorities keep tabs on terror suspects.

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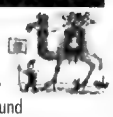
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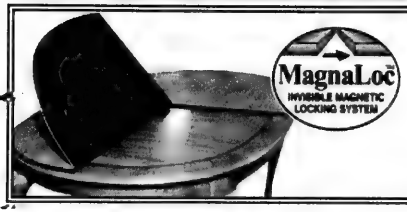

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War of words erupts between Israel and Iran

By NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — A war of words erupted between Israel and Iran last week.

On Tuesday of last week, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres claimed Iran is sending its elite Revolutionary Guards to Lebanon to prepare for an attack on Israel.

Iran has "converted Lebanon into a ball of explosives, endangering the future of Lebanon," Peres said in New York after meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Peres also said Iran is arming Hezbollah terrorists in Lebanon with thousands of missiles that can strike Israeli cities.

Peres' comments came as Iran's defence minister, Admiral Ali Shamkhani, responded to a reporter's hypothetical question by saying that "if Israel carries out any military action against Iran, it will face a response that will be unimaginable to any Israeli politician."

Shamkhani said he was not referring to a nuclear response, but added that "time will tell" what the response would be.

But Israel's transportation minister, Ephraim Sneh, denied suggestions by Tehran that Israel might attack Iran's nuclear power plant.

Also on Tuesday of last week, Israel Defence Forces chief of staff Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz described Iranian efforts to obtain a nuclear capability as a long-term threat.

Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz

Briefing the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, Mofaz also said that Israel had developed the capability during the past year to protect itself from an Iranian missile attack.

Cabinet minister Dan Meridor said the same day that Israel is trying to convince Russia and western countries to cut links with Iran as long as it seeks to develop weapons of mass destruction.

On Wednesday, Peres defended Israel's vocal anti-Iranian policy, saying it was the duty of leaders in the Jewish State to raise their voices when they detected the "smell of Hitler."

He later deflected criticism of his remarks. "When you smell the smell of Hitler, you must raise your voice," he said. "You need neither strategy nor tactics – you must tell the truth."

Israeli officials have been playing up the threat from Iran after U.S. President George W. Bush referred to Tehran in his State of the Union speech last month as being part of an "axis of evil" along with North Korea and Iraq.

During separate visits to Washington last week, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer weret expected to discuss the threat posed by Iran. Before the talks, Israeli leaders reviewed their country's Iranian policy.

Sharon, along with Peres and Ben-Eliezer, also met recently with heads of the Israeli security establishment to determine the content of their warnings about the Islamic Republic.

Israel is not alone in warning about Iranian adventurism: Jordan is claiming that Iran was behind a series of attempted attacks on Israel from Jordanian territory.

The London-based newspaper *Asharq Al-Awsat* reported last Tuesday that Jordanian authorities foiled 17 attempted mortar and rocket attacks on Israel.

Both U.S. and Jordanian sources told the paper that Iran was "directly and clearly" involved in 17 attempts to fire missiles and mortar shells into Israel from Jordan. The attempted attacks were carried out by Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants trained in Iran – and in Hezbollah camps in Lebanon, the newspaper said.

Citing sources in the U.S. administration, the newspaper said Jordan's King Abdullah provided U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell with evidence of the plot. A senior Jordanian source told the paper that King Abdullah had telephoned Iranian President Mohammed Khatami to complain, but the president said he has no control over such operations, which are run by his conservative rivals.

Abdullah also told the Americans that Jordan has prevented 70 terror attacks against Israel from within its territory, the paper said. "Our American friends know we have saved many Israeli lives by foiling these attacks," it quoted the king as saying.

— With files from Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Official Iran is not the only Iran

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

When Mossad chief Ephraim Halevy spoke recently about "unobserved signals" from Iran about the possibility of rapprochement, he was presumably referring to people like Abdullah Nuri.

Backgrounder

In 1999, Nuri, one of the leaders of Iran's reformist camp, criticized his country's policy on Israel and the Mid-East peace process and was sent to jail. Nuri, who served as interior minister under President Mohammed Khatami – he is considered to be one of Khatami's closest advisers – and later edited a reformist newspaper, called Israel "a cancerous growth," but nevertheless disagreed with Iran's opposition to the peace process.

Nuri is still in jail and his paper has been shut down. But even though few would dare to say so out loud, there appear to be many in Iran who agree with him. Khatami's advisor, Mohammed Reza Tajik, told a conference in Tehran in December that Iran should "compromise between ideology and national interests." The Iranian leadership, he said, "is more Palestinian than the Palestinians," which is the reason for "our isolation."

The problem, from Jerusalem's perspective, is that those who favour a new approach to Israel are not the ones who hold the real power. Khatami was twice elected by a large majority, but his reformist camp is currently at its lowest point. Foreign and defence policy is still controlled by Iran's supreme spiritual leader, Ali Khamenei, who has at least twice in the last two years publicly expressed support for wiping Israel off the map. Statements of this type, even though they may not reflect the majority of public opinion in Iran, are more often heard in Iran than statements such as those made by Tajik or Nuri.

Brigadier General (res.) Shlomo Brom, a former senior official in the IDF's Plans and Policy Directorate and now a researcher at Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, said that Iranian intellectuals he has met have told him that the anti-Israel rhetoric is strictly for internal consumption. He believes that Israel's vocal anti-Iranian policy merely strengthens "the Iranian threat." Iran, he says, is very sensitive to what Israel says about it: In recent years, it has even raised its level of military alert following interviews by the commander of the Israel Air Force in the air force's bulletin.

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Woman speed skater bears Israel's Olympic hopes

By JESSICA STEINBERG
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Olga Danilov glides along the ice, one hand brushing the smooth surface, the other tucked behind her back.

Thigh muscles pumping, she skates along a trail of rubber markers placed along the ice, using them as a guide for her daily laps.

Between runs, Israel's Olympic speed skater throws on her blue and white warmup suit and skates over to her three-year-old daughter, Nicole, who is sitting on a stool at the rink's edge, drinking hot chocolate and eating cookies.

Speaking in Russian, her coach, Boris Drabkin, calls out her time: "9.2 seconds."

She grimaces, straps her helmet back on and returns to the ice for another series of laps.

Over the loudspeaker, a tape of Russian folksongs for children is playing, Nicole's favourite music while she watches her mother practice.

Danilov and two figure-skating couples represent the entire Israeli team participating in the Winter Olympic Games, which began Feb. 8 in Salt Lake City.

Outside the windows of Metulla's Canada Centre, the home of the Israel Ice Skating Federation, snow-capped Mount Hermon can be seen rising majestically in the distance.

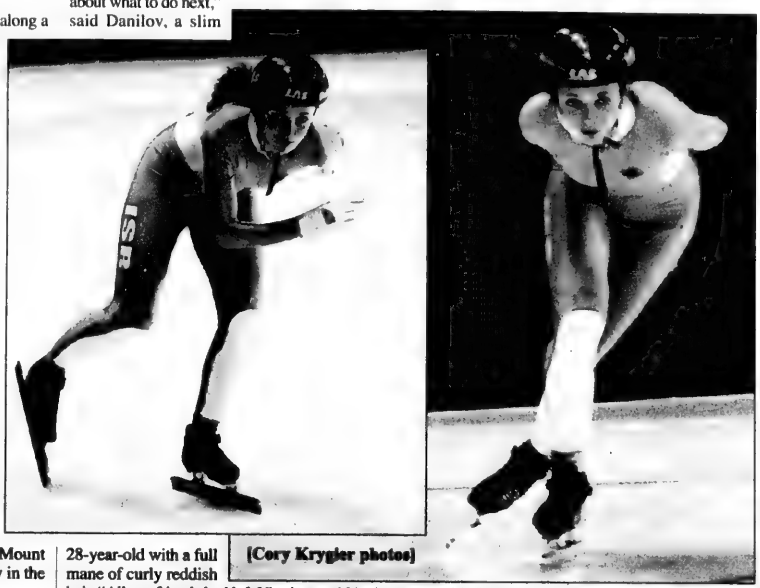
"Some say we're not really a winter sports country," said Judith Javor, general secretary of the local council in the town of Metulla, located in northern Israel. "But if you look out the window, it sure looks like it."

"We Jews have to develop our cultural side, and sports is part of culture. It's the life that we immigrants know about," said Drabkin, who moved to northern Israel 11 years ago.

Both Danilov and Drabkin are immigrants – Danilov from Ukraine and Drabkin from Russia.

Danilov followed her sister to Israel in 1994. Drabkin came with his wife from Moscow, where he trained the Russian national speed skating team.

"I had finished school and was thinking about what to do next," said Danilov, a slim 28-year-old with a full mane of curly reddish hair. "All my friends had left Ukraine, and I had been thinking about Israel for a while."



[Cory Krygier photos]

She had heard about Drabkin while still living in Ukraine, and got in touch with him soon after arriving at her sister's home in Netanya.

Drabkin already had been living in Israel for several years. He was instrumental in creating the speed-skating program at the Canada Centre and helping Israel gain membership in the Winter Olympics.

"It was hard back then because we didn't have skaters and we didn't have experience," said Drabkin, who cleaned floors in Tel Aviv during his first year in Israel. "I started to build the first roots, working with local kids. And then Olga came from Ukraine."

Danilov has been skating since she was three years old. She moved from figure skating to long-track and then to short-track skating in her teens, competing in international events.

By the time she finished school, politics had changed the face of her country, and she started thinking about moving to Israel.

By 1995, Danilov was living in Israel and training for the 1998 Olympics. She needed to be in the top 20 in the world in order to qualify, but only made it to 22nd.

Missing the 1998 Olympics was devastating, but there were soon some joys to make up for it, including her marriage to Alex Danilov, an Israeli Olympic competitor in shooting, and the birth of Nicole shortly after.

She returned to training in late 1999, making her way through a series of international competitions and working toward the 2002 Olympics.

But since 1998, her perspective has changed.

"I thought that if I wasn't in the 1998 Olympics it would be the end of the world," she said, rolling her eyes and grinning. "This year it's important, but there are other important aspects of my life as well. In some ways, the Olympics feels like any other competition."

However, for Drabkin and other skating federation officials who have been involved in Israel's Olympic trials, Danilov's participation is very significant.

"This is Israel's third time in the Winter Olympics, although it is the first time the country is participating in speed skating," Javor said. "The Olympic committee is getting used to having Israel participate in winter sports, as is the International Skating Union. We still have to work very hard, but having Olga helps."

During last year's European Speed Skating Championships in the Netherlands, Danilov finished fifth out of 29 competitors in the 500-metre race, and seventh out of 27 in the 1,000-metre event.

In the recent Short Track World Cup Competition held in Amsterdam, she made it to the second round in the 1,000-metre event, finishing with the 24th best time. She finished 28th in the 1,500-metre event, and was 38th in the 500.

There are four short-track events in this year's Olympics, ranging from 500 metres to 1,500 metres. Danilov will have to compete in several heats for each race in order to make it to the semi-finals and then the finals.

Will she earn a medal?

"Hard to say. Speed skating is 95 per cent hard work and five per cent talent," Drabkin said.

Said Danilov: "I always say, it will be *b'seder* [Hebrew for all right]."

American figure skater goes for the gold

By CARIN DAVIS
The Jewish Journal of Greater of Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — "Joey likes Rachel!"

In an Ice Chalet snack bar here, six typical teens squeal about the television show *Friends* and lace their skates. Among them, an eye-catching brunette balances against a table and lifts her left foot to meet her back. The banner above the skate rental booth, constructed with orange paper and Scotch tape, reads: "Congratulations! Sasha Cohen 2002 Silver Medalist, you're going to the Olympics!"

The flexible brunette? Not just a typical teenager.

Sasha Cohen, 17, will be one of three female figure skaters to represent the United States in the 2002 Winter Olympics. The sassy high school senior – who earned the silver medal with her second-place finish at the recent U.S. championships – overcame a debilitating injury and will travel to Salt Lake City to fulfill her Olympic dream.

"I'm looking forward to everything: opening and closing ceremonies, staying in the village, hopefully skating my best and winning the medal," Cohen says, glossing her lips.

Fan mail covers the snack counter, and a pint-sized girl asks Cohen to autograph her skate. The Orange County teen seems unfazed by her new celebrity status.

"It's exciting and fun, but it's not reality. I'm enjoying it now, but when it's not here, that's OK, too," Cohen says, fidgeting with the zipper on her rhinestoned black hood. In fact, Cohen seems more excited about her upcoming winter formal and her kitten, Mia, than the media attention.

The 5-foot-1, 94-pound bundle of energy and radiance didn't have a bat mitzvah, but she always wears a gold medallion with a Star of David on the back. The gift from her grandmother's friend can even be seen around her neck during competitions.

"The front is an astrological map for my birthday, and the back is my lucky star," Cohen says.

Her parents, Roger, an international business consultant and lawyer, and Gelina, are members of Shir Ha-Ma'alot, a Reform congregation, and her 13-year-old sister, Natasha, attends Tarbut V'Torah Community Day School.

Her journey to the Olympics is not a typical "Go For the Gold" story either.

Last year, she discovered a stress fracture in a vertebra and was forced to withdraw from the 2001 U.S. Nationals and miss the skating season. Isolated from competition, the strong-willed Cohen held fast to her Olympic dream.

Jewish athletes at Salt Lake

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The following Jewish athletes are expected to compete at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City:

- Alexei Beletski and Natalia Gudina, Israel (figure skating);
- Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovsky, Israel (figure skating);
- Sasha Cohen, United States (figure skating);
- Olga Danilov, Israel (short-track speed skating);
- Sara DeCosta, United States (hockey);
- Irina Slutskaya, Russia (figure skating);
- Dan Weinstein, United States (short-track speed skating).

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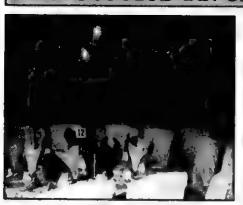
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Arts & Travel

Judy and David call 10-year-old Tajja Isen a future 'superstar'

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — When young talent is discovered, you don't expect it to happen in a synagogue.

But that is exactly where it happened to singer and actress Tajja Isen at the age of six.

"It was about four years ago that I was at Temple Emanu-El and happened to be walking by the children's choir as they were warming up for services," says entertainer and YTV television personality, David Gershon, of the husband and wife duo Judy and David.

"Suddenly, I was struck by a wonderful sound, which turned out to be the voice of Tajja Isen," Gershon says. "I ran to get Judy and we asked Tajja to sing for both of us. It was truly a moment to remember... this pure, innocent, beautiful sound coming from an equally beautiful child.

"A few moments talking with Tajja revealed that she was equally beautiful inside. She's a wonderful soul – unselfconscious, unpretentious and full of joy."

"Within weeks of our meeting Tajja that day at Temple Emanu-El, she began recording with us," Gershon says. "She later appeared on our TV show and more recently, on stage with us. We have met many talented kids through the course of our career, but Tajja's one that we hope will give us a job one day when she's a superstar!"

The admiration is mutual.

"I've done some tapes and CDs with Judy and David and it is a lot of fun," says Tajja, now 10.

"I sing my heart out in the studio. I also performed at their recent Chanukah concert. At the concert, I sang one of the two solos I sang on their *Rock 'N Roll Matzah Ball* CD. I sang the song *Dodi Li*. It is very exciting to sing in the studio, but I find it a lot more thrilling to perform live."

Tajja Isen

Other of Tajja's recording collaborations with Judy and David include the Juno Award-winning *Little Yellow Bus*, *Beanstalk*, *Reds In The Hood* and *Goldirocks*.

The Grade 5 student at Ventura Park Public School in Thornhill, Ont., sings in choirs at school and the temple but has never taken singing lessons (or dancing and acting lessons). Music runs in her family: her great-grandfather, Morris Tajja, was a professional musician with the Toronto Symphony Orchestra and her grandfather, Mel, is a piano teacher.

Through her association with Judy and David, Tajja signed with agent Shari Quallenberg of Talent Vision last fall. One month later, she captured a voice-over role.

Continued on page 39

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Church minister describes her conversion to Judaism

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

When a major earthquake struck Northridge, Calif., in January 1994, it did more than break dishes and overturn furniture.

For Dolores Gray, an African-American ordained minister and executive with Continental Airlines, the upheaval around her mirrored the turmoil that had plagued her soul for years, and out of the chaos her decision became clear: she would make her home in Israel.

A descendant of sharecroppers from Mound Bayou, Miss., Dolores, who renamed herself Ahuvah (meaning beloved) had for years felt drawn to what she calls her "Jewish roots." In *My Sister, The Jew* (Targum Press), Ahuvah Gray chronicles her spiritual search, beginning with her childhood visits to her devout Christian grandparents. She takes us through her transformation by study and prayer and the difficulties of her conversion to her life today in the Orthodox community of Bayit Vegan in Israel.

On a recent lecture tour, Gray recalled her grandparents' influence, the shalom bayit she found in their home and the example of prayer and devotion they set.

"The training and discipline I got in my grandparents' home is what conditioned me to live as an Orthodox Jew. These are two of the most devout people I ever met."

Gray is frequently asked how a former minister came to reconcile her Christian upbringing and training with her Judaism.

This was no instant metamorphosis. Her family pastor, Dr. Charles Queen, still a close friend, taught his congregation Hebrew and the oneness of God. He journeyed to Israel many times and conducted a Passover seder for his congregation every year. One of Gray's friends asked her: "Does this man realize he was preparing you for Judaism?"

"No one ever explained the Trinity to me where it made a lot of sense," said Gray, who made 14 trips to Israel in four years before moving there.

"I realized I was going through a transition. For a five-year period I had stopped going to church, stayed at home, started reading my Bible and davened three times a day."

She had to tell her family she would no longer be home for Christmas; it helped that they were supportive.

"My parents raised us not to be hypocrites, and [told us] whatever we do we should do with dignity."

Continued on page 39

Arts & Travel

Ten-year-old Tajja Isen called a 'superstar'

Continued from page 38

"I do the voice of Sister Bear on the Nelvana animated production of *The Berenstain Bears* with Camilla Scott, who plays Mama Bear," Tajja says. "Sister Bear is very sweet. She's also one of the boys – as good as her older brother, Brother Bear."

Despite her success in show business, Tajja hasn't let it go to her head.

"My friends only know some of the things I do," she says. "I try to keep it private. I don't want a lot of people talking to me about it. It is something they can find out by themselves. One of my friends went to the Chanukah concert and was very surprised."

Tajja is named, though with a slight spelling variation, after singer Taja Seville, who recorded *Love is Contagious* in the late '80s, a favourite tune of Tajja's parents Jordie and Karen during their courtship.

About her family, Tajja says, "Sometimes, I feel like a mother of three. I'm the oldest of four. I have a six-year-old brother, Joshua, a two-year-old brother, Kobe, and a four-year-old sister, Nissae."

When the actress is not taking care of her younger siblings, she takes religious studies and Hebrew lessons at her temple. She also likes to read and plans to spend some of her earnings on books. Her favourite stories are fantasy adventures about bats – creatures she loves – such as those in the books *Silverwing* and *Sunwing* by Canadian author Kenneth Oppel.

Tajja also loves to travel. "I've been to Jamaica, Florida and places in Canada, but the longest flight I've been on was to Trinidad; some of my family is from there, I intend to do more. We are hoping our next trip is back to Florida."

Read this first, before your trip to Europe

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Travellers are lured to Europe by its alluring cities, fabulous museums, rich historical lore and backroad beauty.

If you're planning a European trip, you can do no better than consult *Read This First: Europe*, published by Lonely Planet and distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books.

Read This First is packed with vital and concise information about 36 countries and the myriad sights they offer. Don't leave home without it.

After Spain, England is probably Europe's most popular destination. *England* (Raincoast), brimming with sensible insights and tips, is a reliable and authoritative guide.

Belgium and Luxembourg are probably the least known destinations in Europe. But a perusal of *Belgium & Luxembourg* (Raincoast) quickly dispells the notion that they are dull countries best left unseen.

Should you be thinking of retracing a celebrated route from Europe to Nepal, immerse yourself in *Istanbul To Kathmandu* (Raincoast).

The route, made famous by ancient explorers, is a fascinating journey from the minarets of Turkey and the bazaars of Iran to the snow-capped peaks of Nepal.

What a journey!

***

If the Middle East piques your interest, try reading two of Lonely Planet's latest primers, *Oman & the United Arab Emirates* and *Bahrain, Kuwait & Qatar*.

Lavishly illustrated and felicitously written, these guidebooks take you to exotic places in the Arabian peninsula that are easily accessible as well as remote.

Save them for a quieter time in world affairs.

Christian minister drawn to her 'Jewish roots'

Continued from page 38

If audiences wonder about racism Gray may face among the Orthodox, their concerns are quickly laid to rest. "In my neighbourhood, most of the people walk around in black suits and black hats, so when people ask me have I experienced difficulty in the Orthodox community, I just tell them that I moved from one black neighbourhood to another.

"These people lead impeccable lives. They live by the Torah and 613 mitzvos, and I am privileged to sit at the Shabbos table with them."

She admits, however, that she would not have found such unconditional acceptance had she sought conversion in the United States.

"One of the reasons I left America is because of racism. Even a close friend said to me when I told her of my plans to convert to Judaism, 'Dolores, why would you want double trouble?'"

My Sister, The Jew never fails to inspire. "My ability to persevere comes through prayer," Gray writes. "If I want to be a Jew, I have to daven, study the Torah, and do mitzvos... In the end this thing is just between God and me."

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

FILM FEST TO OPEN WITH QUESTION, "WAS ELVIS JEWISH?"

A new film written and directed by Montrealer **Max Wallace** raises the astonishing possibility that **Elvis Presley**, who died 25 years ago, was technically Jewish, since his maternal great-great-grandmother, **Nancy Burdine Tackett**, was Jewish.

Wallace's film, *Schmelvis*, makes its world premiere April 20 as the prestigious opening night presentation of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival (TJFF), with the filmmakers in attendance.

The film explores issues related to Elvis's potential Jewishness as it follows an unlikely cabal of Elvis fans on a pilgrimage to his famed Memphis mansion, Graceland, and beyond. In addition to Wallace, the group includes the film's executive producer **Evan M. Beloff**, producer **Ari A. Cohen**, an Orthodox Elvis impersonator, and Montreal **Rabbi Reuben Poupko**.

"This will be a really fun kick-off to the festival's 10th anniversary," said TJFF programming director **Shlomo Schwartzberg**. "Mark April 20 in your date book. You won't want to miss this one."

Incredibly, a notable Toronto printing house, ECW press, is readying a tie-in book for April publication. Odds are the film and book will generate masses of publicity as the media begins to fathom the fascinating possibilities of this revolutionary bit of quasi-Jewish genealogy.

For details on *Schmelvis* and other breaking news from the TJFF, visit the Web site at www.tjff.com. Due to the increasing cost of postage and the fact that the festival's mailing list has swelled to almost 10,000 names, festival management is encouraging patrons to register online to receive its e-mail newsletters. Simply visit the Web site and click on the News and Schmooze option, or phone 416-324-9121.

* * *

Richler Tribute I: The Toronto Jewish Film Society presents A Tribute to Mordecai Richler at the Art Gallery of Ontario this week. The program includes three short films based on Richler short stories – *The Street*, *Mortimer Griffin and Shalinsy*, and *Bambinger*, all produced by the National Film Board. AGO, Jackman Hall. $8. Feb. 17, 7:45 p.m. (An earlier screening, at 5:15, is for members only.) 416-924-6211.

* * *

Richler Tribute II: Fans of **Mordecai Richler** may be tempted to visit Ottawa this month to hear what promises to be a memorable panel discussion on the late scribe.

The panelists are **Bernard Dov Cooperman**, a history professor at the University of Maryland, who will discuss the author's treatment of the immigrant neighbourhood; **Linda Morra**, an English professor at the University of Ottawa, who will explore the author's satire of Canadian cultural nationalism; and **Norman Ravvin**, a professor of Canadian Jewish studies at Concordia University in Montreal, who plans to examine Richler's fascination with the "big event" of World War II in *St. Urbain's Horseman*.

The event is called The Whirlwind Elsewhere: Mordecai Richler and Our Compromised Times. (You'll have to attend to discover the meaning of the name.) Sponsors are the National Library of Canada, Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation and the Concordia University Institute for Canadian Jewish Studies.

National Library of Canada, Auditorium, 395 Wellington St., Ottawa. Free admission; refreshments. Sunday, Feb. 24, 2 p.m. 613-992-9988.

* * *

Inspirational Music: The **Beth Tikvah Synagogue Choir** and the **Blessed Trinity Catholic Liturgical Choir** perform with harpist **Erica Goodman**, organist **Michael Schuck**, cantor **Benjamin Maissner** and the **Festival String Quartet**.

The concert is offered in "a spirit of ecumenism and brotherhood" as a response to "these unsettled days, when basic human rights and freedoms of people everywhere are under constant threat." The choirs will perform singly as well as join their 75 voices together to sing pieces by **Haydn**, **Mendelssohn**, **Brahms** and **Glick**.

Blessed Trinity Church, 3220 Bayview Ave., North York. $10. Sunday, Feb. 17, 3 p.m. 416-221-3433.

* * *

Bernstein Drama: In the mid-1970s composer **Leonard Bernstein** left his wife to live with a much younger man, only to return to the family home after he learned his wife was dying. **Martin Julien's** play, *The Unanswered Question*, explores Bernstein's search for identity through the prism of both his intimate relationships and his musical ideas.

Between Stages presents a public reading of *The Unanswered Question*, starring **Steve Cumyn**, **Phillipa Domville** and **Richard Greenblatt**, with the playwright in attendance. Miles Nadal JCC, 750 Spadina Ave. Free admission. Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• **The York Symphony Orchestra** performs Symphonic Romance, a pair of valentine concerts of **Mozart**, **Debussy**, **Tchaikovsky** and **Smetana**. Adults $20 per concert. Saturday, Feb. 16, 8 p.m. (with pianist **Mary Kenedi**) at Trinity Anglican Church, Aurora. Sunday, Feb. 17, 3 p.m. at Markham Theatre.

• Growing Cultures, an exhibition of 40 photographs by **Vince Pietropaolo**, explores Toronto's diverse multicultural identity by focusing on gardening traditions. Royal Ontario Museum, Heritage Gallery.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 47.

1 J	2 O	3 N	4 A	5 S	■	6 B	7 A	8 H	■	9 S	10 A	11 R	12 A	13 H
14 A	P	I	L	E	■	15 A	T	O	■	16 T	R	A	D	E
17 S	I	X	D	A	18 Y	W	A	R	■	19 R	I	C	A	N
20 O	N	E	A	■	21 O	L	D	A	22 G	E	■	23 E	R	S
24 N	E	D	■	25 S	U	E	■	■	26 R	E	27 B	■	■	■
■	■	■	28 L	A	N	D	29 F	30 O	R	P	E	31 A	32 C	33 E
34 R	35 O	36 W	I	N	G	■	37 I	N	S	■	38 L	V	O	V
39 A	D	A	G	E	■	40 A	B	E	■	41 S	L	I	M	E
42 G	I	S	H	■	43 I	S	R	■	44 C	H	O	S	E	N
45 U	N	I	T	46 E	D	H	E	47 B	R	E	W	■	■	■
■	■	■	48 S	S	E	■	■	49 A	I	M	■	50 M	51 A	52 S
53 A	54 P	55 T	■	56 C	A	57 S	58 T	L	E	■	59 S	O	D	A
60 H	A	I	61 F	A	■	62 C	H	A	R	63 I	T	I	E	S
64 A	C	T	U	P	■	65 A	A	A	■	66 C	A	S	E	S
67 S	T	O	R	E	■	68 T	I	M	■	69 E	N	T	R	Y

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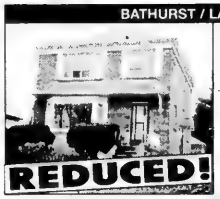

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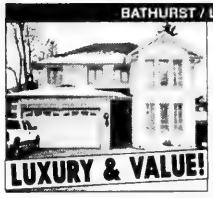

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MILLER, Harold – on Jan. 2, 2002, late of 2121 Bathurst St., #916.
BOROFSKY, Morris – on Jan. 1, 2002, late of 4266 Bathurst St., #103.
KOHN, Michal – on Jan. 2, 2002, late of 15 Woodchester Ct.
KIRSHENBLATT, Mary – on Jan. 2, 2002, late of 24 Craigmont Dr.
EPSTEIN, Joel – on Jan. 3, 2002, late of 3636 Bathurst St., #301.
GILLICK, Louis – on Jan. 3, 2002, late of 45 Greenbrae Circuit, #413.
ALDOR, Elizabeth – on Jan. 5, 2002, late of 10 Shalmar Blvd., #801.
NEWMAN, David – on Jan. 4, 2002, late of 130 Neptune Dr., #1005.
GARMAISE, Leona Mensch – on Jan. 3, 2002, late of 108 Old Colony Rd.
GUZMAN, Alexander – on Jan. 5, 2002, late of 80 Antibes Dr., #2605.
LADOVSKY, Herman – on Jan. 6, 2002, late of 355 St. Clair Ave. W., #601.
EDSON, Marie – on Jan. 5, 2002, late of 549 Jeanne D'Arc.
LESEL, Henry – on Jan. 5, 2002, late of 8309 West 4th St.
VICTOR, Sara – on Jan. 7, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
CASS, Ruth – on Jan. 7, 2002, late of 400 Walmer Rd., #1111.
GREENBAUM, Sharon – on Jan. 6, 2002, late of 8439 Southwest 137th Ave.
LEVINE, — Goldi – on Jan. 6, 2002, late of 111 Bosley Springs Rd., #302.
SEARS, Lyla – on Jan. 7, 2002, late of 6 Gardiner Dr.
FREEDMAN, Ben – on Jan. 7, 2002, late of 7300 Yonge St., #1212.
MORELLY, Eva – on Jan. 9, 2002, late of 220 Emerson Ave.

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LEVINE, Norman – on Jan. 9, 2002, late of 58 German Mills Rd.
SHAWN, Beatrice – on Jan. 10, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
GORDON, Alan – on Jan. 11, 2002, late of 12 Pynford Cres.
LEAN, Anne – on Jan. 10, 2002, late of 99 Baycrest Ave.
CRAVISS, Flora – on Jan. 10, 2002, late of 1 Overland Dr..
GAVENDO, Jacob – on Jan. 12, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
GOODMAN, Frances – on Jan. 11, 2002 , late of 2155 Burnhamthorpe Rd., W., #502.
PASCOE, Eve – on Jan. 12, 2002, late of 6 Bartlett Ave., # 12.
CADER, Ivan – on Jan.12, 2002, late of 130 Waterloo, Ave.
EVANS, Philip – on Jan. 12, 2002, late of 35 Cedarcroft Blvs., # 1102.
MARGOLIUS, Rhoda – on Jan. 14, 2002, late of 130 Dunn Ave.
SCHWARTZ, Jan – on Jan. 12, 2002, late of 163 Beachwood Ave.
SHUSTER, Frank – on Jan. 13, 2002, late of 63 St. Clair Ave. W., #303.
WAGMAN, Harry – on Jan. 15, 2002, late of 3900 Yonge St., # 303.
STAFLER, Frida – on Jan. 15, 2002, late of 1650 Sheppard Ave. E., #701.
KODACK, Bessie – on Jan. 15, 2002, late of 183 Charles St.
FARSHIN, Morris – on Jan. 18, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
COOPER, Alec – on Jan. 18, 2002, late of 68 King High Dr.
SALTZMAN, Elsie – on Jan. 20, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.
WEINBERG, Elijahu – on Jan. 20, 2002, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
STEIN, Anne – on Jan. 20, 2002, late of 33 Elmhurst Ave., #903.
KRYZHANOVSKI, Bella – on Jan. 19, 2002, late of 91 Towngate Dr., #801.
BORENSTEIN, Miriam – on Jan. 19, 2002, late of 40 Wychwood Pk.
STEVENS, Albert – on Jan. 22, 2002, late of 21 Cheval Dr.
CHERTKOFF, Yetta – on Jan 21, 2002, late of 55 Ameer, # 718.
LIPTON, Hyman – on Jan. 21, 2002, late of 4100 Bathurst St., #204.
MILLER, Rosetta – on Jan. 23, 2002, late of 550 Finch Ave. W.
FAITH, Lucille – on Jan. 24, 2002, late of 43 Shallmar Blvd.
SINGER, Diana – on Jan. 25, 2002, late of 343 Clark Ave. W., #206.
KOWAL, Bella – on Jan. 25, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

ORGAN, Robert – on Jan. 24, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave., #317.
FRUCHTMAN, Ruth – on Jan. 26, 2002, late of 355 St. Clair Ave. W., #906.
GANS, Ruth – on Jan. 26, 2002, late of 64 Wellesley St. E., #101.
ZARNETT, Minnie – on Jan. 28, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield.
YALOWSKY, Bertha – on Jan. 28, 2002, late of 33 Hettersley Dr.
HALBERSTADT, Morry – on Jan. 28, 2002, 57 Maxwell St.
SAND, Howard – on Jan. 29, 2002, late of 55 Frost Dr.
BLOOMFIELD, Arthur – on Jan. 29, 2002, late of 380 Sharon Dr.
SKOPITZ, Irving – on Jan. 30, 2002, late of 225 Pannahill.
DURBIN, Lillian – on Jan. 30, late of 22 Blue Forest Dr.
BARBALAT, Adela – on Ja. 30, 2002, late of 1131 Steeles Ave. W., #502.

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330 OBITUARIES

NOBLE, —Louis – on Jan. 25, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
FINGERUT, Marie – on Jan. 25, 2002, late of 121 Searle Ave.
SAKOWICH, Rebecca – on Jan. 27, 2002.
LITMAN, Stanley – on Feb. 1, 2002, late of 555 Finch Ave. W.
KERTESZ, Paul – on Jan. 28, 2002, late of 115 Antibes Dr.
NISSENBAUM, Chaim – on Feb. 1, 2002.
BAINERMAN, Albert – on Feb. 1, 2002.
DAVIDOVICH, Rahel Leah – on Feb. 1, 2002.
WASSERGOLD, Israel – on Feb. 2, 2002, late of 1085 Steeles Ave. W.
BENATAR, David – on Feb. 3, 2002, late of 7440 Bathurst St.
BERNSTEIN, Sylvia – on Feb. 1, 2002, late of 196 Waterloo Ave.
FELDMAN, Joseph – on Feb. 3, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

SHENKER, Betty – on Jan. 9, 2002, late of 569 Sheppard Ave. W., #104.
BENJAMIN, Susan – on Jan. 20, 2002, late of 188 Mabley Cres.

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Britain's truly unique experience

By EMMA, JAMES and PETER SEVITT
Special to The CJN

Guest Voice

For five days, from Dec. 23 to 27, more than 2,000 Jews from around the world gathered at Nottingham University in England's Midlands for an extraordinary feast of Jewish learning called The Limmud Conference. The majority of the participants were, like our family, lay people, with varied interests in Jewish learning, religion, education, spirituality and culture.

Limmud – Hebrew for "learning" – is an annual opportunity to participate in a pluralistic environment where a community of multi-denominational Jews learn together in lectures, seminars, concerts, workshops and discussions. Our family was blown away by our first trip to Limmud.

More than 300 speakers addressed issues and aspects of Jewish life in a rich and diverse selection of 650 sessions. The atmosphere was inspiring, as the ruach within the hallways abounded with conversations on philosophical, spiritual, political and social matters.

Limmud, which relies almost completely on volunteers, is an independent organization; no movement, federation or benefactor dictates the agenda. It is organized by a large group of passionate and pluralist British Jews who share a dedication to Jewish learning and the continuing development of Jewish education.

Along with hundreds of British Jews, Limmud was attended by international delegations from Clal/Rikma, a North American group that brings rabbis and rabbinical students of all religious denominations together for study, as well as the National Union of Israeli Students, kibbutz representatives and academics and rabbis from around the world.

Meals were served communally. It was common to sit down at supper and become engrossed in conversation with someone many years older whose thoughts would inspire attendance at a learning session you might never have considered. The plethora of opportunities to "dip" and "taste" were endless.

So what makes this annual conference so magical? Perhaps it is that all presenters are also participants, making everyone at the conference both a learner and a teacher. Perhaps it is the warmth and genuine interest that participants express toward each other. Limmud is for anyone: it embraces individuals from many different backgrounds: young and old, politically left or right, religious and secular. Limmud encourages questions and provides a forum for continued development and progression.

Some Program Highlights:

Following various pluralistic prayer services each morning, 450 people gathered in one room for the Limmud Chavruta Project. Chavruta, meaning pair or friendship in Hebrew, is a traditional method of Jewish learning where texts are studied with a partner or small group. The theme of this year's chavruta project was kedushah, meaning holiness. Together, as Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Jews, we explored what holiness means to us, and how we can employ and create space for it in our lives. No matter what one's previous background was in Jewish textual learning, each individual benefited from the experience of appreciating what holy time and holy space meant to them.

International Jewish educators, artists and philosophers came from all over the world to Limmud. Canada was represented by Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, director of Kolel in Toronto.

Some of the other speakers included: Blu Greenberg, an Orthodox Jewish feminist striving for the recognition of female Orthodox rabbis; Lord Robert Winston, a world expert on fertility and stem cell research; Steve Greenberg, an Orthodox rabbi who produced the extraordinary film *Trembling before God*, a documentary about Chassidic and Orthodox Jews who are gay or lesbian; and Yitz Greenberg, a thinker who challenged us to find purpose in our time.

The sessions were divided into tracks encompassing Israel, Jewish philosophy, Jewish religious texts, visual arts, Jewish spirituality and Jewish community.

The following is a listing of some sessions we attended:

• Under the Israel track: the media and Israel, the collapse of the peace process, Judaism and democracy in Israel, origins of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

• Within the philosophy track: Jewish response to suffering, psychoanalysis and Jewish identity, and Maimonides, Soloveitchik and Nietzsche.

• In the spirituality track: Torah yoga, Kabbalah, and Jewish meditation.

There were also musical presentations by a young Jewish a cappella group called Kol Rina and a Jewish Ladino band called Los Desterados, as well as sessions on the music of the Chassidic world and a look at the music of the Second Temple.

Limmud was exciting and exhilarating. We recommend it wholeheartedly for a wonderful family experience. It broadens the mind and is just one more step on each of our own Jewish journeys. Limmud encourages every participant to reflect upon living life within both the Jewish and secular worlds and is of invaluable worth in cultivating a richer and more tolerant Jewish community.

Could we achieve such an annual conference and ongoing pluralistic programming in Toronto? Absolutely. This is an essential ingredient for fostering Jewish continuity and the development of the next generation of Jewish leaders.

At Limmud, we experienced a treasure chest of learning and light. As Jeremiah 6:16 states: "So says God: See and search for what the way of good is. And journey in it." And that is exactly what we did.

For more information, go to the Limmud Web site at www.limmud.org.

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Sexy siren (LOL) Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together. Dancing, dining, etc... **AD#1355**

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Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-78 yrs old **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
"The key is compatibility." Looking for someone who mutually clicks. Our personalities have to mesh. Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs. See if our voiced blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo. She says she is completely loaded with a complete package. **AD#1142**

L'CHAIM
Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5'5"tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life. **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female,35 yrs old, 5'2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1196**

LIKES YOUNG AGAIN
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also. She is looking for an honest relationship. **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship. **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5'5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship. **AD#1028**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me. I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids. I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure. **AD#1136**

LET'S MEET
Single female, late 60's, retired professional, attractive, healthy, happy, personality, enjoys a variety of interests, seeks similar male **AD#1378**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, fit, healthy, natural, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call. **AD#1194**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family **AD#1087**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family. Please reply **AD#1626**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed. If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1106**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life. **AD#1041**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs. Please call, will meet for coffee. **AD#1433**

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AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile Together we will make for an award winning performance **AD#1446**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated. Looking for love in all the wrong places Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years. Would like a photo **AD#1577**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes. Loves music, dancing, movies. Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1514**

men seeking women

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

SEEKS A FUN PERSON
Single, romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who likes travel, movies, quiet times and great conversation, seeks someone with a great disposition who is fun to be with and can make him laugh **AD#1648**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale. Attention car buffs: '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty. Interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance. Let's have a wonderful life together. **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's, adventurous, traditional, humourous. "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have slayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done. And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue." **AD#1140**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile **AD#1195**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969. Waiting for you call. **AD#1572**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 8 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors. A traditional male, works a a financial consultant. Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1372**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5'10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female. **AD#1202**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

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Patriots owner scores big among Jews, too

By JACOB HOROWITZ
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BOSTON — Robert Kraft may or may not have said a *Shehechiyanu* prayer when his New England Patriots scored the game-winning field goal in this year's Super Bowl, but there was no mistaking the elation of this Jewish businessman and philanthropist.

Kraft nearly leapt through the glass window of his skybox at the Superdome in New Orleans as the clock ticked down on a last second 20-17 victory over the heavily favoured St. Louis Rams. The win brought the team its first Super Bowl title.

Kraft's passion, evident throughout the post-game's celebratory events, is not limited to football. Indeed, his presence – and philanthropic endeavours – has resonated far beyond the Patriots' front office.

Kraft and his wife, Myra, have been involved in Jewish and non-Jewish projects throughout the area. Their Jewish involvement extends beyond Boston to New York and Israel, where they have invested in study programs, absorption of Ethiopian Jews and a football stadium.

"Bob and Myra are truly an amazing combination," said Barry Shrage, president of Boston's Combined Jewish Philanthropies and a longtime friend of the family.

"They are two folks who are committed to all of the citizens of Greater Boston and the world, but they also have a strong connection and commitment to Israel and the Jewish people."

In 1989, the Krafts, in collaboration with Combined Jewish Philanthropies, introduced the Myra and Robert Kraft Passport to Israel Fund. The fund helps high school students taking Jewish studies go on an educational trip to Israel sometime between their sophomore and senior year. To date, thousands of students have gone on these trips.

The Krafts have also been active in developing the sister-city relationship between Boston and Haifa. In 1998, they participated in the renovation of an after-school enrichment centre that assists in the absorption, education and integration of Haifa's Ethiopian community.

Aside from their work with the Ethiopian Jewish community, the Krafts' impact and presence is felt across the State of Israel.

Kraft is the primary shareholder of Carmel Container Systems, Israel's largest packaging plant.

In 1997, he invested $40 million (US) in a plant in Caesarea in order to provide his company, which employs 700 people, with the most advanced technology available.

In 1999, Kraft brought his love of football to Israel in the form of a new stadium, Israel's first American football stadium. Kraft Stadium, at the northern end of Sacher Park in Jerusalem, is used to accommodate the Jerusalem-based American Touch Football in Israel league. Currently in 13th year, the league runs a 33-team, 500 player league.

Closer to home, the Krafts have promoted interfaith relations through various projects, one of which is the Kraft-Hiatt Fund, a joint endowment fund through which gifts to Holy Cross and Brandeis University are used to encourage a greater understanding between Christians and Jews.

Kraft's father, Harry Kraft, was a highly respected leader in the Jewish community of Brookline, a Boston suburb.

Myra Kraft, a 1964 Brandeis graduate and the daughter of Boston philanthropist Jacob Hiatt, has been a trustee at Brandeis since 1988. She also sits on the board of directors of Combined Jewish Philanthropies, is on their overseas committee and chairs the Israel program committee.

Beyond the Jewish world, Robert Kraft serves on the executive committee of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and on the board of overseers of the Boston Symphony Orchestra.

He is also a trustee of Columbia University, his alma mater, and serves on the board of directors of the Harvard Business School, where he received his master's degree.

In April 2000, Kraft gave an $11.5 million (US) gift to Columbia University for the establishment of the Robert K. Kraft Centre for Jewish Student Life.

At the time, Kraft said the basement facility for Jewish students had not changed from the time he began at Columbia in 1963 to when his son David attended in 1991.

"For a school like Columbia University in New York City, with the number of Jewish students, it is very important that there would be this kind of facility," he said. "I just thought it was time to help."

Kraft's Jewish identity has occasionally trickled into his position as owner of the Patriots.

On Sept. 22, 1996, he asked that the kickoff of a game between the Patriots and the Jacksonville Jaguars be changed to avoid a conflict with Yom Kippur, which started at sundown that evening.

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Fiedler solidifies position as top NFL quarterback

By MARVIN GLASSMAN
Special to The CJN

MIAMI — Last year, Jay Fiedler was something of a novel quarterback for the Miami Dolphins, playing his first game as a starter while replacing retired legend Dan Marino. Many NFL writers and commentators wondered if Fiedler would last the season.

Instead, Fiedler has twice emerged as the most valuable player with the Dolphins – an achievement that has been reserved in the past only for Marino.

Fiedler is one of only two NFL quarterbacks (the other is Kurt Warner of the St. Louis Rams) who has put together a 22-10 won-lost record over the past two seasons. In doing so, he rushed for more yards this season (337) than any Dolphins quarterback ever, and he has emerged as the second best Jewish quarterback ever to play the game, behind the legendary 1940s star, Sid Luckman of the Chicago Bears. Another few seasons of impressive statistics may put Fiedler on par with Luckman.

Jay Fiedler

"Without a doubt, Jay's belief in himself, his ability to run and his willingness to do what he can to win has made the difference to our team," said Dolphins coach Dave Wannstedt. "I want Jay to be our starting quarterback for many more years to come."

Despite Fiedler's impressive statistics in 2001 – completing 273 of 450 passes for 3,290 yards – the team's failure to run the ball and dropped passes at key times combined to limit the Dolphins to a first-round exit in the playoffs.

"It is very frustrating to lose early in the playoffs," Fiedler said. "What has kept me going is a belief in myself and the team. I always felt that in every game we had chances to come back when we fell behind."

Fiedler made his words come alive when he spearheaded five fourth quarter comebacks this season. His most impressive game was his come-from-behind win in Indianapolis on Nov. 11, after trailing 17-10 with 10 minutes remaining in the game.

Two key completions to wide receiver Chris Chambers made the difference. The first was a 74-yard pass that tied the game. It was Fiedler's longest completion of his career. Then, with 7:44 remaining, Fiedler's throw of 29 yards to Chambers netted the Dolphins a 27-24 victory.

Fiedler's scrambling skill – running to gain yards on broken plays – has made him exciting to watch.

With a good running back or a few more receivers, their first round playoff loss by a 20-3 score to the Baltimore Ravens might have been avoided.

Trailing 17-3 in the fourth quarter, Fiedler seemed on the way to another fourth quarter comeback, engineering what appeared to be a touchdown drive. On third down, Fiedler threw a perfect deep pass to the Baltimore eight-yard line that should have been a touchdown. Instead, Dolphin receiver James McKnight missed the ball, allowed it to hit his neck and was then intercepted by the Ravens. The play in effect ended the Dolphins' season.

As disappointed as Fiedler was by losing to the Ravens, his most inspirational game came following the terrorist attacks on New York's World Trade Center on Sept. 11.

"I was born and raised in New York and had many friends working at the World Trade Center," Fiedler said. "I felt sad leading up to the game, but felt I had to do my best and keep the memory of my friends alive."

In his first game back after the terrorist attacks, Fiedler and the Dolphins trailed the Oakland Raiders 15-10 in the fourth quarter. A touchdown drive with a two-point conversion gave the Dolphins an 18-15 victory against the team that defeated them in the 2000 playoffs.

ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

הציונים החדשים מאת: תום שגב, כתר הוצאה לאור

תום שגב, יליד ירושלים (1945), בוגר האוניברסיטה העברית ודוקטור להיסטוריה. ספריו הקודמים - "1949 - הישראלים הראשונים", "חיילי הרשע - מפקדי מחנות הריכוז", "המיליון השביעי - הישראלים והשואה", ו"ימי הכלניות - ארץ ישראל בתקופת המנדט" עוררו הדים רבים בארץ ומחוצה לה. "ימי הכלניות" נבחר על-ידי חניו יורק טיימס כאחד מעשרת הספרים הטובים ביותר לשנת 2000.

"הציונים החדשים" איננו מגיע לרמת "ימי הכלניות" או "המיליון השביעי" אך הספר מעורר ענין בשל הדיון במושג מאוד עכשווי (ובלתי ברור): "פוסט-ציונות".

כללית התזה ששגב מעלה היא שתגובתם של הפלשתינאים לתצעת ההסכם הנדיבה ביותר של אהוד ברק החזירה את ישראל לעידן הציונות המקורית ותעמידה בסימן שאלה את כל מה שהוגדר עד כה כפוסט-ציונות. "האינתיפאדה" מסכם שגב, "כמו החזירה את המדינה אל הרחם הציוני שממנו יצאה לאוויר העולם. הפלשתינאים... ככל שהם מחריפים את מאבקם הם כמו כופים על ישראל לחזור אל שורשיה הציוניים."

בהקדמה לספר שגב מזכיר לנו שלציונות מעולם לא היה סגנון אחיד. הרצל למשל לא היה בטוח שמדינת היהודים צריכה לקום בארץ ישראל ולשון העברית לא הייתה חשובה בעיניו. "הציונות של הרצל מצטיירת אפוא כהשקפת עולם... לא ממש פטריוטית - כל מה שהימין הפוליטי בישראל מזהה כיום כפוסט-ציונות". מהרצל עובר שגב לסקירת התגלגלותה של הציונות דרך החלום על "האדם החדש", העברי החדש שאמור היה "לדלג על אלפיים שנות הקיום בגולה ולהתחבר ישירות אל גיבורי התנ"ך." הוא מנתח את תקופת השואה בה הציונות הייתה מעל לכל חסרת ישע. משם למלחמת העצמאות ושנות העליה מצפון אפריקה ושינוי צביון החברה והתרבות בישראל ומכאן את הגדרת הציונות. שגב מדגיש את ההשפעה האמריקנית החל משנות ה-60 ואת המריבות הדתיות בארץ. סכסוכים על מקומה של הדת בחיי המדינה אינם דבר חדש ואף הם מהווים חלק מהשיגויים בתפיסת הציונות. מאז מלחמת ששת הימים המתנחלים בשטחים רואים עצמם כחלוצים חדשים; "הכיפה הסרוגה החליפה את כובע הטמבל." ובקוטב השני, זאב הרצוג מעורר סערה ציבורית בקביעתו ב- 1999 כי לאחר עשרות שנות חפירה אין שום הוכחה ארכיאולוגית לסיפורי התנ"ך, לתקופת האבות, יציאת מצרים, נדודים במדבר, כיבוש הארץ וכו'. עליית ש"ס שנולדה בשל תחושות קיפוח מביאה לזירה הפוליטית רטוריקה כדוגמת זו של אריה דרעי שטען שהציונות היא "תנועת כפירה המבקשת ליצור יהדות חדשה." וגם לעלייה ההמונית מרוסיה, לווכוח על אוסלו ולאינתיפאדה השפעות על צביונה של הציונות.

מכאן שאין משמעות למושג אידיאולוגיה פוסט- ציונית. יותר נכון לומר שהנסיון להגדיר מחדש את הציונות אינו אלא ווכוח מתמשך על עברה ועתידה של מדינת ישראל. בסיום הספר, תום שגב מביא לקורא עדויות מפרוטוקולים שנרשמו במהלך דיונים בכנסת לאור הודעת שר החינוך לשעבר, יוסי שריד, שכמה שירים מאת מחמוד דרוויש יכללו ברשימת הצעות לחומר לימודים בשעורי ספרות. הדיון בכנסת היה לוהט; ימין, שמאל, שנאה, רחמים, יראת שמים, אהבת אדם, תולדות ישראל, שואה, טרור ומוסר - הכל הושמע בדיון שלא היה אלא מתן ביטוי לציונות בהתפתחותה המעגלית ולציונות של כל אחד מאתנו.

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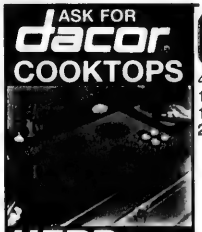
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Cheese Hamantaschen

4 large eggs
1 cup oil
1 1/2 cup sugar
2 tsp. vanilla
1 tblsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
4 cups flour
pinch lemon rind

Filling: 1/4 cup grated feta cheese
1 tblsp. cream cheese
1 large egg
1 tblsp. flour

Combine all ingredients and fill prepared dough.

Dough: Beat eggs; beat in remaining ingredients well. Roll out dough; cut out circles with end of a drinking glass dipped in flour each time. Put 1 tsp. filling in centre of each circle. Fold over edges into triangles. Bake at 350°F for 20 minutes.

WE NOW SELL MATTRESSES!
See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Food

By NORENE GILLETZ

I'm quite experienced when it comes to reducing the fat in most recipes, but creating lower-fat cookies that taste terrific is difficult. I was delighted to discover a wonderful Canadian cookbook – *One Smart Cookie* by Julie Van Rosendaal of Calgary. This tip-packed 175-page book contains photos and more than 200 recipes for your favourite cookies, squares, brownies and biscotti… trimmed of fat, but not of flavour. This book will definitely help you reduce the fat in your favourite cookie recipes.

And 31-year-old Julie is really a smart cookie. She's lost 165 pounds and keeps in shape by exercising five days a week. She included low-fat cookies (in moderation) as part of her eating plan while testing recipes for this book. *One Smart Cookie* is available at major bookstores, or as a fund-raiser from Atid chapter, Hadassah, in Toronto. To order, contact Shayla at 416-447-2537. (Outside Toronto call 1-888-811-9866.)

Chocolava cookies have a deep chocolate flavour and are very addictive. To make big cookies, use about three times as much dough as directed and bake 20 to 25 minutes, until set around the edges but still soft in the middle.

These are sure to bring a smile to everyone's punim for Purim!

CHOCOLAVA COOKIES

1⅓ cups flour
1 cup sugar
⅓ cup packed brown sugar
½ cup cocoa
1 tsp. baking powder
¼ tsp. salt
¼ cup stick margarine or butter, softened
3 large egg whites, lightly beaten
1 tsp. vanilla
icing sugar for rolling

Preheat oven to 400. In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, brown sugar, cocoa, baking powder and salt, breaking up any lumps of brown sugar. Stir in margarine until the mixture is well combined and crumbly. Add egg whites and vanilla and stir just until the dough comes together.

Place a few heaping spoonfuls of icing sugar into a shallow dish. Roll dough into 1½-inch balls and roll the balls in icing sugar to coat.

Place 2 inches apart on a cookie sheet that has been sprayed with non-stick spray. Bake for 12 to 14 minutes, until just set around the edges but still soft in the middle. Transfer to a wire rack to cool.

Makes 2 dozen cookies.

Per cookie: 92 calories, 2.1 g fat (0.4 grams saturated), 18 grams carbohydrate, 0 mg cholesterol, 71 mg sodium, 1 g fiber, 20 per cent calories from fat.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeanYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

The Canadian Jewish news — CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 48.)

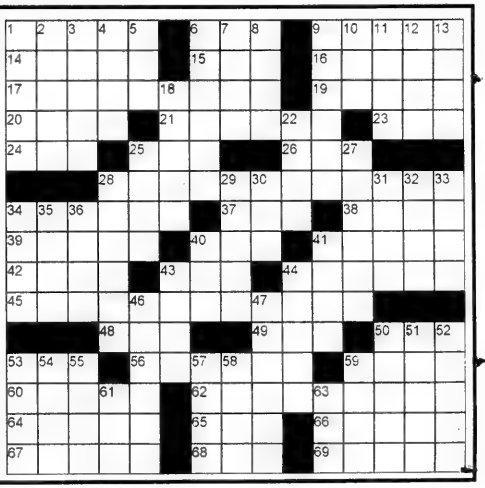
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 First name in vaccines
6 Scrooge's word
9 Abraham's wife
14 Make ___ of money (get rich)
15 From ___ Z
16 Charlene Barshefsky's specialty
17 1967 trouble
19 Puerto ___
20 Very draftable
21 Methuselah's fame
23 Hospital pts.
24 Homer's neighbor
25 Employ the ACLU, maybe
26 Hasidic abbrev.
28 Middle eastern deal
34 Propelling a trireme
37 Tie-___ (marketing tools)
38 Pale of Settlement city
39 Bit of wisdom
40 Playwright Burrows
41 Get, in "Ghostbusters"
42 Actress Lillian
43 Golan Hts., for now
44 Like the Jews
45 With 62-across, New York organization formed to aid Jewish immigrants
48 Netanya-to-Kefar Sava dir.
49 Get the Uzi ready
50 Pas' mates
53 Lower East Side bldg.
56 Move the king and rook simultaneously, to Steinitz
59 Pop
60 It's seven miles from Mt. Carmel
62 See 45-across
64 Larry Kramer's group
65 Roadside service org.
66 Stephen Breyer hears them
67 *Kristallnacht* casualty
68 Tiny ___
69 Contest try

Down

1 George's portrayer on "Seinfeld"
2 Make one's views known
3 Eighty-sixed
4 Burghoff colleague
5 Elie Wiesel's *All Rivers Run to the* ___
6 Didn't just cry
7 Somewhat
8 Dimona dance
9 "Sophie's Choice" actress
10 Paul Newman role
11 Jews, some say
12 ___ Sheni
13 Female lobsters
18 Billy Joel's "Only the Good Die ___"
22 Fido's threats
25 Not meshugga
27 1976 Literature Nobelist
28 Cry before "Camera!"
29 Part of a healthy Englishman's diet
30 *A Chorus Line* number
31 Hertz competitor
32 "___ out Virginia, don't let me wait" (line from 18-down)
33 ___ Steven
34 Spaghetti sauce brand
35 Norse deity
36 "What ___ thinking?"
40 Cigarette remnant
41 Ba'al ___ Tov
43 It may be bright
44 Town ___
46 Get out of Auschwitz
47 His ass was famous
50 Like good kugel
51 "Doe, ___..."
52 Full of lip
53 "Gotcha!" cries
54 Warsaw ___
55 Yugoslav dictator
57 Ella Fitzgerald's music
58 Popular cuisine
59 Jazzman Getz
61 Neiman-Marcus purchase, maybe
63 Commit a hockey infraction



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Message to the Community from Joseph Mapa, President and CEO

Adapting and Moving Forward

Many of you have heard through the media, that we experienced an outbreak of viral gastroenteritis (a stomach-flu-like virus) at Mount Sinai Hospital contained to the 17th level, and had to temporarily close our Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Center due to the number of staff who were affected by the virus. We are proud of our talented staff in the superb way they responded. We have reopened the Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Centre and operations are back at full capacity.

One of the most satisfying part of our work is the opportunity to improve and grow, despite our funding pressures. The results of the recent province-wide Emergency Patient Satisfaction Survey, conducted by the Ontario Hospital Association, are a good example of this. The report highlights areas of positive performance as well as opportunities to improve. It is the first-ever system-level scorecard on the performance of Ontario hospitals that provide emergency care.

In spite of having our Schwartz/Reisman Emergency Center under construction during the review, we were able to maintain a high level of satisfaction. For instance, in physician care we received four scores that were above the norm for overall care received from physicians, thoroughness of physician care and satisfactory answers from physicians, putting us in the 93rd and 96th percentiles compared with other teaching hospitals in the province.

There are many other developments demonstrating our commitment to our community, which is reflected by the wonderful leadership of our Board of Directors and Executive Committee. I am particularly grateful to Bernie Ghert, Lawrence Bloomberg, Michael Bregman, Lloyd Fogler, Steve Pustil, Heather Reisman, Gerry Schwartz and Larry Tanenbaum for their exceptional guidance.

I urge you to refer to our publication **Your Health Report** on-line at **www.mtsinai.on.ca/MediaAndNews/** for more information.

Respectfully,

Joseph Mapa
President and CEO, Mount Sinai Hospital

The Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary has created the Galaxy of Hope Star Pin collection of 18K gold and sterling silver pins, in partnership with Birks Jewellers. The pins can be worn alone or in a "galaxy". You will receive a tax receipt for the portion of the proceeds that go to the hospital. You can place an order by contacting the Auxiliary at auxiliary@mtsinai.on.ca or 416-586- 8290 or order online at http://www.mtsinai.on.ca/auxiliary.

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MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL — HEALTHY LIVING Evening Series

Wanted: A Ray of Sunshine

Understanding Depression

Date: Tuesday, February 26, 2002
Time: 7:30 pm - 9:30 pm
Location: Leah Posluns Theatre
Bathurst Jewish Community Centre
4588 Bathurst Street
North of Sheppard

Smile! Turn that frown upside down! Cheer up!

It sounds like a simple solution, but for anyone who suffers from depression. And to imply that there are simple solutions demonstrates how much we have yet to learn about this devastating illness that affects almost three million Canadians at any given time.

Join us for an evening of discussion where three leading experts will discuss depression in the elderly, explain seasonal affective disorder (SAD), and explore the effects of depression on family members and social relationships.

Featured Speakers:
Dr. Joel Sadavoy
Psychiatrist-in-Chief, Sam and Judy Pencer and Family Chair in Applied General Psychiatry, Mount Sinai Hospital
Dr. Molyn Leszcz
Head, Group Psychotherapy, Mount Sinai Hospital; Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto
Dr. Anthony Levitt
Acting Head of Psychiatry, Head of Mood Disorders Clinic, Sunnybrook and Women's College Health Sciences Centre
Moderator: **Lorna Szalkay, CBC Newsworld**

To register for this free lecture, please call 416-586-43 or register online at: www.mtsinai.on.ca/healthyliving

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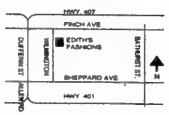

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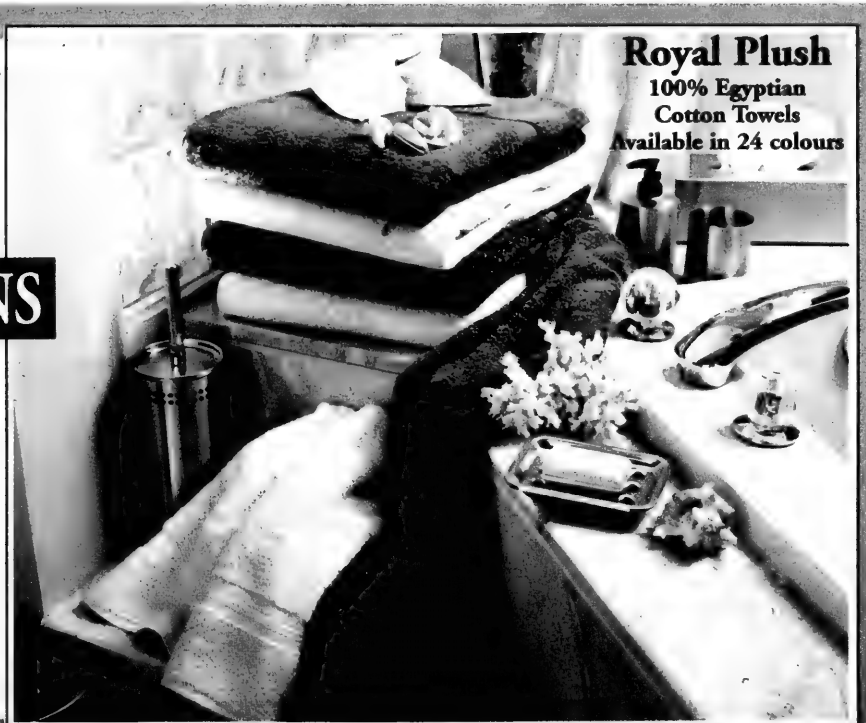
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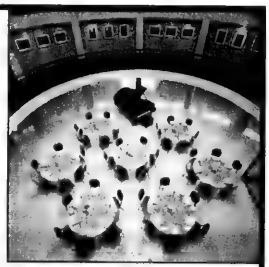

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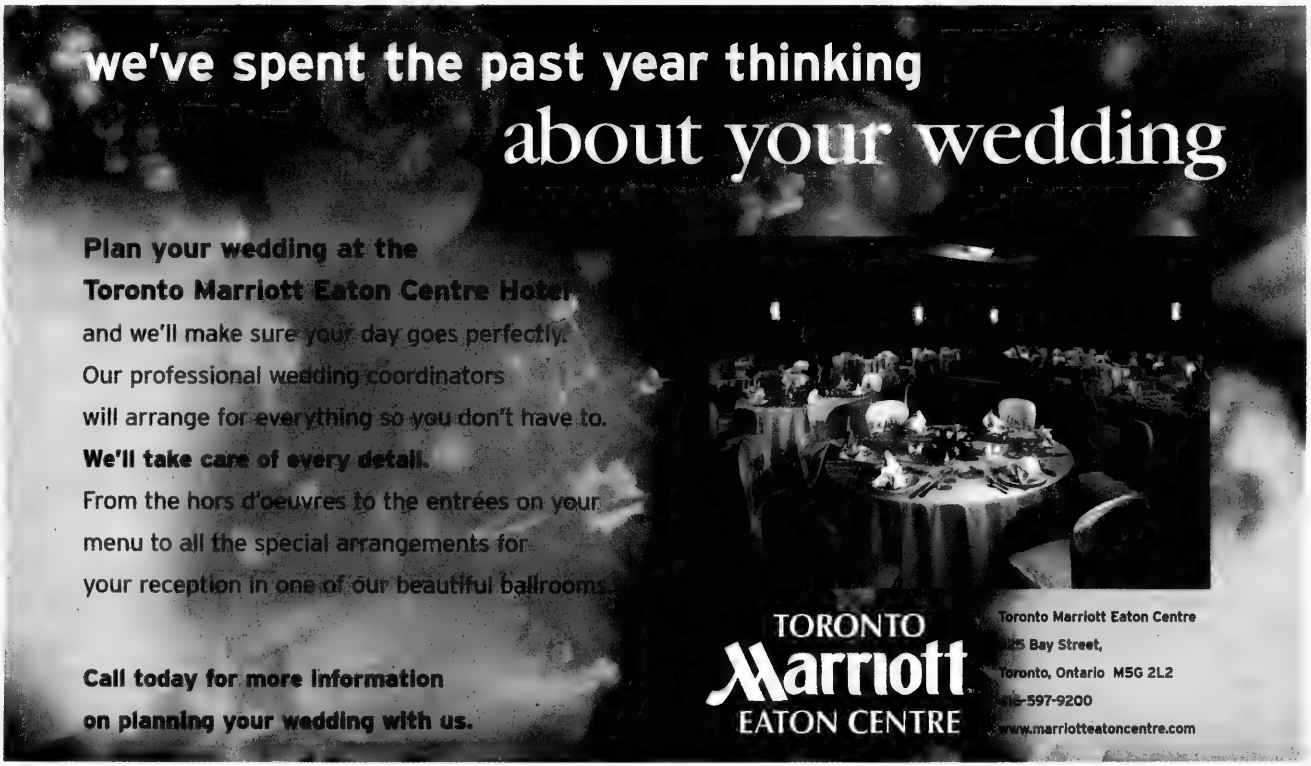
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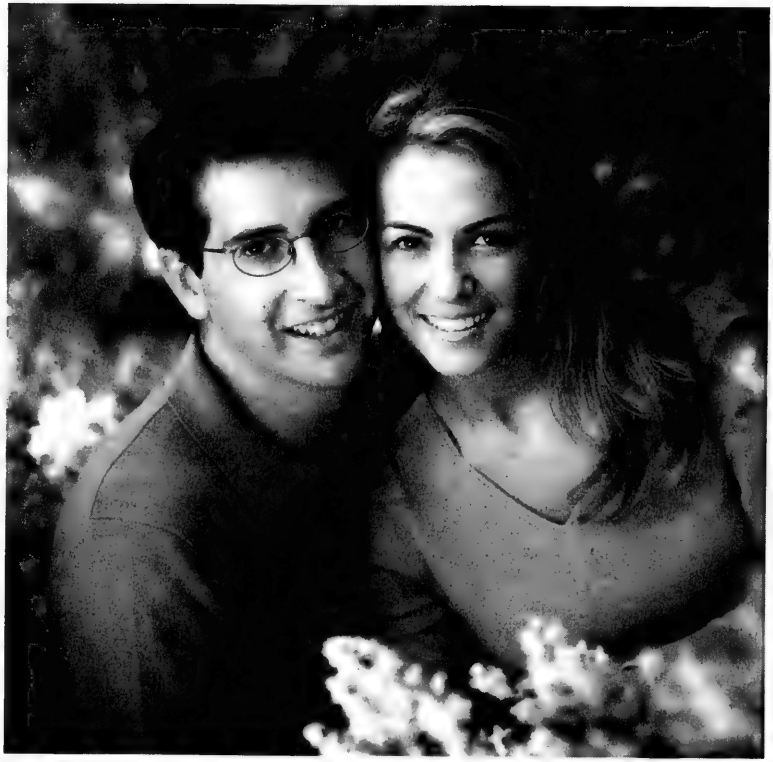

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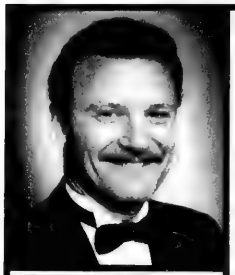

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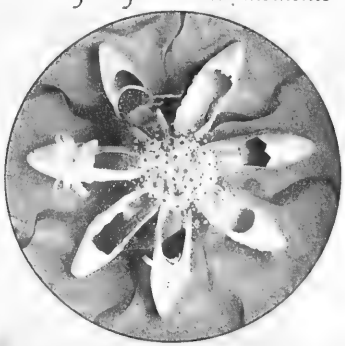

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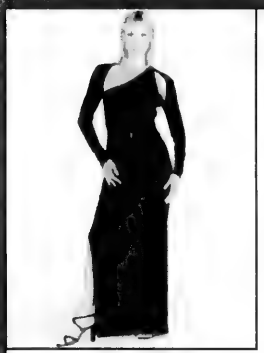

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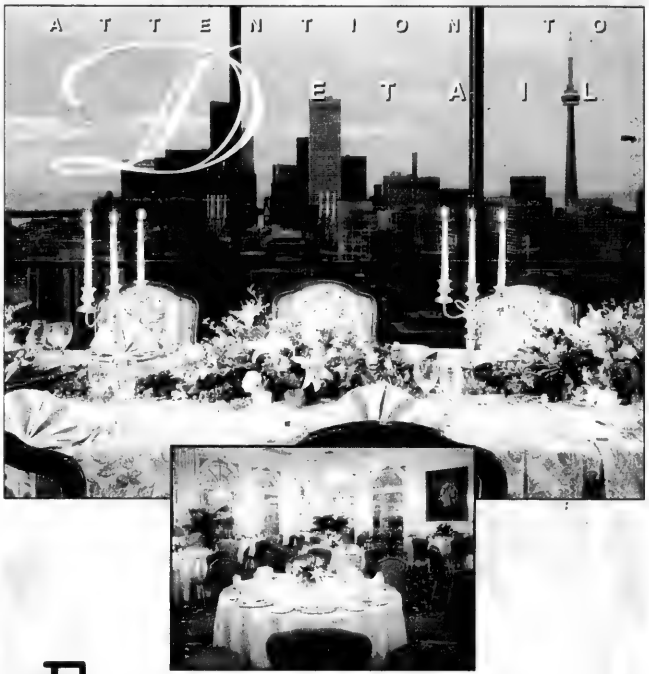

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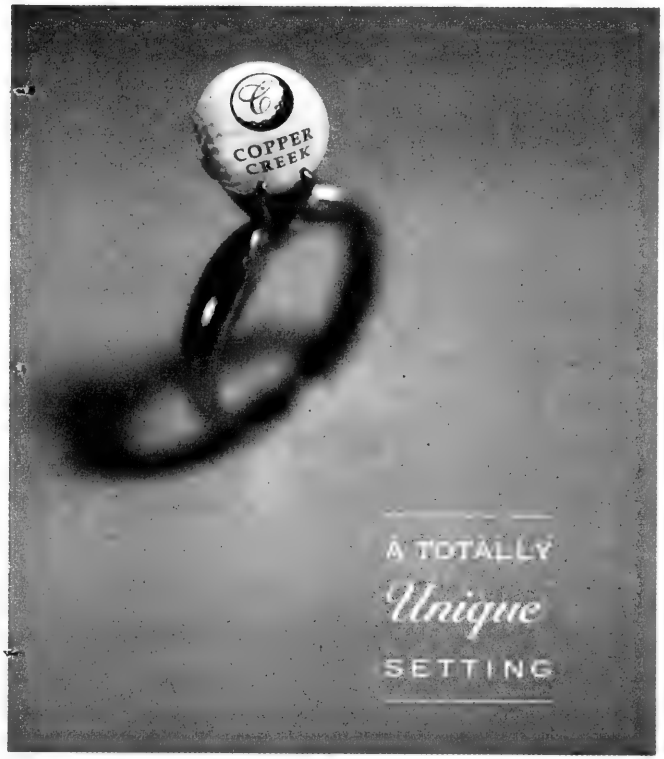

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Tying the 'knot' involves dressing in formal attire

By ELAINE COHEN
Special to The CJN

We may attend many formal occasions in a lifetime but nothing surpasses the beauty of a formal wedding ceremony. The excitement builds as family members and bridal attendants saunter down the aisle. Finally, all eyes are on the bride radiant in her veil and gown. It took months of planning and it involved meticulous details to arrive at this magical hour.

The Knot Book of Wedding Gowns by Carley Roney distributed by Raincoat Books in Canada is designated for brides. However, anyone interested in social mores and attire will be enthralled with the magnificent photographs, line drawings and enlightening text. In fact, every woman will gain a superior knowledge of fabric, style, pret-a-porter, custom-made and designer apparel after admiring the artwork and reading the stories.

What separates this book from others on the subject is author Carley Roney's professional expertise. Roney is the founder and editor-in-chief of *The Knot*, a leading media company. Since 1996, The Knot has provided advice to millions of couples a year online at www.theknot.com and in *The Knot Wedding Gowns* and *Weddingpages* magazines. She has authored several wedding books and gives advice on the *Today* show and other national television programs.

The highlight of the book is it's chock full of facts but never boring. By clarifying points for the consumer, the book serves as a confidence-builder. Therefore, when the bride goes out to shop, she knows what to look for. Furthermore, she can always go back to the book and check the name of a fabric, a style or industry jargon. The author educates readers without intimidating or overwhelming them.

Moreover, the book is more than a primer on gowns and a guide to wedding apparel and accessories. Roney takes readers on a guided historical tour tracing wedding attire from ancient times in Egypt until today. In 1840, Queen Victoria of England established the white, worn only once gown as the Western wedding-day ideal.

Chapter two will help any woman buying formal attire, not only a bride. Here we have a comprehensive lesson on the basic details of gown construction. The author includes the silhouette, bodice, neckline, waistline, sleeves, skirt, train, fabric, lace, embellishment, color and dress portraits in her discussion.

"Silhouette refers to the overall cut of a gown," Roney explains. "It's the most essential element to focus on, because a gown's shape is its bedrock – it's what sets the mood for the entire garment."

The neckline guide is equally interesting because Roney points out what flatters particular figures. Roney's overall message is clear. Read and refer to the Internet but remember brides, nothing replaces going into shops and trying on the real thing.

If you intend to call bridal salons beforehand, here are some questions to ask. Do they carry the designers you're interested in? Do they have gowns in your size and price range? Do they carry accessories? How long does it generally take for a dress to come in once it's been ordered? Can the order be rushed, if necessary? Can you see a fabric sample from the dress you're thinking of ordering? Can you get a written alteration estimate when you order your dress?

In addition, to pret-a-porter, Roney devotes a chapter to going couture. She takes brides through all the steps from the consultation and muslin to the fittings and finally the gown. Roney enriches her consumer advice with cultural tidbits. "The history of the veil is culturally diverse, with many interpretations." In Biblical tradition, the custom of veil wearing originated when Rebekah, working in her father's field, covered her head in modesty when she first saw Isaac approaching.

Roney covers the gamut of accessories. Bridesmaids and grooms are also included in the picture. So, whether you want to know the difference between dupioni silk and duchesse satin or learn how to preserve your gown, Roney has the answer.

Pre-Raphaelite painting by Alcide Theophile Robaudi titled *The Young Bride* (courtesy Chronicle Books)

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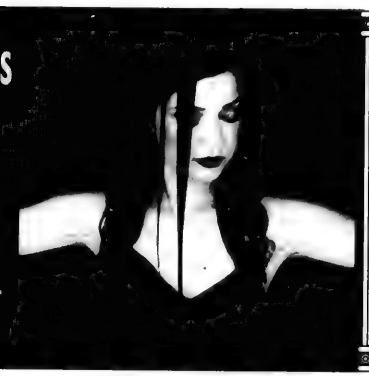

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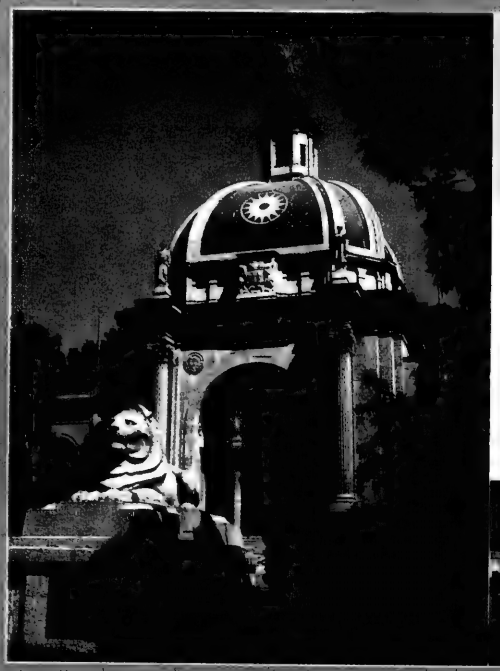

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"As a bridal and party consultant over the past 20 years, I know how wonderful it is to plan a simcha. There are so many details to be looked after. For the past 9 years at each of my shows, I have brought together over 60 professional "stars" of the party industry to display their wonderful products and services."

This year, the Celebration of Stars Wedding, Bar and Bat Mitzvah Show will take place on Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at Sephardic Kehila Centre (Bathurst/Steeles). It starts at 6 p.m. and runs until 10:00 p.m. This year Windsor Bridal will be presenting their 2002 bridal collection on a fabulous runway fashion show, which will begin promptly at 8 p.m.

When you attend the Celebration of Stars Show, all of your entire party needs will be represented and you will be able to meet our party's finest on an informal basis. Each of the various stages of party planning will be available and by having more than one company displaying their unique talents in a particular category, you have the choice of which individual will suit your needs. You may choose from a variety of party professionals who will strive to maintain the highest standards of excellence in their particular area of expertise. You will be offered bridal and party consultants, catering (Kosher), invitations, florists, make-up artists, personalized party favours, photography, videography, cakes, creative room decor and centrepieces, orchestras, DJ's, and jewellery & giftware. Some of the "stars" are very well known in the simcha industry and there will also be some new faces as well.

"Every Celebration of Stars Bridal, Bar and Bat Mitzvah Show that I have organized has proven to be so successful for both guests and exhibitors that as soon as I finish one, I begin plans for the next one," says Kay. "Organizing a party is what I do best and I think that it is certainly reflected in my shows."

Come and see for yourself that the Celebration of Stars has got it all and is one show that you don't want to miss. Admission and parking is free. For further information ... contact Marla Kay at **905-882-2042.**

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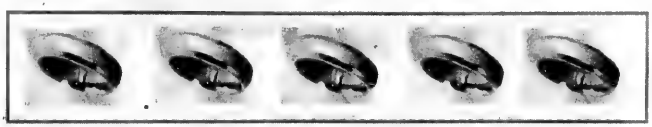

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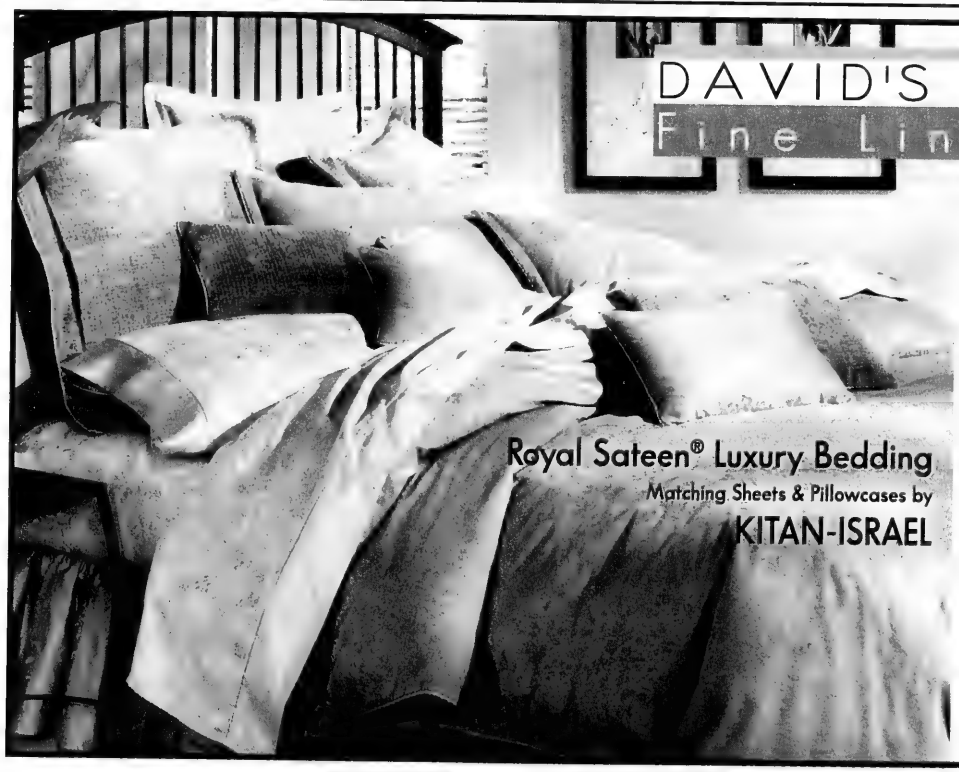

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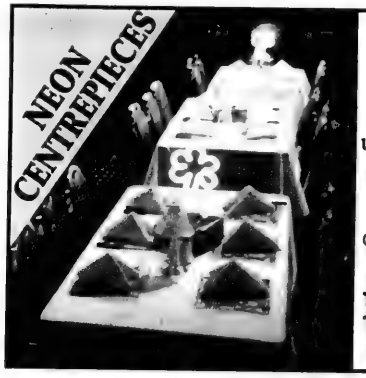

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This Week

National

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Martin Gilbert finds history in the details. *Pages 14*

Purim Contest

The winners of our annual poster art competition. *Pages 24-25*

Seniors Scene

Painter's life full of narrow escapes. *Page 28*

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An Anti-Communist 'Christmas' play about trees. *Page 40*

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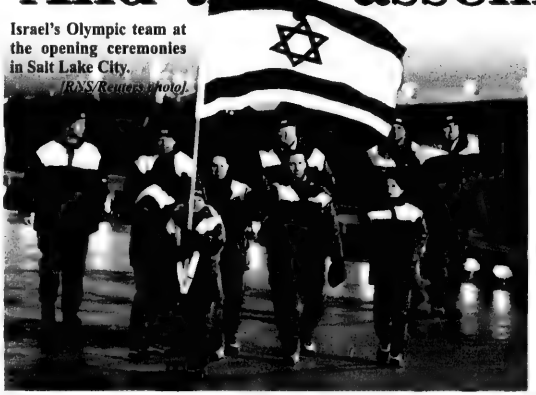
Sharice Molko, Grade 2, Toronto

'And they assembled together'



Israel's Olympic team at the opening ceremonies in Salt Lake City. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Editorial

There could hardly be a more timely message for the Jewish people at this moment in our history than the message of Purim, the holiday that recalls "the month that was transformed for the Jews from one of tragedy to one of happiness, from one of mourning to one of festivity" (Megillah).

Sharice Molko's colourful drawing on this page exquisitely captures that sense of happiness and festivity. The photo of the Israeli Olympic team symbolizes for us the sense of peoplehood we feel with the tiny, beleaguered Jewish State.

As we all know, our forebears in ancient Shushan were the object of irrational, consumptive hatred and malevolent plotting. It was no slight jeopardy they faced.

Haman had masterminded a comprehensive order binding upon the King's constabulary throughout the empire "to destroy and to kill and to slaughter all the Jews, young and old, children and women."

Continued page 8

Greater Toronto Area

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Canada

Shabbat Vote

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress has written to the Progressive Conservative party of Ontario, asking it to reconsider the scheduling of the vote to replace Mike Harris as party leader and premier. As reported recently in *The CJN*, the balloting, which is open to all party members, is slated for March 23, a Saturday, meaning Sabbath-observant Jews can't vote. Sabbath-observant Jews also cannot engage in proxy voting, as it is counter to Jewish law. In a letter to PC Party director Jeff Bangs, CJC Ontario region director Bernie Farber noted that "unless certain changes are made prior to the leadership vote, the Conservatives will in fact disenfranchise a significant number of voters within the Jewish community... We would urge your executive committee to take a second look at whether or not it would be feasible, on this occasion, to hold some form of an advance poll or possibly a telephone voting procedure that would permit inclusivity."

Israel

Quits Coalition

JERUSALEM — Israel's One Nation Party has quit the coalition government. The party, which holds two Knesset seats, said it was opposed to the 2002 budget. Party leader Amir Peretz said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had failed to uphold his commitment to help lower income groups.

Arafat Successors?

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has named two possible successors. In an interview published Feb. 7 in an Egyptian magazine, Arafat named Ahmed Karia, the speaker of the Palestinian legislative council, and Mahmoud Abbas, Arafat's current deputy. Both are considered advocates of a peace agreement with Israel.

Bomb Shelters

JERUSALEM — Israeli officials want local municipalities to prepare bomb shelters. The development came after the defence establishment concluded that Israel would suffer a retaliatory strike from Iraq if the United States targets the country in its war on terrorism.

Simulated Stargazing

BEERSHEVA — A mobile planetarium for simulated stargazing has been donated to Ben-Gurion University. "Starlab" is an inflatable device that can accommodate 30 children at a time to observe a simulated star-filled sky, for example, or the inside of a human cell.

World

Woman Heads USCJ

WASHINGTON — For the first time, a woman will head North America's Conservative movement. Judy Yudof, 56, was installed last week as president of United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism at the group's convention here. There are about 760 Conservative shuls in North America and 320,000 member households.

Clinton to Israel

NEW YORK — U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton is slated to visit Israel later this month. The New York senator initiated the visit to show support for Israel, *Ma'ariv* reported. During the one-day visit, Clinton is scheduled to receive a security briefing, meet with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and visit a hospital where terror victims are recovering.

Rejects Envoy

LONDON — Iran has rejected the new British ambassador to Tehran, claiming he is a Jew and a spy. Iran's move came after British Prime Minister Tony Blair encouraged Iranian President Mohammad Khatami to accept the appointment of David Reddaway. Britain insists Reddaway is not Jewish and has never worked as a spy.

Praise for Putin

MOSCOW — One of Russia's two chief rabbis has praised President Vladimir Putin's openness after the two met in the Kremlin. Following the Feb. 7 meeting, Rabbi Berel Lazar said he and Putin had discussed various issues of concern to Russian Jewry, including emigration, the return of synagogues to Jewish communities and relations with Jewish communities throughout the world.

Bush Sr. Lauded

PALM BEACH — Former U.S. president George Bush, father of President George W. Bush, was honoured for aiding the immigration of Ethiopian Jews to Israel. On Feb. 7, the elder Bush received the Joseph Prize for Human Rights from the Anti-Defamation League in Palm Beach, Fla., for helping to expedite the emigration of 16,000 Ethiopian Jews in 1991 by offering to mediate in Ethiopia's civil war.

Kosher Kibbles

FORT LAUDERDALE — KosherPets Inc., a Fort Lauderdale-based manufacturer and distributor of gourmet pet foods, has obtained a patent for its kosher product line. A company news release says the kosher pet food is prepared in strict accordance with the laws of kashrut and contains organic and certified kosher ingredients. As well, the food contains no chametz, making it suitable for Passover. KosherPets can be found at www.kosherpets.com.

Sept. 11 Heroes Visit Israel

JERUSALEM — Israel last week paid tribute to police and military officials who took part in rescue efforts following the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States.

A 12-member delegation from the New York Police Department and the U.S. Army arrived here for a week-long visit sponsored by Israel's tourism ministry and the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

The group, including 11 men and one woman, received special citations at a Jerusalem news conference and reception.

Delegation members spoke of Israel as a role model for dealing with terror. Lt. Phyllis Byrus of the New York Police Department said Israel offered a positive example for dealing with terror "because people go on living their lives."

Participants met with Israeli government officials, a group of schoolchildren in Jerusalem, and police and other rescue workers. They also visited religious sites and toured northern Israel.

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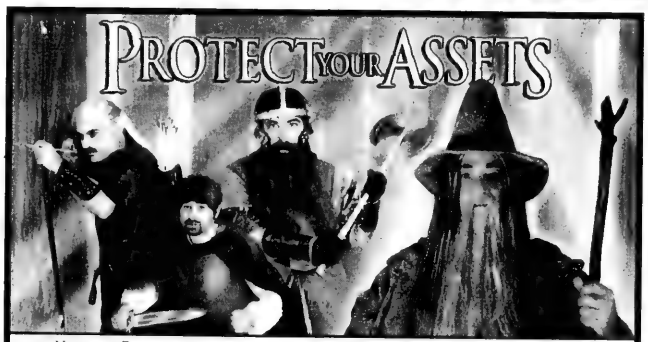

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Web site urges violence against religious groups

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress is joining with Muslim and Sikh organizations in asking police to investigate a Web site registered to an Ontario man that urges readers to beat Sikhs and Muslims.

Congress is laying a second complaint on its own that alleges the same Ontario resident runs a Web site that promotes hatred against Jews by directing readers to another site that repeats crude medieval blood libels.

The first complaint, which refers to a site operated by "Tri-City Skins," takes issue with a "picture of the month" that features photos of a Muslim and a Sikh, with arrows pointing at each saying, "This is a Sikh. This is a Muslim. Please beat accordingly." (The picture was removed late last week.)

Congress believes the Tri-City Web page both incites violence and promotes racial hatred, said Ed Morgan, chair of the organization's Ontario region.

"This is as close to an open and shut case as any," he said.

Len Rudner, Congress' director of community relations, said Congress contacted Sikhdharma of Ontario and the Canadian Council of Imams and together the three groups laid a joint complaint to police.

"When the multicultural fabric of the society is attacked, it's an attack on all Canadians, so it's natural that we act together," Rudner said.

Hari Nam Singh Khalsa, president of Sikhdharma of Ontario, a group that represents 125,000 Sikhs, called the Web site "racist, against humanity and deranged.

"This kind of racism and hate literature needs to be stopped. It's against human rights and in this particular situation, it was targeting Muslims and Sikhs and trying to incite violence."

"This page is heinous and may be used by unsavoury elements within our society as a provocation to commit violence," said Imam Abdul Hai Patel of the Canadian Council of Imams.

Rudner said the Tri-City Web site, which claims on its main page to be "powered by hate," is located on a server in the United States, though the host company is registered in Canada. Tri-City likely refers to the Kitchener-Waterloo-Guelph triangle, he added.

Congress has been tracking the individual behind the Web sites since at least September 2001, when the Tri-City site carried a radio interview with William Pierce, author of the *Turner Diaries*, the racist book that inspired Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

The site that is subject to the second complaint, www.aryankindred.com, is also hosted on the same U.S. server. It offers a main page link titled "the Jewish ritual murders." Clicking on the link takes surfers to www.ritualmurder.org, a site apparently hosted by Worldwide Revisionist News.

That site claims "fanatical Hasidic Jews" have practiced human sacrifice since ancient times.

The site also sells *Matzah of Zion*, the book written by Syrian Defence Minister Mustafa Tlas that accuses Jews of the ritual murder of a Catholic priest in Damascus in 1840.

Parents scout out Israel trips for their kids

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Five Zionist youth groups and a Jewish day school in Winnipeg are represented on an eight-day mission to Israel for Canadian parents, which was scheduled to leave Tuesday.

The mission is a joint initiative of Ora Merin, shlichah at HaShomer Hatzair, and Rotem Ayalon, her counterpart at Habonim Dror. The Toronto-based shlichot, who will accompany the mission, secured funding from the education department of the Jewish Agency for Israel (a beneficiary of local federation funding) to offset much of the cost for the parents.

In addition, El Al provided a reduced fare, Merin said.

The trip was intended to give parents first-hand knowledge of what a youth movement trip for their children would be like. It was designed for parents whose children meet the age requirements for those trips. Participants – who come from Vancouver, Calgary, Winnipeg, Toronto, Ottawa and Montreal – have agreed to speak about their experience when they return.

The hope is that other parents, particularly those who have not made a decision, will then feel more comfortable about sending their own children to Israel.

The trip is a first for Canada, although a small number of similar delegations have gone to Israel from the United States in the past two years, said Adam Minsky, national director of Canada Israel Experience.

The parents will meet with Birthright Israel participants as part of their itinerary. What they experience themselves and hear from young visitors to Israel will have more impact than anything he could say, Minsky told *The CJN*.

Israel trips will continue "as long as we take all the [security] measures and as long as we can give the best experience," Merin said. "It's still part of our life."

Continued on page 28

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Items in the news

From the editor's desk

Each day, every day, countless items "leap" off the pages of the newspaper. I comment on three of them that struck me as particularly relevant.

* * *

On Thursday, Ontario's Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Jim Flaherty, publicly presented another plank in the platform of his bid for the leadership of Ontario's Progressive Conservative Party.

He proposed to make homelessness a crime. "Call it tough love if you will. It will be illegal to live on the street; it will be illegal to live in public places... and in the parks," Flaherty was quoted in the *National Post*.

It was good for Flaherty to introduce the subject of homelessness into his party's leadership contest. But his approach to the solution is highly problematic.

Homelessness, to any extent, but certainly to the extent it has appeared on our streets in recent times, is an indictment of our society. And thus, it should also be an affront to our collective conscience. We must all be moved to try to do something about homelessness, to try to "get the homeless off the streets."

But it is a complicated social problem, one that requires solutions from the social policy realm.

Flaherty himself seemed to understand this when he said at his press conference, "It's good to help people on the streets, to provide blankets. But we need to go a step further and *really try to solve this problem* and get people the help they need in Ontario and not abandon them to freezing streets."

On the surface, Flaherty's call to "really try to solve this problem" seemed to suggest comprehensive social policy approaches to finding a solution. That is why his embrace of the criminal law was so puzzling and so off the mark.

In most cases, homelessness is a function of poverty, mental illness or a combination of both. But in any of the cases, criminalization is an inappropriate response.

I am not an authority on the subject, but there is no precedent of which I am aware in Jewish history, tradition or values that allows for the criminalization of either poverty or mental illness.

Perhaps Flaherty was misquoted.

* * *

On Friday, the premiers and territorial leaders stood at the prime minister's side in Moscow at a wrap-up press conference to a "Team Canada" trade mission in Russia.

The prime minister was asked by a reporter to articulate the federal government's intention about the ratification of the Kyoto agreement regarding industrial pollution and greenhouse effect emissions.

In typically cautious and elliptical fashion, the prime minister staked out a position which was not definitive.

Fearing that he would announce Canada's intention right then and there to move ahead with ratification of the treaty, Premier Ralph Klein of Alberta presented the prime minister with a letter of opposition to ratification of the treaty signed by all the premiers, save Bernard Landry.

The concerns on both sides of the Canadian debate – protecting the environment and protecting the competitiveness of Canadian business – are valid. It stands to reason Canadian policy must try to strike an appropriate balance between the concerns.

But for the premiers to bring the debate to Moscow was unseemly. It is an issue of considerable domestic importance. The proper forum for its debate, therefore, was in Canada, not in Russia.

The practice of politics should not preclude minimal levels of civility and courtesy. Yet the political theatre of federal-provincial relations seems increasingly to be devoid of those minimal levels.

That is a great shame, not only for its own sake, but for the sake, too, of the poor example it sets for the standard of behaviour we want to encourage throughout our society.

* * *

On Saturday, the *National Post* carried a report on the hundreds of thousands of Muslim pilgrims arriving in Mecca, Saudi Arabia for this week's annual Hajj.

"A sea of hajj pilgrims thronged the Grand Mosque, Islam's Holiest shrine... to hear a sermon by the imam, Sheikh Osama Abdullah Khayyat. Sheikh Khayyat *steered clear of politics* in his speech but closed it with what have become traditional prayers for the triumph of Islam and the defeat of Israel.

"Lord... defeat those tyrant Jews," the sheikh intoned as "he stood by the cube-shaped Kaaba in the heart of the mosque. Muslims around the world turn to Kaaba while praying."

The reporter clearly did not think that the statement by the imam about Israel was a statement about politics. Nor, for that matter, apparently, did the imam. For him, and for the reporter, it was purely and entirely a theological invocation. And we must all be the sadder for it.

To the extent that the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is seen as a conflict between religions, it will be virtually impossible to resolve.

With such active incitement by the Saudis and the increasingly more violent role being played by the radical Islamist groups such as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, and now al-Qaeda, too, that is precisely where the conflict is evolving – to a conflict between religions – if it has not already.

—MBD

SeeJN

CHAT VARSITY GIRLS BASKET-BALL TEAM WINS TOURN-AMENT

[Photo Mike Budd]

See story on page 45

Union correspondence reveals backbiting

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A Toronto teachers' newsletter and the union that supports it have backtracked on what the Canadian Jewish Congress said were assurances the periodical would carry a response to a controversial article that blamed the United States and Israel for the Middle East conflict, Congress officials say.

Last week, the union executive unanimously confirmed a decision by the editorial board of *District 12 Voice* (*D12 Voice*) to reject an article submitted by Congress. The submission, written by CJC director of public policy Simon Rosenblum, addressed the assertions contained in "Why American is Hated," an article that appeared in the December issue of *D12 Voice*. Rosenblum submitted the article after Jim McQueen, president of district 12 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) told Congress spokesman Bernie Farber during a radio talk show that a Congress article would be accepted by the newsletter, Farber said.

But in a subsequent letter to Farber, McQueen stated the assurances he gave on radio were that an alternative viewpoint to the one expressed in the article would be carried, and that priority would first be given to union members' views, followed by those of students and finally, to those of outside sources.

"Due to the furor created by the printing of the article, 'Why America is Hated,' and your organization's activities, the district 12 STBU [board] executive yesterday unanimously confirmed its support of the decisions made by the *D12 Voice* editorial board as to the content of the upcoming issues of the members' newsletter," McQueen stated in the letter.

Farber rejected McQueen's interpretation of the assurances given on radio, saying the union leader clearly had referred to an article by Congress. He said McQueen's letter shows the union and the newsletter's editorial staff are "annoyed that Congress took them on."

> *'Annoyed that Congress took them on'*

"They feel embarassed that the committment was made and they don't like Congress horning in on their territory and exposing the magazine with all its warts. This is their way of punishing us," Farber said.

What's more, internal union correspondence, copied to him by e-mail, reveals a great deal of infighting and blame-shifting among the newsletter's key players, Farber said.

In the first e-mail, *D12* editor Doug Little responds to Rosenblum's submission by stating: "I hope we can use it. Keep in mind that the article is very hard on various anti-democratic Arab and Islamic regimes in the Middle East."

Little's letter of rejection to Rosenblum stated: "It did not survive the editorial board meeting, especially since new member Marsha Melnik, a new member on the board, who in general, opposes the article and some of the tone of the *Voice*, noted that the article was not very good and did the opposition cause more harm than good."

In subsequent unsolicited e-mails, which Farber passed on to *The CJN*, Little again blamed editorial board member Melnik for the decision to "spike" (reject) the Congress article.

In a letter to McQueen, Little writes, "As I explained at our PD Day, it was Marsha, almost alone, who insisted that the [Congress] article not be run. Ahmed and I at least, maybe more wanted to print the article by Simon Rosenblum. One reason was that you made somewhat of a committment to Bernie Farber on the Coran [sic] show."

That prompted an angry response from Melnik, who, in a letter to McQueen, said, "It is with continued outrage [concerns just doesn't cut it anymore] that I got a copy of Mr. Little's shameful e-mail of Feb. 8."

Blaming him for informing outsiders of the editorial board's private meetings, she states: "He is showing himself to be a coward in trying to lay blame on me. Funny that if it is I who 'killed' the article. I must have so much power, but could not prevent the board from 'killing' my own article." She also called his letter to Rosenblum "embarrassing for all of us."

In yet another letter, she called Little a "coward" and a "bully" and said the real issue that *D12 Voice* should be addressing is setting guidelines for the operation of the newsletter.

Ed Morgan, chair of Congress' Ontario region, said the union's "acrimonious correspondence" leaves it unclear why Rosenblum's article was killed. "The way the e-mail correspondence reads, it's not flattering on the people who engaged in it. It seems incredibly petty and confused and I thought it behooves educators to express themselves in a more sophisticated way."

Farber said Congress released the correspondence so that "teachers should take a long hard look at whether they want *D12* to express their views and values."

McQueen and Little did not return calls.

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Thornhill brothers help out NYC firefighters

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

VAUGHAN — After the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, Thornhill brothers Ilan and Leor Mann, wanted the New York City firefighters to know that Canadians were thinking of them.

Ilan, 12, and Leor, 10, sons of Gary and Sarah Mann, not only decided to convert the cost of their birthday presents and parties to cash in order to send to New York, they wrote a poem set to music for the firefighters.

Sarah Mann said that stores such as Toys R Us, Chapters, Indigo and HMV bent their rules and allowed the boys to cash in their gift certificates.

"The boys have learned well the meaning of sharing with others in times of need. We are proud of them for following through with their idea of making a small sacrifice in order to honour those whose courage and concern for others put them in jeopardy," she said.

"We have never experienced such a tragedy; we just felt like we should do something," said Ilan, a Grade 7 student at P.A.C.E. (Academy for Gifted Children).

"I saw families of the victims on television and I thought that if that were us, I would hope they would do something to help," he said.

Leor, who is in Grade 5 at Leo Baeck Hebrew Day School, took the money his family would have spent on a birthday party and included it in the donation. "So many people needed the money, and I did not really need a party."

It is our duty to give when we can, said Ilan. "We have whatever we need."

Leor (left) and Ilan decided to help out firefighters in New York City.

The Mann brothers sent the following poem on an audio tape featuring Ilan on the guitar and Leor reciting.

The sun has set,
The stars are out,
And the day is almost done,
Brave people are busy,
Helping the victims,
Of the attack on 911.
Now there is no way,
To repay these people,
For their noble deed,
Money cannot repay them,
Freedom is their fee.
You know of whom I speak,
Just look inside the mirror,
And as you do,
Behold the heroes
of the war against terror!

Kidney foundation fund-raiser set

TORONTO — The central Ontario branch of The Kidney Foundation of Canada will hold its annual Spring Gala, one of its largest fund-raisers, April 25 at the Sheraton Centre.

Former premier William Davis will be this year's master of ceremonies and lawyer R. Fraser Elliott will serve as honorary chair. Gala chair Jason Kroft said the organizing committee is especially excited about this year's theme, A New Beginning.

"The focus is on patients and their families," said Kroft. "We wanted to tap into their stories and illustrate the tremendous strides being made in the treatment of kidney-related diseases. Through improved treatment and transplant techniques patients get a new lease on life, a new beginning."

For $175 per person, or $2,000 per table, guests will enjoy a dinner and dance and a live and silent auction. To purchase gala tickets, or to make a donation, please contact event organizer Rachel Katz at 416-445-0373, or by e-mail at rkatz@kidneycob.on.ca

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GOOD NEWS BAD NEWS ABOUT ISRAEL'S KIDNAPPED SOLDIERS...
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THAT'S THE GOOD NEWS
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THE ONE PRISONER HE WANTS RELEASED IS ARAFAT OUT OF RAMALLAH.
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'They assembled together'

Continued from page 1

As unbelievable as it may sound, there are some people and organizations in this day and age who openly, publicly share Haman's hatred of and aspirations toward Jews. One need look no further than Hamas, Islamic Jihad, Hezbollah, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and their benefactors in Iran, Iraq, Syria, the Palestinian Authority (PA) and elsewhere.

Since September 2000, when they were let loose by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat to act upon their callous hatred of Jews and Israel, they have waged relentless war against the Jewish State. Their campaign has become bolder, more sophisticated, more widely waged and, alas, more deadly. Hardly a day has gone by since then that Israelis have not been attacked. Indeed as these words were written, two more teenagers were murdered by a suicide bomber in Karnei Shomron.

By their unceasing violence, Israel's enemies believe they can wear down the morale and the resolve of the Jewish State.

Despite Israel's determination to surrender to Haman's inheritors neither the lives of its people nor its existence, it would be folly to pretend the war being waged against it has not taken a toll. It is a toll measured, first and foremost, in irreplaceable lives, a sense of diminished personal security and a wounded economy. Much like the mood that enveloped our ancestors in ancient Shushan, there is a sense of difficult days ahead throughout the entirety of the Jewish people.

But our ancestors overcame the hatred aimed at them, exposed the deadly plot, vanquished the plotter and defeated his malign confederates. And we – the entirety of the Jewish people – will do the same.

The Megillah recounts no fewer than five occasions when Jews "assembled together," wherever they were, to act in defence of their lives. These frequent references to communal cohesion and collective purpose were not merely literary devices intended to enhance the drama of the story. They were unambiguous instructions to the generations that followed.

More than 2,500 years later, we must act on those instructions. Today, we in the Diaspora must demonstrate the same understanding of common cause and commitment to one another that our forebears did in ancient Shushan.

We too must *assemble together* in defence of Jewish lives, in defence of a Jewish future, in defence of Israel. We must do so at every opportunity and at every hour of need. We must do so privately and publicly wherever calumnies are spread about the Jewish State. We must do so metaphorically and literally.

At this moment in our history, on the eve of Purim, as we contemplate the happiness of the holiday, it is imperative we *assemble together* in festivity and celebration but also, especially, in defence of Israel.

An opportunity to literally *assemble together* on behalf of the Jewish state arises at the CIC Parliamentary Dinner in Ottawa on March 6. Canadians should attend the conference to overflowing. We must show our federal government and members of Parliament that our common cause with Israel is unshakable.

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Arafat is not a worthy peace partner

Sheldon Kirshner ("Yasser Arafat faces his moment of truth," *CJN*, Feb. 14) gives a well-reasoned historical analysis leading up to the present state of Israeli-Palestinian tension but then concludes the article by saying that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat must now prove that he is a worthy peace partner. If Kirshner had read his own article, it would be clear that Arafat has consistently proved that he is *not* a worthy peace partner. If both Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and U.S. President George W. Bush have effectively dismissed Arafat, why would Kirshner even dream of giving him another chance? It is time for Kirshner to take a realistic look at Israel's options for peace.

Jonathan Usher
Toronto

* * *

Leftists terminally delusional

In Sheldon Kirshner's column in the Feb. 14 issue of *The CJN*, the author writes that Arafat is facing his moment of truth. He ends his column with the observation that "Arafat needs to demonstrate that he is prepared to smash the terrorist infrastructure." This after informing us of other "troubling" things Arafat has done. It is clear Arafat has disappointed him.

Kirshner is still talking about Arafat's need to demonstrate his commitment to peace, about the Palestinians' just grievances and the fact that there is "some merit" to Arafat's point that Israel needs to make significant concessions.

If Kirshner read the mainstream Arab and PA newspaper, he would know the main grievance of "the Arab street" is and has always been the very existence of the State of Israel.What they want more than anything is to kill Jews, not just in Israel, but "wherever you can find them," as one imam put it.

I know this goes against everything that the terminally delusional leftist camp believes, but it's true.

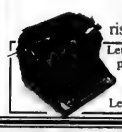
Why can't Kirshner and other like-minded thinkers believe this? Why isn't the fact that the media Arafat controls continues to pump out pure anti-Semitic hatred from morning to night, a reliable clue as to what Arafat's real intentions are? You should know a murderer by now when you see one. It's not that complicated, really – he is the enemy. He will always be the enemy.

Michael Lebovic
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Join the Ontario P.C. party

The Jewish community has been lobbying successive provincial governments for decades to address the discriminatory funding of schools in Ontario. Many members of the Jewish community have been buckling under the burden of high tuition fees for decades. We finally have a government that has paid attention to our community's concerns, and has come up with a solution, albeit not a perfect one, to the problem.



This initiative came not without political risk to the Progressive Conservative party. A race is in progress to choose the party's next provincial leader. As a token of our community's gratitude, and as insurance that this tax credit will continue into the future, it behooves our community to support those particular leadership candidates who have helped us by instituting this tax credit, and who are most in favour of this tax credit.

We therefore urge parents and other concerned members of the community to join the Ontario P.C. party. The election takes place on Saturday, March 23. Unfortunately, the Conservative Party has resisted scheduling an advanced poll for those who cannot vote on Shabbat, but negotiations are ongoing, and it is still hoped that a solution might be found.

In any case, whether or not we will be able to vote, it is advisable to join the party and express our support for those candidates that support the tax credit.

Support the initiative that will benefit our community in the order of $30 million a year. Our failure to do so may jeopardize efforts to address the one issue that has for years been at the top of our political agenda.

Jerrold Landau, Ira Walfish and Yossi Adler
Toronto

* * *

A Rhodes experience

Thanks for your story on Rhodes, Greece (*CJN*, Jan. 17). In the early summer of 1973, after spending a year backpacking through Europe, I arrived on the beautiful island of Rhodes. I found a very inexpensive pension in the old town. The first night in a room shared with other young travellers, I made a very interesting discovery. On the right side of my door post was the distinct white marking of a mezuzah, impossible to miss because it contrasted with the blue paint of the door. After inquiring, I found out I was living in the heart of the old Jewish Quarter. The owner of the pension, though not Jewish, had a large framed picture of Anne Frank in her living room.

About a 30-second walk from the pension was a small square with a fountain of seashores – a memorial to the Jews of Rhodes who died in the Holocaust.

Also very close by was the Rhodes synagogue run by a man named Moishe. He invited me in and after a few visits, I made a very detailed pencil sketch of the synagogue's interior. On one such visit, Moishe and his wife invited me to their home for a delicious traditional Greek lunch. One Friday night, I went to a service with a Swedish girl from my pension. A woman started to sing in a beautiful voice, songs in a language I couldn't understand. It was neither Hebrew, nor Greek, but what I found out many years later, Ladino.

After six glorious weeks of sketching and painting, I left Rhodes for Athens. In the summer of 1982, I returned to the island only to find the synagogue closed. With tensions in the Middle East at that time, I was concerned for Moishe, his family and the synagogue. I am very pleased to read that the synagogue is open to tourists. I have never forgotten my truly memorable Jewish experience in Rhodes.

Linda R. Goldman
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Jews must recreate Zionism as a proud, living organism

By ZAC KAYE

I had the pleasure of being with 30 students at the World Union of Jewish Students (WUJS) Conference in and around Jerusalem in late December. It was wonderful to feel their sense of connection, their pride and comfort at being in Israel and their passion for the country that is not their home yet in so many ways is.

Being with our students and sitting in on many of the conference's sessions, I began to reflect on some of the core issues many have written about lately. Both in Israel and in the Diaspora, much has been written about the place of Israel in our lives and, more importantly, what has happened to that once-proud ideology of Zionism.

How do these issues relate to young North American Jews today, if at all? What have the events in Durban and the second intifadah done to shape Diaspora Jewry's relationship with Israel?

Many of us who are educators are acutely aware that with the passage of time, our young people are becoming more distant from the excitement of the creation of the Jewish State and of, for example, the euphoria of the Six Day War. This generation is, as many have described them, the children of the intifadah. Their images and memories of Israel as portrayed on the nightly news are negative views of a mighty power responding with bullets to the stones of poor, defenceless Palestinian children. This generation remembers the assassination of a prime minister who believed in peace, and of the ultimate, cynical failure of the peace process and the return of violence.

The debate about Zionism and its virtual disappearance as a core ideology of Diaspora Jewry is not just about young people being embarrassed to stand proud as supporters of Israel. It is a much deeper debate about the very nature of Jewish life in the Diaspora.

During the summer, as I recuperated from what turned out to be a more serious operation than I thought, I took the opportunity to read a number of books on the history of the Zionist movement. In his biography of Chaim Weizmann, *The Making of a Statesman*, Yehuda Reinharz brought home to me, as I see them, the core issues of the dilemma we now find ourselves in as we attempt to define our relationship with Israel, and as Israelis define their relationship with us.

Reinharz describes in detail how, in the World War I period, Weizmann and his fellow European Zionists struggled with American Zionists such as Louis Brandeis and Felix Frankfurter in advancing the Zionist ideal. What emerges is the different direction that North American Zionism was to take compared to that of Europe. Reinharz paints a picture of Zionists in North America in 1918: passionate about the creation of a Jewish home in Palestine but nevertheless intent on rebuilding their lives after the war. They were competing with a post war recession and the continuing struggle of many Jews to succeed in North America.

The North American Jewish emphasis on fund-raising does not diminish the central role that they were to play in developing and supporting the Yishuv, and eventually, the nascent State of Israel. However, for the majority of North American Jews, their role was at odds with the ideology of Zionism as expressed by Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion. Ben-Gurion, a pragmatist, was totally aware, through his fund-raising work in North America, what North American Jewry could do for the Yishuv. But this did not stop him from repeatedly speaking of the need for massive western aliyah to help build the Jewish homeland. He fervently believed that the major role of Zionism was to bring about the end of the Diaspora experience and create in Israel a "normal" society.

With the creation of the State of Israel, the Zionist movement had fulfilled its task. The job now was to support the country, provide for impoverished immigrants and ensure that Israel would not become politically isolated. If the goal of Zionism was fulfilled and being a "lover of Zion" was to remain an important part of life in North America, then the efforts of the combined appeal under the federation banner fit perfectly into a notion of what has become known as "civic Judaism." Jews could share vicariously in the building of the state; they could campaign for other communities to move to Israel – particularly Soviet Jewry – without having to move themselves.

If Ben-Gurion had set aliyah as the highest ideal of Zionism, then western Jewry didn't respond as he would have hoped. Instead, most chose to build their lives in the Diaspora. Aliyah remained the highest of ideals for only a relative minority of Jews, most of whom were the more religiously committed. Or, as we are seeing at the moment with the crisis in Argentina, for troubled communities seeking refuge.

It is within this context that I believe young people struggle with the notion of an identity with Israel. The vast majority of Jews in North America have grown up, I believe, as "lovers of Zion" – not as Zionists. They are passive participants in the growth and development of Israel, but not active stakeholders. Therefore, it is the very notion of what we mean by the Zionist movement, or rather, the Israel-Diaspora relationship, that has to be redefined.

The assimilationist trend that had been part of North American life since the end of World War II, if not before, was to be highlighted in a dramatic manner in the 1990 population study conducted by the Council of Jewish Federations (today known as United Jewish Communities). The study created great controversy and consternation with its dramatic findings, most particularly, the figure for the intermarriage rate: over 50 per cent.

The concern resonated equally in different parts of Canada. The need to do something dramatic in response was important. The creation of Birthright Israel was one such response. This 10-day, free trip, given the name "birthright" by its cofounders Charles Bronfman and Michael Steinhardt, has magically engaged many thousands of young people in a relationship with their own Jewishness and with Israel. However, if this is to be a meaningful experience beyond a temporary "love-in" with Israel, then a greater investment is needed in programs and initiatives upon their return to North America.

Canadian "birthrighters" arriving in Israel earlier this year.

We live in an age of individualism: many young Jewish people look to do their own thing, to create their own sense of community. Many are drawn to social action programs and initiatives and have a grave concern for the future of this planet. In our educational construct, we have to be aware of this and tailor our initiatives accordingly. We have to excite them as McGill University professor Gil Troy and others have with the profound message that is Zionism, however we define it.

We also have to be aware that Birthright Israel is an experience, not a movement. We have to speak to all segments of our young adult population – those who have been fortunate to visit Israel once or many times, those who have participated in Birthright, and those who have yet to go on that program or others.

The way we define Zionism in 2002, and the challenges that we create, must speak to where young Jewish adults are in their lives. In their desire to build a Jewish society that was self-sufficient and related to the land, the early Zionists – the *chalutzim* – were no different in many ways from many of today's young adults who are seeking innovative ways of expressing themselves Jewishly.

Today, many volunteer opportunities combine Israeli and Third World experiences (such as Habitat for Humanity) and build relationships across ethnic and cultural divides. It used to be a popular choice for graduating students to spend a year in Israel working in development towns. They would work with the disadvantaged, the disabled, the disenfranchised on such programs as Otzma and Kafiada. We need to re-engage youth with these kinds of opportunities in a major way or, if necessary, create new and more relevant ones.

In North America, many initiatives exist to attract young Jews to social- action projects. Why not combine them with a serious Israel component? Jewish Campus Services works closely with Ve'ahavta and American Jewish World Service in developing such opportunities.

We are at a critical point in the Israel-Diaspora relationship; the community cannot take for granted the allegiance and commitment of young people. Israel and the Diaspora communities have to work much harder to redefine and, if necessary, create a Zionism that speaks to our young people in a language they understand. This is no less true in Israel, where many Israeli young adults see no relevance to the Diaspora and see themselves as Israelis, not as Jews.

We cannot change how Zionism developed in North America or how Israel related to the Diaspora following the creation of the state. But we have to find ways of working together to redefine or create a Zionism that is a proud, living organism – one that is of mutual benefit to all of us who seek a meaningful relationship between Israel and the Diaspora, particularly for our young people.

Zac Kaye is the executive director of Jewish Campus Services in Toronto.

The ultimate catchword

In his recent state of the union address, U.S. President George W. Bush specifically named Iraq, Iran and North Korea and condemned them as "rogue states." It was no surprise that Iraq responded by dismissing the accusation as a product of "American Zionist" inspiration.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

In the Middle East, and occasionally in some other parts of the world, the term "Zionist" has taken on a special meaning. It no longer refers merely to a particular policy, but has become a catchword for "Jewish." The avoidance of the term "Jewish" is clear: the user hopes to sidestep the accusation of anti-Semitism by speaking of "Zionists" instead of Jews in general.

But it turns out that it has not really helped. There once was a distinction between opposition to Zionist policy on the one hand and one's attitude toward Jews in general. The anti-Semites have managed to wipe this out. They can now – so they imagine – flail away at "Zionists" when in fact their attack is directed against Jews in general. By this play with words, they hope to escape the accusation of anti-Semitism, but their practice has become so translucent that no one is fooled any more.

Anyone who takes the trouble to read anti-Semitic literature knows that anti-Semitism is back to where it was in its heyday some 100 years ago. Jews are depicted as inherently unreliable, potentially criminal, and in general, an undesirable element in the human family. There was a time, of course, when one could say this and get away with it, but the popularity of anti-Semitism has waned and has been relegated to the backrooms of political whispering.

People who formerly had no hesitation to call themselves anti-Semitic now avoid that terminology and hide behind "anti-Zionism." In doing so, they have changed their coat but not their character, and it is well to know with whom we are dealing when we read the double-edged vocabulary.

In fact, in some parts of the world, the old anti-Semitism has now become outright anti-Judaism. Thereby it can often be identified with the traditional anti-Semitism that was brought to its dismal flowering in the days of Hitler.

The game of using certain catchwords as a cover for one's real intent is not new, and "anti-Zionism" has, for some decades already, meant "anti-Semitism."

It is my hope that fewer and fewer people will be deceived by this double-talk and know whereof the writer speaks. The dismal policy of anti-Semitism raises its ugly head from time to time in various parts of the world. We need not be unduly afraid of it, but we have to expose it when we see it. Fortunately, there is enough support out there for decency and truth.

The soldiers' story

I'm ambivalent about the refusal of more than 200 Israeli reservists to serve in the West Bank and Gaza. While I oppose the decision by individual soldiers to refuse to serve or to obey orders, this soldiers' story is more complex. It inhabits that difficult, grey area of the existential dilemmas of a democracy forced into an occupying, policing role against civilian resistance and an ongoing threat of terrorism.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

To begin with, the 50 reservists who first wrote the letter are neither pacifists nor classic objectors. They all wish to continue to serve in their elite, combat units, but they draw the line at service in the territories, which they describe as defense of the settlements rather than the state. They argue that the army's practices in the territories perpetuate the occupation and violate the rights of civilians living in those areas.

As such, they are "selective objectors," and pose a different kind of legal and moral challenge than conscientious objectors who refuse to serve altogether.

In addition, these are reserve soldiers from the centre of the political and social map, who represent the best of Israel's citizens' army. Unlike compulsory recruits in active service, these men move back and forth between civilian lives and military duties. As the commander of Israel's southern command, Gen. Doron Almog, said recently, their motivation to serve is more mature and sober. If they speak out publicly, they reflect a deeper crisis that cannot be ignored.

This incident stands out in Israel's military history. Reserve soldiers have been a significant moral voice in the past, but usually through protest demonstrations once they've returned from the lines. The most famous of these was the public stance taken by reservists during the 1982 Lebanon War, but such voices were heard as early as 1973.

A second phenomenon has been "grey objection," in which reserve soldiers ask for local reassignment. Field commanders usually handle such cases quietly and locally, thereby disguising the numbers. Very few reservists have been public in their refusal to serve, even during the first intifadah 15 years ago.

The strain on military resources over the last 18 months has forced the IDF to assign more reserve units to the West Bank and Gaza. As a result, over the last few months alone, there have been more reservist objectors than over the last 10 years. Yoram Peri, a senior fellow at the United States Institute for Peace and a leading Israeli expert on the military and society, believes that if the conflict with the Palestinian Authority continues to escalate, this trend is likely to grow. If this happens, it will become a central factor in Israeli decision-making.

Not surprisingly, less than 20 per cent of the Israeli public considers refusing to serve to be an appropriate way to protest IDF policy. But the IDF's leadership understands the more subtle challenge posed by the reservists and is concerned about potential broader support for their position. They know that the reservists have hit the heart of the matter: Israel cannot continue to police the territories and contend with the intifadah without affecting the civilian population in those areas. The issue is not the legality of orders – which would generally stand the test of law – but the fundamental dissonance between a sophisticated fighting machine and civilian resistance.

In a recent forum on the military and society at the Israel Democracy Institute, several generals were surprisingly open about the need to engage in a dialogue with the reservists. At the very least, the IDF will have to be more sensitive to their accusations in its orders to soldiers on the ground. For their part, the reservists have, thus far, refused to speak to foreign journalists. They view this as a painful, yet necessary, debate, but they also see it as an internal Israeli matter.

The reservists' letter can be viewed facilely as evidence of Israel's weakening resolve. I see it differently. Israel's greatest challenge has been to reconcile its commitment to democracy with its commitment to security. At critical moments in its life, citizens have sounded warning bells against the inevitable tendency to overlook the responsibilities of morality and humanity, even when those are weighed against the overwhelming imperatives of security. This is Israel's strength. As difficult as the challenge may be, I rue the day when such voices will not be heard.

Sept. 11 and the Jews

In the immediate aftermath of Sept. 11, it seemed almost obscene for analysts to explore the impact the tragedy had on Jews and Jewish interests. This was an American, a universal, tragedy: citizens of all faiths, ethnic and racial groups, and dozens of nationalities perished in the event. Western civilization was the target.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

Nevertheless, many Jews certainly thought that after Sept. 11, Americans would at last understand how Israelis have felt. And since both Israel and America were now united against terror, this would lead to greater American support for Israel. To an extent this has occurred, as seen from the American government's pressure on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and the PLO to curb terrorism.

But as the months have passed, reflection on the attack's impact on North American Jews seems in order. A series of recent articles in the Israeli newspaper *Ha'aretz* raised a number of these issues.

One impact has been the reintegration of New York – with its large Jewish population and its symbolic status as ultra-liberal, cosmopolitan "Jew York" City – back into the American heartland. This American tragedy took place largely – but not only – in this most Jewish of cities.

Indeed, the targeting of New York's financial district was, in lawyer Alan Dershowitz's view, an anti-Semitic strike by the terrorists at perceived Jewish power. However, the attack on New York occuring in conjunction with the attack on the Pentagon served to tie, in subliminal fashion, the destiny of American Jews to the fate of America.

True, the new mayor of New York is a Jewish billionaire, Michael Bloomberg. But Bloomberg has received previous mayor Rudy Giuliani's blessing. Since Sept. 11, inter-group tensions have been muted in the Big Apple.

In short, the attack on America was an attack on New York, and both were attacks on American Jews. Those attacks both increased and decreased the Jewish tie to the United States. On the one hand, a poll showed American Jews, by a three-to-one ratio, felt the attack strengthened their American identity rather than their Jewish identity.

But for every security, there is a Jewish insecurity. The attacks also made North American Jews feel vulnerable. Even as media attention focused on a besieged and frightened Arab/Muslim community, and possible backlash – most of which did not materialize – Jews felt uneasy. This latest unease had started with the collapse of the Oslo peace process and the renewed violence of the intifadah.

The concern in some media and intellectual circles with the so-called "root causes" of Sept. 11 would, as many Jews knew all too well, lead to the Middle East conflict. How long before pundits and adversaries would begin to make the connection between American foreign policy, Israeli "intransigence" or the "occupation" and hostility towards America in so much of the world?

The North American campus scene was already replete with highly mobilized pro-Palestinian groups demonizing Israel. Many Jewish students still want to keep a low profile. Some feel that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is not blameless for the current impasse, even as they recognize the responsibility of both Arafat and the more extreme terrorist groups.

Moreover, North American Jews know that if the terrorists attack again, they may not be spared. Already reports have emerged that one cell was targeting Outremont in Montreal because of its large and visible Chassidic population.

So far, the war in Afghanistan has gone well. But if the conflict should widen for any reason, Jews would feel ever more insecure. Canadian Jews will be in an even more dicey position if America takes military measures and Canada, for whatever reason, decides not to co-operate as it has so far.

It has become conventional wisdom to say that the world has not been the same since Sept 11. That is certainly true for the world of North American Jews. Jews stand shoulder to shoulder with Americans and their allies engaged in the fight against terror. But they look over their shoulder as well.

The Kirshner File

U.S. moves closer to war with Iraqi regime

What's next?

Now that the war in Afghanistan has wound down, save for mopping up operations, the United States has begun to shift its attention to other countries that support, harbour or sponsor terrorists. With the Taliban government and the Al Qaeda terrorist network in Afghanistan having been, respectively, obliterated and incapacitated, Washington is considering its options.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

"Afghanistan is just the beginning of the war against terrorism," President George W. Bush said recently. "We will not be secure as a nation until all these threats are defeated."

In a curtain-raiser of what we may expect, the United States has dispatched some 700 troops to the Philippines – a predominantly Catholic country – to assist the Philippine army to eradicate the small Abu Sayyaf movement. Supposedly linked to Al Qaeda, Abu Sayyaf is dedicated to establishing an Islamic state in that east Asian nation.

In tandem with this operation, the United States is pressing Yemen, the ancestral home of Osma bin Laden, to crack down on suspected Al Qaeda cells. A country riven by tribal cleavages and still recovering from the 1994 civil war, Yemen is where the U.S.S. Cole battleship was attacked in 2000 by bin Laden operatives, killing 17 American sailors.

The Bush administration is also casting an eye at Somalia, a failed state on the Horn of Africa and the site of the infamous 1993 "Blackhawk Down" incident. Somalia is home to Al Itihadd al-Islamiya, a Muslim fundamentalist group with ties to Al Qaeda, which, the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has warned, is trying to reconstitute itself.

But the Philippines, Yemen and Somalia are mere sideshows compared to Iraq, a terrorist state according to the U.S. State Department.

Convinced that Saddam Hussein's Iraq remains the paramount enemy, now and in the future, the Bush administration has begun singling out Baghdad as the next real target in the ongoing war against international terrorism.

Call it unfinished business.

Defeated in the 1991 Gulf War – the "mother of all battles," as Saddam himself put it– and subjected to United Nations economic sanctions, Iraq is a bone in the throat of the United States.

Although United Nations weapons inspectors obliterated much of Iraq's armoury – even more than the allied aerial bombing campaign did – the task was never really completed.

Fed up by Iraq's prevarications and devious stalling tactics, the inspectors pulled out in December 1998, setting the stage for a four-day American and British bombing blitz of Iraq.

Since then, however, Iraq has been free to rehabilitate its armed forces, upgrade its covert chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs and develop its long-range missile capability. By doing so, Iraq brazenly flouts United Nations resolutions.

These fearsome weapons of mass destruction, the bane of Iraq's neighbours, including Israel, are currently at the centre of a fierce debate in Washington about Iraq.

The discussion centres on whether the United States should defer to misgivings by allied countries and refrain from attacking Iraq. Britain and Canada – Washington's staunchest allies – as well as Germany, France, Russia and China all prefer a political strategy to deal with Iraq.

The Arab League and Arab states, from Egypt to Saudi Arabia, also favour that approach, as do United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan and NATO's secretary-general, Lord Robertson.

They argue there is no compelling evidence linking Iraq to the Sept. 11 destruction of the World Trade Center in Manhattan, the defining event that touched off the war in Afghanistan. Indeed, no such "smoking gun" exists. Israeli military intelligence has found no connection between Iraq and the 19 Arab hijackers who slammed two commercial airliners into the World Trade Center.

The CIA agrees. On Feb. 5, it acknowledged that Iraq has not engaged in terrorist operations against the United States in almost a decade, since Iraq's abortive attempt to assassinate former president George Bush, George W.'s father, in Kuwait in 1993.

The CIA, too, scoffs at the notion that a meeting in Prague between an Iraqi intelligence officer and Mohamed Atta, a suspected leader of the hijacking teams, links Iraq to Sept. 11.

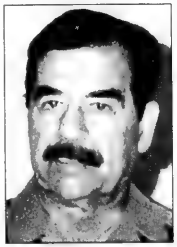
The CIA's greatest concern is that Iraq has been able to develop its chemical, biological and nuclear programs in an unfettered fashion since the departure of United Nations inspectors nearly four years ago.

Having concluded that Iraq had no verifiable role in last September's atrocities, the United States is focusing on Iraq's cache of weapons of mass destruction as a rationale for unseating Saddam. As Bush's national security advisor, Condoleezza Rice, put it last November: "We didn't need Sept. 11 to tell us that (Iraq) is a threat to our interests." Bush's spokesperson, Ari Fleischer, has been just as emphatic: "Saddam Hussein presented problems for the United States prior to Sept. 11."

Taking his cue from their comments, John Bolton, U.S. undersecretary of state for arms control, told a recent UN conference that since 1998, Iraq has improved "all phases of its offensive biological weapons program."

Bush, on Nov. 25, took the campaign to a new level when he warned Saddam that he will face serious consequences unless he allows UN inspectors to resume their work. Iraq is not likely to accede to his demand.

On Jan. 29, Bush returned to the same theme when he charged that Iraq, along with Iran and North Korea, constitute an "axis of evil" by dint of their efforts to build weapons of mass destruction. "I will not wait on events, while dangers gather," he declared, in the clearest indication yet that the United States is preparing the ground for a massive military campaign in Iraq.



Saddam Hussein

Secretary of State Colin Powell, normally a voice of caution regarding Iraq, turned up the pressure on Feb. 7 when he reiterated that the United States is contemplating a "regime change" in Baghdad.

Last December, Powell said the objective of U.S. policy is to overthrow Saddam, who became president through a 1979 coup d'etat.

Powell's comments notwithstanding, the leading advocate in the American government for ousting Saddam is Paul Wolfowitz, the deputy secretary of defence.

Four months before Sept. 11, he declared: "There will be no peace in the region and no safety for our friends there… as long as he remains in power."

Among Wolfowitz's allies in the Bush administration are Donald Rumsfeld, the secretary of defence, and Vice-President Dick Cheney, who will try to line up Arab support for an offensive against Iraq when he visits the Middle East next month.

In addition, Wolfowitz can count on the backing of Henry Kissinger, the former secretary of state; Harold Brown and James Schlesinger, the secretaries of defence under Jimmy Carter; James Woolsey, the ex-director of the CIA; Richard Perle, a senior official in the Reagan administration, and David Jeremiah, the former deputy chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

More important, perhaps, U.S. congressional leaders are behind Wolfowitz's Iraqi doctrine. On Dec. 5, in a letter to Bush, they observed: "For as long as Saddam Hussein is in power in Baghdad, he will seek to acquire weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them."

Leon Fuerth, a national security advisor to former vice-president Al Gore, hammered home that point in an op-ed piece in *The New York Times*. "He (Saddam) is a permanent menace to his region and to the vital interests of the United States. He and his government must be ripped out of Iraq…"

According to various reports, Wolfowitz and his acolytes are formulating a strategy for a post-Saddam era in Iraq. Under the plan, the United States would occupy northern and southern Iraq in conjunction with the disaffected Kurds and Iraqi opposition forces led by the Iraqi National Congress. With these territorial bases in hand, the United States would put the squeeze on Saddam's power base in central Iraq.

As a survivor who has headed off at least a dozen U.S.-supported coup attempts in the past decade, Saddam would fight back ferociously, even launching chemically and biologically-tipped warheads at Israel.

Although he has a much larger army and air force than the Taliban ever possessed, he can nevertheless be overthrown if sufficient firepower and commitment are brought to bear.

Saddam's evil, repressive regime can be eradicated. Like the Taliban, he is ultimately a paper tiger.

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Jewish Life

Esther: going beyond the biblical text

By RABBI SHARON SOBEL

Rabbinic Reflections

When I was three, four and five years old, my mother dressed me as a hamantasch for Purim. She would cut two large triangles from corrugated cardboard, decorate them to look like the front and back sides of a hamantasch, thread string through them and put them over my head sandwich-board style. She would also make a triangular hamantasch hat and tie it around my neck with a string.

As Purim approached, I would begin to dread that hamantasch costume. I hated it. I thought I looked silly, it was uncomfortable and who wanted to be a hamantasch anyway? I longed to dress up as Queen Esther. For me, Esther epitomized the ideal heroine – beautiful, brave, courageous, a queen, and on top of all that, a saviour of her people. When I was six, my mother made a Queen Esther costume for me and I was ecstatic. I lovingly wore that same costume every year until I became too old to dress up as Queen Esther.

Each Purim, many girls love to dress up as Queen Esther, their Jewish heroine. Jewish girls don't have very many biblical role models. The few women we see in the Torah are mostly discussed in the context of their relationships with key male characters and their roles as sisters, wives and mothers. Moreover, most of their stories centre around their ability or inability to procreate. It seems their only important contribution is their offspring.

Because the Bible does not give us a complete picture of women and their roles, and since we rarely hear about them apart from their roles as sister, wife or mother, we tend to cling to women who appear to be strong, independent and have contributed something unique to the Jewish people. Esther, at first glance, seems to be such a woman, and she is one of only two women who have a book named after her.

Many have declared Esther a heroine and a positive role model for Jewish girls. Even the rabbis of old credit her with extraordinary characteristics and qualities. The Talmud (Megillah 15a) says God's holy spirit accompanied her when she went to see King Achashverosh to begin the process of saving her people. This midrash elevates Esther to the status of prophetess – someone endowed with *ruach hakodesh*, the holy spirit. And because God's spirit was with her, the rabbis say, all of her future actions were sanctioned from above.

There are many more Talmudic and midrashic tales that show the rabbis see Esther as powerful, strong and independent. They attribute great courage and authority to her and portray her not only as a saviour, but also as a halachic authority and a great political figure.

The rabbis look far beyond the actual text of the Book of Esther to create this powerful heroine, since it only shows her to be Mordechai's puppet, unable to make decisions unless prodded to do so. The Megillah's real hero is Mordechai.

The rabbis should be given a great deal of credit for writing midrashim that depict Esther in such a powerful manner. It is these early rabbis who tried to show that, perhaps, the Book of Esther's portrayal of Esther is androcentric, skewed and not totally appropriate as a Jewish feminist heroine. It is this rabbinic image of Esther that has been handed down to our children and has inspired those dissatisfied with the feminine role models in our Jewish tradition.

If we want our children to see Esther as an appropriate role model, we need to do as the rabbis of old: we need to go beyond the text itself to teach the midrashim the rabbis wrote about her, and we need to write our own as well. (We also need to listen to another silent, female voice in the text, the voice of Vashti. Vashti should get more credit for sticking up for herself.)

Yes, Esther saved the Jewish people, but the credit, at least according to the Megillah, really belongs to Mordechai. Maybe my mother knew what she was doing all those years ago when she insisted that I dress up as a hamantasch and not as Queen Esther.

Rabbi Sharon Sobel is executive director of the Canadian Council for Reform Judaism and ARZA Canada.

Commemorating the Struma, 60 years later

Guest Voice

By BARUCH COHEN

There is not a single page in our calendars that does not call to memory thousands of our brothers and sisters, tortured and killed.

We will keep commemorating our sisters and brothers as long as we live. If we did not remember them, we would become accomplices of those who would like to kill them a second time, or of those who write doctoral theses alleging that the Holocaust was imagined or that the *Struma* story is a lie.

In December 1941, 769 Jews, among whom were over 100 children, boarded an old 180-ton cattle boat called the *Struma* in the port of Constanta, Romania. Their destination: Eretz Yisrael. The boat was unsafe, terribly overcrowded and lacking sanitary facilities.

The passengers were Jewish citizens of Romania who did not want to be abused, humiliated, tormented, spat at, robbed and killed. They pinned their last hopes on the floating wreck that was the *Struma*, hoping to reach the Promised Land. That road, the sea road to Eretz Yisrael, would bring them to their national home, the new-old homeland for them and for Jews from all over the world.

After the Bucharest "Kristallnacht" on Jan. 21-23, 1941 came the massacre of over 10,000 Jews in the city of Iasi on June 29, 1941. In autumn 1941, mass deportations started of the entire Jewish population from northern Moldova, Bessarabia and Bukovina, into an area called Transnistria (Ukraine).

The Jews aboard the *Struma* planned to sail to Istanbul and then obtain immigration visas for Eretz Yisrael. The Turkish authorities, however, adamantly refused to grant permission to transfer the would-be immigrants to a transit camp on land until the resumption of their voyage. The High Commissioner of Palestine, Sir Harold MacMichael, opposed granting immigration visas to the boat's passengers. And so the *Struma*, forced to leave port, went down in the Black Sea on Feb. 24, 1942, drowning all, save one, of its passengers.

We owe it to ourselves to remember. But above all, we owe it to our children, and to our children's children.

Baruch Cohen is research chair at the Canadian Institute for Jewish Research in Montreal.

* * *

The Death Ship
By Ruth Whitman

The *Struma*.
It lay in the harbor at Istanbul
without food or coal.

Don't let it land,
said the Ambassador.

Jews are enemy aliens,
said the British.
Tow them out to the Black Sea,
send them to Crete, Mauritius,
to Rumania, Germany, Jamaica,
but don't let them come to Palestine.

That was December 1941.

Safe in my kibbutz at Sdot Yam
(meadows of the sea),
I looked
at the peacock-blue Mediterranean
and cried, let them come,
we have room.

No, said Lord Moyne,
if one ship comes
they'll all want to come.

Let the children come.

Children?
What will we do with children?

The hold was airless.
Sickness, filth,
layers of excrement, vomit.
The ship could not sail.
The ship could not stay.
No land would take them.

In February the ship exploded
outside the harbor at Istanbul.
Eight hundred lives flew up,
their rags, arms, legs, hopes,
falling like rain.

One was saved.
He was allowed to enter
Palestine.

Ruth Whitman teaches poetry at Radcliffe College and at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Death Ship *was published in* Blood to Remember: American Poets on the Holocaust *(Texas Tech University Press, 1991).*

Jewish Life

Mishloach manot – part 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Purim is almost here and that means it's time to prepare your mishloach manot, the traditional treats sent out to celebrate the happy holiday. Here are some ideas from the World Wide Web.

Yaffa Klugerman's A Tisket, A Tasket, Let's Make a Purim Basket is full of helpful hints, including themed gifts such as breakfast baskets, tea baskets, deli platters, a falafel theme and a colour theme: "Buy or prepare everything that is one colour. For example, buy grapes, purple candies, grape juice, and make hamantaschen with blueberry filling. Don't forget to add a note wishing everyone a 'grape Purim.'" She concludes with this piece of advice: "The two most important rules of mishloach manot packaging? Make sure it's easily packable and easily stackable. I found this out the hard way, when I stayed up till 3 a.m. one year taping cellophane paper on straw baskets. The next day, many of them fell apart after I placed them in a shopping bag to be delivered." **[http://www.jfl mail.com/old/Holidays/klugerman1.htm]**

Although most mishloach manot baskets are stuffed with store-bought, sugar-laden candies, there are some creative alternatives. Beit HaChatulim, a Jewish vegetarian homeschool in Sharon, Mass., fills its baskets with hamantaschen, marshmallow brownies, caramel popcorn, apple bread and something called dingbats (dates, pecans and Rice Crispies). You can find recipes for these goodies at their site **[http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1259/mishloach.htm]**.

The people at Virtual Jerusalem ask why send the same-old same-old when you can use your imagination. "One year I delivered a breakfast shalach mana: a cup of hot coffee, bagel, butter, hard boiled egg and orange juice. Another year, it was a head of lettuce, tomato, cucumber, avocado and small jar of homemade herbed salad dressing. Other memorable mishloach manot: one with an almond theme – chocolate with almonds, marzipan, roasted almonds, almond liqueur and almond brownies. Another with a fish theme – a small can of tuna, gummy fish, chocolate fish, etc." **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/purim/shalach.htm]**

But if you want to give in to your sweet tooth, try your hand at something different like Purim Poppyseed Candy **[http://www.jewish-food.org/recipes/purindex.htm]**, Persian Rice Cookies, Halvah with Walnuts, **[http://www.cyber-kitchen.com/rfcj/category.cgi?category=PURIM]** or a couple dozen variations of hamantaschen **[http://www.jewishfood.org/recipes/hamindex.htm]**.

Many people go way beyond the minimum when sending out mishloach manot. I like the Beit HaChatulim site, which not only has suggestions for what to put in your basket, but also gives tips about deciding who gets what: "A" list plates for special families, "B" list plates for others **[http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Hills/1259/purim.htm]**. You can find more tips and treats at JewishFamily **[http://www.jflmail.com/articles/843.html]**.

Or you can read how some small communities (including Israeli kibbutzim or local synagogues) are trying to cut down the excess and waste. They "host a lottery the week before Purim in which each family randomly selects another family to which they deliver their package on Purim. This not only saves money, but also avoids potentially (inadvertently) insulting someone." **[http://info.jpost.com/2000/Supplements/Purim/howtopurim.html]**

Although it's not uncommon for some families to send 30, 40 or 50 packages, Barbara Silverman has them all beat. Last year, the Jerusalem woman sent over 3,000 mishloach manot boxes to soldiers for Purim. Her efforts started in October 2000 after the start of the current intifadah. When she realized just how big her task really was, she solicited help from synagogues, schools and individuals in the United States and Canada. Barbara has tried to give a boost to Israeli soldiers before. She used to send packages with high protein foods such as peanut butter, hummus and sardines **[http://info.jpost.com/C001/Supplements/Purim/]**.

But army commanders told her that what the soldiers really wanted were chocolate and snacks. So now, soldiers opening Barbara's unique boxes discover the desired goodies – plus something not mentioned in the Gemarah – a small tube of toothpaste.

Have a very Happy Purim!

* * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Esther, our Jewish Queen

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

There is a beautiful midrash connected to a verse in the book of Psalms. Psalm 22 begins with the phrase: "For the leader, upon the doe of the dawn..." Interestingly enough, the rabbis understand this phrase as referring to Queen Esther.

"For the leader...," for our queen. I find it unusual that we refer to Esther as Queen Esther. Although Jewish history has provided us with a handful of Jewish kings, we seem somewhat short of Jewish queens. Technically, one can say that the kings' wives were in fact the queens of Israel. King Saul had at least one wife that we know of since he blames her for what he perceives as his son's betrayal. Yet we do not know her name and she is certainly not titled "queen." Likewise, David has several wives, and Solomon has far too many wives – but still no one bears the title queen.

Our tradition gives us one queen and that is Esther. Ironically, she gains her title through being the queen of a foreign empire. She is not married to a Jewish king but has married Achashverosh and reigns over exile. So why do we still call her "Queen Esther?"

Perhaps Esther embodies attributes that make her worthy of being our leader, our queen. These are not the same virtues that lead her to foreign rule, since those are simply physical virtues. Achashverosh marries Esther because she has won a "beauty contest," the term for selection of a queen in that foreign place. But we learned from the selection of David as king that "people look to the eyes but I (God) look to the heart" (I Sam. 16:7). Something lies deeply hidden within Esther's heart.

"For the leader, upon the doe of the dawn..." The rabbis compare the events of Purim to the dawn, for they believe the hours just before dawn are the darkest hours of the night. The moon is declining and the stars are fading, but the light of the sun has not yet begun to appear. And yet, even in those darkest hours, we know instinctively that the dawn will come again. It is our trust in what we hold to be an unquestioned truth that sees us through those hours. So is the Jewish belief in God.

Esther does not appeal to God for salvation in any overt fashion. In fact, God is not mentioned in the Megillah at all. But one does not pray for the dawn to come and one does not pray for the sun to rise: these are unquestioned truths in our reality. Likewise, Esther comes to believe in her deepest heart that she and her people will be saved. This is not the truth she has hidden, it is the truth she discovers.

So why is she our Jewish queen? According to the rabbis, she is like the doe. The midrash states that when the doe is thirsty, she does not stand with her head held high and scream out for water. On the contrary, the rabbis state: she digs a hole and fixes her horns within the hole. In her distress, the doe cries softly to God and God answers by sending waters from deep within the earth. It is a private moment between the created and the Creator.

Our relationships with God are unique to each of us and lie in the most private corners of our hearts. The doe engages in the dilemma and tries to solve it and only then does she whisper her yearnings to God. Those yearnings are not for anyone to hear but One Listener.

"For the leader, upon the doe of the dawn..." – for Queen Esther.

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Greater Toronto Area

Author Gilbert finds history in the details

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Even in history's darkest hours, Martin Gilbert manages to see the finer side of human nature.

Gilbert, a noted Oxford University professor, has over 60 published works, a dozen historical atlases and a knighthood to his credit. He is the official biographer of Winston Churchill – with six volumes to date – and co-wrote the 1981 Academy Award-winning documentary, *Genocide*.

His most recent book, *The Jews in the Twentieth Century: An Illustrated History*, combines photos with a narrative of ordinary and famous Jews from around the world.

In Toronto to promote the book, Gilbert said in an interview that the job of a true historian is to establish the bedrock of unchallenged fact.

"I'm a great believer that there is such a thing as true history. I don't think there are two versions of the same event – something happened or it didn't and it happened in a certain way or it didn't," he said.

For example, Gilbert said, when Benny Morris wrote his book about Palestinian refugees, *The Birth of the Palestinian Refugee Problem, 1947-1949*, he went from village to valley to town and described the whole range of how Israelis treated Arabs in the early stages of the War of Independence.

Morris reported on those places where Arabs were expelled from their homes, as well as about those towns where they were welcomed to stay.

"Morris was a first-class researcher," Gilbert said. "However, he was followed by people who focused only on the bad side of his records. They produced one-sided books which are not history."

For historians, Gilbert said, what really happened can only be determined through details – even when the truth is sometimes difficult to come to terms with.

"Stereotypes are very convenient," Gilbert noted, adding that he plans to look at the history of Jewish councils in the Holocaust.

"Jewish councils are generally portrayed as the bad side of Jewish behaviour," Gilbert said. Yet, "there were hundreds of Jewish councils playing major parts trying to preserve the ghetto, who behaved decently and were murdered themselves."

In 1986, when Gilbert first began writing about the Holocaust, he was the only historian who used survivors' testimonies as part of his research.

"My book, *The Holocaust: A Jewish Tragedy*, was heavily criticized at that time by distinguished historians who hadn't yet understood that survivors' testimonies were an integral part of the story."

In addition to German documents and archival records, Gilbert added the recollections and stories of those who had witnessed and survived the incidents about which he was writing.

It didn't make sense, he said, that the Nuremberg trials relied on eyewitnesses to determine whether those charged with genocide would hang and that historians couldn't trust the evidence of similar survivors.

"There were so few survivors that every fragment of memory was precious," Gilbert said.

Born to British parents, Gilbert was evacuated to Toronto in 1940. He was three years old and spent three years on Palmerston Avenue with a foster family.

"I was part of a British scheme to evacuate a million children to Canada and the United States," Gilbert said. The plan was abandoned when the Germans started sinking the ships with the children aboard.

"I was lucky," Gilbert said, noting that he returned to England just before D-Day.

When he arrived in London, he accepted that his father was his father. "However, I had no memory of my mother" and questioned her identity. "She had a child while I was away," he added.

Over the years, things straightened out and "the family was reconstituted," he said.

Knowing how close Britain came to being invaded, Gilbert said he gets shivers when he studies war records and finds people who shared his own birth date among the lists of those deported by the Germans.

Martin Gilbert

His upcoming book, *The Righteous Gentiles*, will focus on more positive Holocaust stories. The book will include stories about a Chinese man who saved Jewish families in the Soviet city of Harkov, as well as those of Muslims in Bosnia who not only saved Jews, but also insisted that they be recognized as Righteous Among the Nations at Yad Vashem in Israel.

When discussing his memories of great leaders, Gilbert recalled that both Churchill and the late Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin taught him to look at current events with optimism.

"When things were looking really bad during the war," Gilbert said, "Churchill found the way to look beyond a possible invasion and imminent defeat to convey that there was hope and light at the end of the tunnel. Even when he himself couldn't see what the way forward was."

Similarly, in 1975, Gilbert recalls showing Rabin a map he had drawn of all the countries that had voted that Zionism equals racism at the United Nations. Rabin told him to redraw the map highlighting all the countries that did not vote in favour of that resolution.

"I did it and it turned out to be a map of all the democratic countries – Canada, the United States, Britain, France, Sweden, Belgium, Holland…

"It taught me that you have to cry out when things are wrong, but you must never forget how right and positive things can be."

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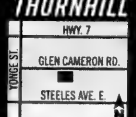

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Family Torah donated to congregation

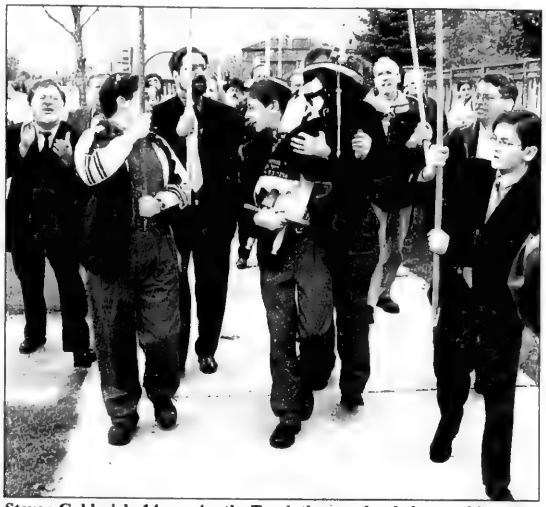
By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Steven Goldreich, a graduate of Associated Hebrew Schools and a Grade 9 student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, Richmond Hill, says reading from any Torah is an honour.

But, he said in a recent interview, reading from the Torah that once belonged to his great-grandfather, as he did this past Chanukah, is in a different category.

It was Steven's June 2000 bar mitzvah that inspired his father Alan, a 43-year-old accountant, to locate the Torah, which his maternal grandfather, Rabbi Simcha Bunem Bronstein, had purchased in New York. When he died, it was loaned to Ner Israel Yeshiva, in accordance with his wishes.

Originally Alan had hoped that Steven – his grandfather's namesake – could read from the Torah for his bar mitzvah, but he discovered on visiting Ner Israel that the Torah was not in use because it was *pasul* (not kosher) and there was not enough time to repair it before the bar mitzvah.



Steven Goldreich, 14, carries the Torah that used to belong to his great-grandfather in a festive Hachnasat Torah procession. At back left, holding a chupah pole, is Steven's father Alan. His brother Mark, 11, front right, also holds a pole. At far left is Rabbi Charles Grysman.

After consulting with family members and Ner Israel representatives, Alan took it on himself to have the Torah repaired, and he arranged to donate it on behalf of his family to Zichron Yisroel, the congregation at Associated's Kamin branch, where he now serves as gabbai.

"I wanted it to be used," said Alan. As of this month, the Torah, which is believed to be about 75 to 100 years old, is in regular use, he reports. A Torah generally has a lifetime of 150 to 200 years, before it becomes too brittle to repair, he said.

The Torah was donated in a festive Hachnasat Torah procession on Oct. 21, just days before Rabbi Bronstein's 25th yahrzeit. Steven and his brother Mark, 11, were among the pole-bearers for the chupah under which the Torah was carried.

In his address at the dedication ceremony, Alan remembered his Polish-born grandfather – who emigrated to Argentina as a teenager before coming to Canada in the late 1930s – as an accomplished and learned man. In addition to having smichah, he was a sofer, a shochet and a mohel.

When Alan had difficulty with some of his homework at Associated, he recalled, his mother would phone his grandfather, who would explain the relevant verse of Torah in Yiddish, and she would in turn explain it to Alan in English.

He also noted that his grandfather used to daven in small shuls, whose "haymishe" atmosphere can be found at Zichron Yisroel under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Charles Grysman.

The Torah restoration process, which was carried out by Rabbi Asher Abitbol, a local sofer, involved many hours of painstaking work such as repair of individual letters using a quill and special inks, said Alan.

Alan also had the Torah mantle embroidered with the names of both his maternal grandparents, and his late mother, Esther, in whose memory the Torah was also donated.

"This is a legacy," he said.

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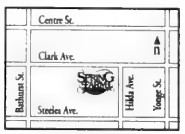

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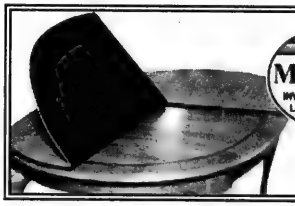

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Friedland writes history of University of Toronto

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

As retirement projects go, this one was quite unusual.

In 1997, when University of Toronto law professor Martin Friedland was on the verge of retiring, he received a phone call from Ron Schoeffel, editor-in-chief at the University of Toronto Press.

He asked Friedland, a published writer, to submit a proposal for a history about the university, known originally as King's College.

Academia

The book would be published in 2002, the 175th anniversary of the University of Toronto.

A 1955 graduate of U of T, Friedland was initially uncertain whether he should commit to such an immense undertaking.

"In the 1970s, material had been collected for a history, but the project was abandoned."

In fact, he said in an interview, the book turned out to be the ideal retirement project. "It was fabulous. I loved doing it. The history of the University of Toronto is the history of Toronto, of Ontario and of Canada. It is also an exploration of ideas."

Looking back, Friedland believes he was chosen to write *The University of Toronto: A History*, due to be released on March 15, for several reasons.

"I know the university well, and like it," said Friedland, who joined the teaching staff in 1965, who was the first Jewish dean of the faculty of law (1972-79), and who served on a plethora of committees.

In addition, the selection committee knew he could meet deadlines. As he put it: "I tend to get things done on time."

Committee members were also familiar with at least some of the 16 books he had written since 1965, from *Detention Before Law*, an analysis of Canada's bail system, to his "true crimes" stories. (They run the gamut from *The Trials of Israel Lipski*, which won the 1984 Crime Writers of Canada Award for Non-fiction, to *The Death of Old Man Rice*.)

In researching *The University of Toronto*, Friedland, 69, drew on archival records, private diaries, oral interviews, secondary literature and, of course, his own experiences.

"I enjoyed every aspect of it," he said. "I was never bored. It's such a rich subject area, encompassing the entire field of human knowledge."

The book traces the development of the university into a first-rate institution, the changing religious and ethnic composition of its student body, the university's treatment of Jewish students and scholars, the physical growth of the campus, the era of student activism and the changes in Canada's intellectual and cultural climate.

Having finished the monumental task of writing *The University of Toronto*, Friedland – a professor emeritus and a former University Professor, a title conferred on few – will probably immerse himself in two separate projects.

He is contemplating a sequel to *Access to Law*, published in 1975, and is thinking of finishing a true crimes story about the first terrorist act in India perpetrated in the name of politics.

An Officer of the Order of Canada, an honour bestowed on him 12 years ago, Friedland chose a career in law because he thought it would further his ambition of becoming a Canadian diplomat.

He articled for Charles Dubin, a future chief justice of the Ontario Supreme Court, and was called to the bar in 1960, two years after graduating as top student in his class. He completed a PhD at Cambridge in 1967.

Friedland never did reach the department of foreign affairs. "I had decided to teach, and one year led to another year," he said.

He took great pleasure from teaching, and his courses ranged from criminal law and criminal procedure to crime and literature and securities regulations.

Friedland was a member of the Law Reform Commission of Canada and chaired the Ontario Task Force on Inflation Protection for Employment Pension Plans.

And he was closely involved with the Solicitor-General's Task Force on Gun Control (for which he learned how to shoot), the Joint Committee on Legal Aid, the Ouimet Committee on Corrections and the Royal Commission on the RCMP.

Although U of T did not welcome religious minorities throughout much of its early history, Friedland never experienced anti-Semitism on campus.

"Maybe my experience wasn't typical," he said. "Certainly, there was no discrimination at the law school."

Friedland, however, acknowledged that some Toronto law firms did not hire Jewish lawyers, even as late as the 1950s.

Asked to comment on a 1999 Canadian Bar Association report that the law profession is rife with racism, he said that law schools in particular, and the legal profession in general, are trying to overcome the vestiges of discrimination.

But to this day, he conceded, the poor and the uneducated, as well as various minority groups, have difficulties coping with the criminal justice system.

As for women, they have made huge strides, Friedland said.

Martin Friedland

"When I was in law school, there was only one woman in our class. Today, over 50 percent of the students are women. They're making their way up the ladder."

Friedland – a graduate of Forest Hill Collegiate – and his older brother, Sheldon, a chartered accountant, grew up in what was then north Toronto.

Friedland's father, whose family came from Minsk, was in the needle trade and then in real estate. His mother Mina's family hails from Odessa.

Judy, his wife, was chair of U of T's occupational therapy department.

The Friedlands have three children: Tom, a lawyer, and co-chair of Holy Blossom Temple's Out of the Cold program; Jenny, a teacher-turned-lawyer, and Nancy, an artist married to a lawyer. It's clear that law runs in the Friedland clan.

EVENT CANCELLATION

The lecture by Prof Hanch Dagan, editor-in-chief, *Tel Aviv University Law Review*, planned for Feb. 27, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation, has been cancelled due to illness. The event was to be co-sponsored by Beth Tzedec and Canadian Friends of Tel Aviv University. For information call 416-787-9930.

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Greater Toronto Area

Holocaust seen as part of German history

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The majority of Germans believe the Holocaust is an integral part of German history and should be taught in all schools, says a German specialist in Holocaust education.

Thanks to this consensus, the teaching of the Holocaust is mandatory in Grades 9 and 10, for 20 periods a year, throughout Germany, Heike Deckert-Peaceman said in an interview last week.

Deckert-Peaceman, here to attend a York University conference on The Future of Memory, is on the staff of the Fritz Bauer Institut in Frankfurt am Main.

Its role is to sharpen awareness of the Nazi period, which lasted from 1933 to 1945.

There are few countries in the world today where Holocaust education is as important as in Germany, she said.

In addition to learning about the Holocaust in classrooms, students visit Holocaust memorials and former concentration camps and meet with Holocaust survivors to further their understanding.

"And the Holocaust is a centre point of democracy education in Germany today," she added.

But Deckert-Peaceman added this caveat: "Just because you have Holocaust education doesn't mean you'll be more tolerant. It's not like a vaccination against racism and anti-Semitism."

In German schools, courses on the Holocaust are mandatory from only the ninth grade onward because students are not exposed to formal history lessons until Grade 7.

By the time they reach the ninth grade, they are ready to begin studying the Holocaust.

Deckert-Peaceman, whose PhD thesis was on Holocaust education in German elementary schools, thinks that students should begin studying history before Grade 7, though not on a mandatory basis.

Pre-Grade 7 teachers, she noted, do not necessarily possess a knowledge of the Holocaust, nor are they emotionally prepared to teach it.

Although the Holocaust is not on the curriculum prior to Grade 7, students can acquaint themselves with it through courses in religion and ethics and through the medium of children's literature, said Deckert-Peaceman, a 38-year-old former elementary school teacher.

Some elderly teachers in eastern Germany, she said, still teach the Holocaust in the context of Communist resistance to Nazism. They are products of the former Communist regime in East Germany, which disappeared after Germany's reunification in the early 1990s.

These teachers, she pointed out, tend not to mention the Holocaust's Jewish victims, and continue to use old, out-of-date texts.

"This won't be a problem in eastern Germany in five or 10 years, after newly-trained teachers reach the classroom," Deckert-Peaceman said.

At the Fritz Bauer Institut, she develops curriculum and concepts for exhibitions and trains teachers as well.

The institute is named in honour of a German Jew who fled Germany in 1936 and returned in 1949. Bauer, who died in 1968, was the chief prosecutor in the state of Hesse and was a leader in the reform of Germany's criminal law and penal systems.

Deckert-Peaceman, born in Mainz, was raised in a politically liberal home where right-wing national ideas were scorned.

"I grew up in an open, tolerant atmosphere."

Her father's parents, however, were supporters of the Nazi regime. His grandparents were anti-Nazis.

Her mother's side of the family was also staunchly anti-Nazi.

Deckert-Peaceman's introduction to the Holocaust was *The Diary of Anne Frank*, which she read in Grade 6.

She said she was fortunate enough to have had teachers who shared her parents' outlook.

"They were part of the generation that broke the silence in Germany about the Holocaust."

When she was in Grade 10, she saw the U.S. television series, *Holocaust*, which had a tremendous impact on her.

Deckert-Peaceman's husband, Matthew, is a Jewish classical musician from New York City who has lived in Germany for more than two decades.

They have two children and they are being brought up as Jews. She converted to Judaism about three years ago.

Last year, her husband organized a Jewish music week in Mainz, a city near Frankfurt with a rich Jewish past.

She estimates that some 500 Jews, more than 90 percent of whom are immigrants from theformer Soviet Union, live in Mainz today.

PRESERVING THE WORLD:

USDS Bathurst campus students recently celebrated Tu b'Shvat in the true spirit of the holiday. Keeping with their theme "Preserving the World," students showed concern for their environment by bringing litterless lunches and being conscientious of recycling, reducing and re-using. Students prepared and presented their art work puzzle, crative songs and poems encouraging the conservation of energy and respect for their environment. Seen (from left) Jessie Moss, Kellie Grammer, Aaron Oelbaum, Taylor Newton and Taylor Blayways.

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, Feb. 18 is deadline for Feb. 28 issue and Monday, Feb 25 is deadline for March 7. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

This week's column was prepared by Rebecca Nadler.

Thursday, Feb. 21

SIX WAYS TO ASK GOD

Toronto Jewish Healing Project series Six Rabbis: Six Ways to Ask God continues with Dealing With Disappointment: When Prayers Aren't Answered with **Rabbi Philip Scheim**, 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst St. Call **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**, 416-944-3359.

Saturday, Feb. 23

CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

Torath Emeth Congregation is celebrating the 100th birthday of congregant **Leon Taffet** with a kiddush luncheon following Shabbat morning services.

IN SEARCH OF PEACE

Temple Kol Ami presents the film *In Search of Peace: Part One 1948-1967*, chronicling the first two decades of Israel's existence. 7:30 p.m. at 36 Atkinson Ave. For tickets and information call 905-731-4316.

CELLO CONCERT

To celebrate Jewish Music Month, Adath Israel Congregation presents The Cantorial Voice of the Cello performed by **Coenraad Bloemendal**., one of Canada's most renowned cellists. 8 p.m. Admission free, refreshments served. For information call 416-635-5340.

FILM AND DISCUSSION

First Narayever Congregation presents Jews and Judaism in the Jesus Film Genre, discussion and film clips with **Dr. Adele Reinhartz**. She will explore the Christian gospels and relate them to film clips of Jews portrayed in films about Jesus. 7:15 p.m. at 187 Brunswick Ave. Admission free. For information, call **Peter** at 416-927-1796.

FILM AT YORK UNIVERSITY

Nikila Cole will show her film *Wandering: A Journey To Connect*, followed by a discussion with the filmmaker and her daughter. 7:30 p.m. at York University, Vari Hall 'A'. Reception following at Atkinson College, room 109. For information, call 416-736-5727.

THE WIZARD OF OZ

Associated Hebrew Schools middle school Grade 8 production of *The Wizard of Oz*, 8:30 p.m. Kamin Education Centre, 300 Atkinson Ave., Thornhill. For information & tickets, call 416-494-7280. Tickets also sold at the door. Second show Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m.

NEILA CARLEBACH

Shaarei Shomayim Singles Committee invites singles to an evening with Neila Carlebach. Gourmet dessert and coffee to be served. 8:30 p.m. $18. For information call 416-789-3213, ext. 210.

USY SKATING PROGRAM

Join USY for a district skating program at Bayview Arena, Bayview & Finch, from 9-11 p.m. $5, refreshments served. Call 905-738-1717 for information.

Sunday, Feb 24

PURIM PARTIES GALORE...

Jewish Family Institute's Purim Family Fun Skate. 11-1 p.m. at Ledbury Park. Prizes for anyone in costume. Refreshments provided.

Purim event at **The Jewish Discovery Museum**. Play games, dress up in costumes and have lots of fun. 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. $2.50 per person, museum members free. For information, call 636-1880 ext. 456.

The **Miles S. Nadal JCC** presents the world premiere of the Purimspiel *Esther Potter Meets The Lord of The Hamantaschen*. Live music with Klapman's Klezmer Trio plus games, prizes and fun. 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. $2 at the door.

Continued on page 21

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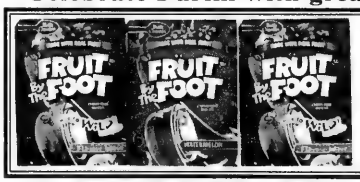

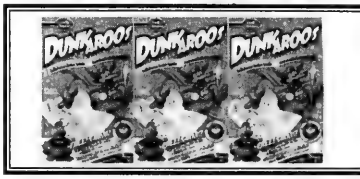

Prices effective from February 14th until February 26th, 2002 at:
800 Steeles Ave. W. and 8190 Bayview Ave. *THORNHILL*; 2900 Steeles Ave. E. *MARKHAM*.

What's New

Continued from page 20

The **Bathurst Jewish Community Centre** Annual Purim Extravaganza. Fun for the whole family. Free admission. Games and activities $2 for 5 tickets. 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. For information call 416-636-1880.

Beit Rayim Synagogue and School's Annual Purim Carnival with carnival games, bingo, nail boutique and face painting. 12-2:30 p.m. 9711 Bayview Ave. Members $5, non-members $7.50. Adults free.

Beth Torah Synagogue invites families to their Purim Bash with arts and crafts, face painting, story telling, children's megillah reading, music, D.J., games and fun. 5 p.m. at 47 Glenbrook Ave.

Dr. W. Filderman Lodge for the Jewish Community of Romanian Speakers invites members and friends to a Purim Party. Dinner and music with **Iosif Abramovici** at the B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. 6:30 p.m. $15. Reserve at 416-631-0634.

SINGLES BRUNCH

Dynamics Singles of Adath Israel and Intersynagogue Singles presents **Arie Isakovan**, at their brunch for singles 35+. 11:30 a.m. 37 Shelbourne Ave. $10 if prepaid by noon Feb. 22, or $15 at the door. Call 416-635-5340 to reserve.

READING & BOOK SIGNING

Author **Ted Schmidt** reads from his book *Shabbes Goy: A Catholic Boyhood on A Jewish Street in Protestant Toronto.* 2-4 p.m. at David Mirvish Books, 596 Markham St.

NAOMI RAGEN SPEAKS

Canadian Friends of Hebrew University presents best-selling author, social and political commentator, **Naomi Ragen,** who will speak about Women: An Agenda For Change. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim, 470 Glencairn Ave. Admission $25. To reserve tickets, call 416-485-8000.

JUNGREIS ON EVIL

Rebbitzen Esther Jungreis will give a lecture on The Essence of Evil: Why Bad Things Happen. At Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres. 8 p.m. Admission $13 in advance, $15 at the door. Call 416-226-0111 ext. 12 to reserve.

JEWS IN INDIA

Temple Kol Ami hosts **Ezra Moses** discussing the Jews of India, at Indigo Books, Yonge & Hwy 7, 8 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 25

CELEBRATE PURIM...

The Jewish Centre for Learning & Living presents a food and fun-filled Purim Party at 6 p.m. at Roselawn Public School, Carrville and Avenue Rd. Call 905-883-3844 for information.

The Minsker Shul presents Purimania, a lively Megillah reading followed by a Purim party with children's entertainment and dancing to the music of **Ron Wiseman**, King of Jewish Reggae. Come in costume. Megillah reading at 6:30 p.m. Party at 7:30 p.m. 10 St. Andrew St., in Kensington Market. For information call 416-595-5723.

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham hosts its annual family Purim event beginning with Megillah reading at 6:30 p.m. followed by magicians, food and music. Come in costume. 83 Green Lane. For information, call 905-886-0420.

Kiever Shul Purim party – Megillah 7 p.m., followed by costume party and kosher Chinese dinner, $15 adults, $5 children, maximum $40 per family. 25 Bellevue Ave. (Kensington Market area). RVSP 416-593-9956.

Tuesday, Feb. 26

WOMEN'S READING

Women's Megillah reading, by Women for Women, at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, 470 Glencairn Ave. Shacharit 9:15 a.m., Megillah reading at 9:45 a.m.

JEWS & BLACKS

In celebration of Black History Month, B'nai Brith's Youth Forum presents From Generation To Generation with **Karen Mock**, executive director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, and **Zanana Akande**, educator, community activist and former minister in the Ontario government. The evening will feature a **Jeanne d'Arc Byaje** skit performed by the African Youth Troupe. 7 p.m. registration, 7:30 program, 15 Hove St. To register, call **Lorne** 416-633-6224 ext. 114.

Wednesday, Feb 27

VOLUNTEER IN ISRAEL

Show your solidarity with Israel. Help Israel by volunteering to serve on an IDF supply/maintenance base for a minimum of two weeks. Information session, 7:30 p.m. at Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. RSVP 416-781-6089 or see www.serve.com/CVI.

SECRETS OF DISCIPLINE

The Leo Baeck Day School Parents' association is hosting an adult education seminar with **Ron Morrish**, an educator and behaviour consultant. Morrish will provide practical strategies for teaching children to be responsible without all the deal making, the arguments and the confrontations. 7:30 p.m. at 37 Atkinson Ave.

GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY

The Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada will hold its monthly meeting 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. 470 Glencairn Ave. **Norman Weinberg** will speak on the topic Restoration of Jewish Cemeteries in Eastern Europe: The Ozarow Success Story.

PESACH PRIMER

Bring new ideas to your seder table! Join **Rabbi Jay Kelman** for an exciting four part series on Pesach. 8 p.m. Beth Jacob Synagogue, 147 Overbrook Place. Classes run Wednesdays until March 20. For information call 416-638-5955.

HAGGADAH REVIEW

Rabbi Moshe Stern of Shaarei Tefilah Congregation will start a four part series on the Passover Haggadah, 7:30 p.m. 3600 Bathurst St. Classes run Wednesdays until March 20.

And What Else Is New

SINGLE PARENTS GROUP

Single Parents Under Duress, SPUD, was formed to build friendship and a support network for single people who share at least one thing in common – their kids! For widowed, divorced or separated men and women. Share interests, discuss issues, network or just hang out. To join, e-mail **Jaci** at spud_42@hotmail.com.

YIDDISH CLASSES

Conversational Yiddish classes at Adath Israel begin April 9 (for beginners) and April 10 (intermediate) 7:30-9:30 p.m. Call **Louis Gula** for information and to register, call 416-495-0919.

VENDORS NEEDED

Beth Tzedec Congregation and United Synagogue Day School are looking for vendors for their fashion show, Tuesday, April 23, 2002. Call **Joyce Goldstein** 416-730-1086.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tikvah Friendship Group Purim Party 3-5 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 24. **Boris Neiman** entertains. For information, **Harry Singer** 416-512-2897.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club Saturday dance Feb. 23, 7-10 p.m.; Wood carving with instructor Feb. 28; Collingwood trip March 14; dancersize classes with **Kitty Cohen** every Thursday at 10 a.m.; membership open for 2002. 416-395-7881.

Join the **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Purim Party, live music and light supper Saturday, Feb. 23. Regular programs: Feb. 28, literature evening, reading and stories. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Fun With Yiddish, every second Thursday at 1 p.m., beginning Feb. 21.

Branson Missouri trip, together with the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, May 28-June 5. Call **Barbara Zigler,** ext. 134 for registration.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. Feb. 26, Purim party. Call **Anna**, ext. 110.

An open discussion with **Barbara Zigler**, co-ordinator Lifelong Learning Institute. Tuesday, Feb 26, 10-11:30 a.m.

Winter Carnival with games, entertainment, hot food and sidewalk sale, Wednesday, Feb. 27 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Free. All welcome.

Attitudes and Interests in Screening Colorectal Cancer, with **Dr. Lawrence Paszat**, radiation oncologist, Thursday, Feb 28 10:30 a.m. in the synagogue.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Jokes: Philosophical Thoughts on Joking Matters. A lecture by **Ted Cohen**. Wednesday, Feb. 27, 8 p.m.at Leah Posluns Theatre. Admission free.

Sunday, March 10, Tuesday, April 9, and Thursday, April 18, Kallah interactive lecture series via satellite broadcast from New York, with **Rabbi Harold Kushner, Alice Shalvi** and **Elie Wiesel**, presented by the Koffler Centre, Kolel and the Miles S. Nadal JCC, $10/session in advance, $14 at the door. Ext. 271 or 416-924-6211.

Koffler Centre School of Dance begins a 10-week course in ballroom dancing March 10. $150 per couple. Call ext. 359 or 273 to register.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211

Annual Purim festival with vocalist **Harry Jerome** and pianist **Ted Winur**. 2 p.m. in room 208.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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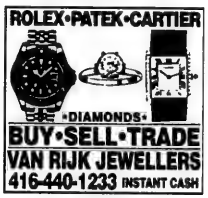
is an advertising feature of *The Canadian Jewish News*
Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m., 8 days preceding issue date.
For rates or to place an ad, please call (416) 391-8306
The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

Shaarei Shomayim Singles 35 +
An evening with Neila Carlebach. Saturday, February 23 at 8:30 p.m. $18 per person, includes gourmet dessert and coffee. For reservations 416-789-3213.

***GAMES Jewish Singles Play! Sun., Mar. 3, 7:30 pm**, Beth Torah, 47 Glenbrook. Ages 21-39, 40-69. **"We have "Millionaire" game, etc. Bingo** 7:30-8 pm. Prizes, refresh, $5. **117 couples have already met!** Free introductions. Mollie, 4167-733-3634.



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Greater Toronto Area

Israel's 'human seal'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Soccer players the world over have developed a not-so-unique ability to control and redirect a ball using only their heads. "The header" is part of the kit of most good players, something many of them developed when they were still kids.

Israeli phenom Eyal Horn was once one of those kids, working on soccer drills like most of his buddies. But Horn has taken headers to a level they could barely imagine.

Dubbed the human seal by some and Eyal the Magnificent by his promoter, Horn is an entertainer par excellence whose shtick is to balance and bounce almost any kind of ball on his head while performing otherwise mundane tasks, like removing his shirt, sitting down, climbing a ladder or even drinking a glass of water.

Soccer balls have given way to basketballs, and Horn has gone beyond merely bouncing the balls to shooting hoops with them, including three-pointers. He is equally adept at bouncing tennis balls, ping pong balls, kids' rubber balls, plastic peas from whistles and, if you can you believe it, marbles, on his head.

He's incorporated an American football into his act and he can even get a couple of bounces out of a pharmacist's pill – a "kadoor," or ball, in Hebrew.

Horn's unique skills have been recognized by Guinness officials, who have twice included his exploits in their record book under "unusual skills" – once for the longest basket ever sunk by a head bounce and the second time for the largest number of baskets sunk by a headshot, while not allowing any rebounds to touch the court (15 in 1 minute, 26 seconds).

Incredibly, they do have records for that.

Not in the record book – What? Can somebody beat it? – is Horn's ability to bounce a tennis ball on his head 2,500 times in about 25 minutes. That's 100 times a minute, or 1.7 times a second.

Perhaps more important to Horn than the records are is the fact that his act has been catching on in NBA circles in North America. During a recent family visit to Toronto, Horn, 35, met with Raptors officials to discuss a possible engagement at the Air Canada Centre at upcoming games. Following his five-day visit to Toronto, he flew to Philadelphia, where he was to perform during NBA All-Star Game festivities. Two years ago, he performed at his first all-star game, in San Francisco, at quarter time and during time-outs. His act so mesmerized the audience that coach Phil Jackson let his players use their timeout to watch his act instead of discussing strategy, Horn said in an interview.

Afterwards, one of the players, Tim Duncan of San Antonio, came over to meet him.

"I can't forget that one of the NBA stars came to me after the game and said, 'Hey you from Israel, can I take a picture with you?'" Horn said.

Horn proudly displays a series of photos taken with Kobe Bryant and Shaquille O'Neal of the Lakers, Alonzo Mourning of the Heat and Magic Johnson, formerly with the Lakers. Knicks fans Michael Douglas and Woody Allen have also come over to congratulate him after a performance.

Clearly Horn revels in the attention.

"If an NBA player asks you to take a picture, it says a lot," he said.

Eyal Horn

The fans on both sides of the ocean clearly love his shtick (he's performed many times in Europe) and Horn believes he has the opportunity to turn this sideshow skill into a lucrative career.

His stint as a sports entertainer began more than a decade ago, though the skills that would lead him into the international spotlight were developed long before that. As a teenager, he and his buddies would compete with each other to see who could bounce a soccer ball on their head the longest. A seemingly pointless exercise, it was, soccer fans might recall, a skill that Diego Maradona demonstrated as a youngster at a World Cup game in Argentina many years ago.

Following his military service, Horn's former high school coach suggested he try his hand at entertaining at a basketball game in his native Haifa. His first performance drew an enthusiastic response from the audience of about 3,000. It was, he said, the first time fans did not leave their seats during the halftime intermission.

His showbiz break came two and a half years ago when the Miami Heat came to play Maccabi Tel Aviv, the country's premiere club, in an exhibition game. Horn's show between quarters was a big hit. After the game, NBA commissioner David Stern called him over and invited him to perform later that week in Milan at an international tournament featuring the Spurs and teams from around the world. That's when Duncan first saw his act.

Again, he was a smash hit and the NBA signed him to perform at the 2000 All-Star Game in San Francisco.

Five NBA teams subsequently invited him to their games, including the Knicks, Nets, Pacers, Heat and 76ers. The Raptors, Horn hopes, would be the sixth.

Horn also travelled with the NBA Dream Team to Sydney for the Olympics where he performed during their pre-tournament exhibition games.

A commercial for Footlocker – they're the ones who dubbed him the human seal – got

Continued on page 23

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

דער יום־טוב פון פּריים און הומאָר

(לכבוד פּורים) — פֿון הרב אפּרים מאמעט

מיט פּריים אין מיט אומבאַגרענעצטער ליבשאפט האָבן דורות ייִדן מקבל געווען אויף זיך אין אויף זייערע קינדער, צו פּייערן די פּורים טעג. נאָר אַ סך האָבן גע־פרעגט אין נאָר אַ סך ווילן נאָך פרעגן: חנוכּה אין פּורים? אין פלוג געווען, רעדט דאָך דער יום־טוב חנוכּה מער צום האַרצן פֿון דעם ייִד. אין דעם חנוכּה יום־טוב ליגט דאָך דער הערצוּם פֿון „מעטים נגד רבים, צדיקים נגד רשעים, טהורים נגד טמאים". אין נישט נאָר דאָס. אין חנוכּה וועט דאָך אונטערגעשטאָכן דער פּרינציפּ, וואָס אין פֿון די יסודות פֿון אונדזער אמונה, דער באַגריף פֿון קידוש השם. די חשמונאים האָבן אָוועקגענעבן זייער לעבן, בכדי נישט צו דערלאַזן דער העלענים זאָל בא־הערשן דעם יהדוּתם. ס'איז געקומען צום אויסדרוק דער גיסטיקער בטחון פֿון ייִדישן קעמפער איבער די פּיל־צאָלקע קעמפער פֿון שׂונא, וועלכער איז געווען אין זיין צאָל אַן פֿאַר פּיל שטאַרקער פֿון ייִדישן חיל.

דאָקעגן, אין פּורים אַ מעשׂה מיט אַ מלך, אַן אכור אַן אַ טפּש, וועלכער האָט זיך געלאָזט אײַנרעדן פֿון אי־נעם פֿון זיינע הויפּט־מיניסטאָרן, אַ שׂונא ישׂראל, אומצו־ברענגן אַלע אַן יונג, פֿרויען אַן מענער פֿון פֿאָלק ישׂראל. איז געקומען אַ שיינע ייִדישע טאָכטער אַן מיט איר וויבלעכן ריז אַן חן האָט זי זיך באַמיט מבטל צו מאַכן די גזירה אַן עס איז געלונגען. די שיינע אסתר פֿון דעם שׁושׁנ־פּלן, איז געלונגען צו באַזיגן דעם שׂטאַרקן אחשׁורוש. אונטער איר איינפלוס האָט ער צו־ריקגעצויגן זיין פֿאַרניכטונגס־דעקרעט קעגן די ייִדן.

במשך לאַנגע יאָרן, בין דער אופּפֿלעבונג פֿון ישׂראל אין זיך לאַנד, איז דער יום־טוב פֿון חנוכּה געווען אַ גאַנץ בלאַסער יום־טוב. אין קעגנטייל, איז דער יום־טוב פּורים מיט אייפער אַן התלהבות געפּייערט געוואָרן אין יעדן פֿלאַץ, ווו ייִדן האָבן זיך נאָר געפונען. ייִדן האָבן מקיים געווען די מצוה פֿון אַנשׁיפּורן זיך אין פּורים, בין ער זאָל נישט קענען אונטערשיידן פֿון „ארור המן לברוך מרדכי". אַפֿילו אַן דעם געבאָט פֿון דער תורה אויף אַלע ימים טובים: „ושׂמחת בחגיך" — זיך צו פּריינען אין יום־טוב — איז פּורים געווען אַן פֿאַרבליבן דער פּריילעכסטער יום־טוב בייַ ייִדן, וואָס קיין יום־טוב קען זיך צו אים נישט פֿאַרגלייכן. וואָס איז די סיבה דערפֿון? אָט זיינען דערויף אייניקע ענטפֿערס.

דער אמת איז, אַז חנוכּה אַן פּורים זיינען ביידע ימים טובים פֿון דער רעטונג פֿון פֿאָלק ישׂראל פֿון פֿאַרניכטונג. נאָר אין דעם ערשטן, איז חנוכּה, איז געהאָלפֿן געוואָרן דאָס ייִדישקייט. אַן אין דעם צווייטן, אין פּורים, איז געראַטעוועט געוואָרן דאָס ייִדנטום. ראַטעוועט ייִדן פֿון אונטערגאַנג איז זיכער גאָר אַ גרויסע פּריידּ אַן אויף דעם דאָזיקן מען מאַכן אַ ספּעציעלן גרויסן יום־טוב, אַ „יום ששׂון ושׂמחה".

נאָך אַלע ענטפֿער דערויף איז, אַז דער נס חנוכּה האָט געטראָפֿן איין מאָל אין דער געשיכטע פֿון פֿאָלק ישׂראל, מיט העכער צוויי טויזנט יאָר צורק. אָבער פּורים איז אַ געשעעניש, וואָס טרעפֿט מיט ייִדן יעדן טאָג אַן איך יעדער צייט. יעדער ייִד, וואָס פּייערט דעם יום־טוב פּורים, אונטערשטרייכט דערמיט נישט נאָר דעם נס פֿון ימי אחשׁורוש, נאָר דעם ווונדער פֿון זיין אייגענעם קיום אויף דער וועלט אין אַלע דורות, איינשליסלעך דעם קיום זיינעם היינט צו טאָג.

פּורים איז אויך דער איינציקער יום־טוב, וואָס אונ־זערע חכמים האָבן אונדז דערלויבט אַ ביסל לייכטזין, אַ ביסל לצנות. דערפֿאַר האָבן די פֿאָלקס מאַסן אין אַלע דורות אַזוי ליב באַקומען דעם יום־טוב.

מיר ווינטשן אַלע אונזערע לייענערס און אַלע ייִדן אַ פּריילעכן פּורים!

Israel's 'human seal'

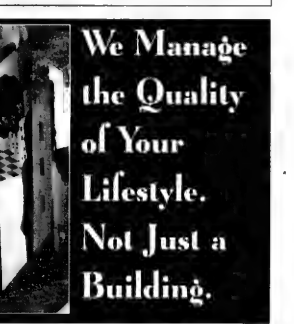
Continued from page 22

him noticed by the producers at *Good Morning America* and he subsequently performed during a broadcast from Times Square. Horn realizes his skills have opened doors that would otherwise be inaccessible to him. An electrical worker by trade, Horn toils long hours on power lines – a physically demanding type of work.

He believes that a good agent could line up an almost unlimited number of sporting engagements as well as advertising gigs. His boss is willing to give him a leave of absence so he can pursue his dream.

In the meantime, Horn is busy working on the next addition to his act. It'll be tough, but he believes he can pull it off: sink a basket from mid-court.

If he can, somebody better call the Guinness people…



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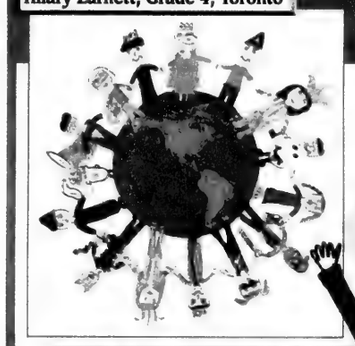
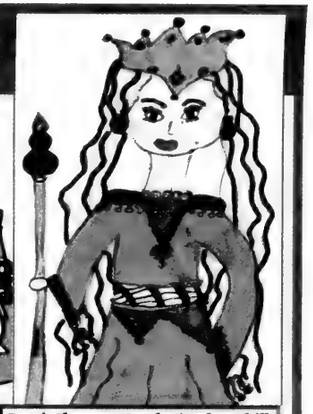
PURIM CONTEST

The Canadian Jewish news

Hilary Zarnett, Grade 4, Toronto





Staci Chazen, Grade 4, Thornhill

Ahuva Spiegel, Grade 5, Toronto

HONOURABLE MENTIONS GO TO:

Adler, Rebecca
Alexander
Bahar, Dina
Bahar, Elisheva
Baron, Ariella
Bergman, Elyse
Berman, Batya
Bernstein, Auremel
Bernstein, Mirel
Bernstein, Nochum
Bernstein, Shaya
Botnick, Nachman
Botnick, Penina
Bregman, Justin
Brooks, Calder
Brown, Samantha
Bucho, Robbie
Burley, Joseph
Cantor, Tal
Cappe, Joseph
Cohen, Leedan
Cohen, Shayna
Cohen, Zahava
Dahan-Meyboom, Emma
Daniel V
Fox, Hal
Freedman, Daniel
Freeman, Adam
Freeman, Tamara
Gal, Benny
Gangbar-Juan, Brooke
Gladstone, Ella
Goldwater, G.R.
Golubev, Madeleine
Greenberg, Henry
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Gutman, Sari
Herzstein, Talia
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Jordyn Smith
Kalama-Davidson, Daniel
Karmitsky, Max
Karoly, Leora
Karr, Carolyn
Kearse, Tiffany
Kelman, Sydney
Kimmel, Elana
Klaiman, Marlee
Lazar-Kurz, Max
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Lettel, Daniella
Lewis-Weigens, Arielle
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Loomer, Yoseta
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Marcovici, Sydney
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Maslow, Orli
Mayer-Goodman, Ben
Minkowitz, Adina
Morton, Joshua
Natharmel, J.L.
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Neubarth, Jordan
Neubarth, Joshua
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Pinchassi, Asaf
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Rosenwhite, Alana
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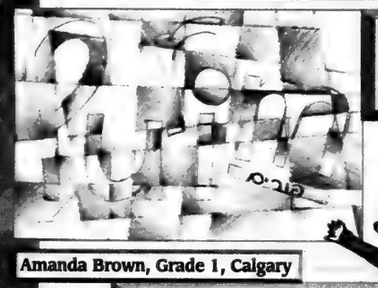


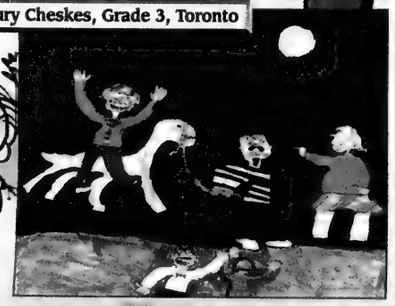
Judy Bernstein, Grade 6, Toronto

Amanda Brown, Grade 1, Calgary

Jaclyn Grossman, Grade 3, Thornhill

Keren Berger, Grade 5, Toronto

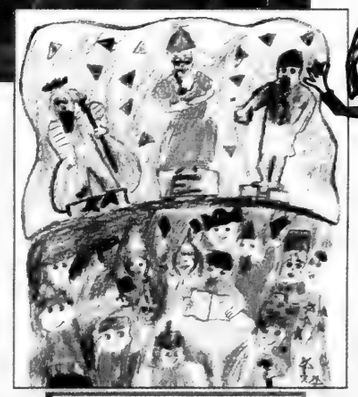
Maury Cheskes, Grade 3, Toronto



Laura Loebenberg, Grade 1, Montreal

Ayala Lesser & Rebecca Gross, Grade 2, Toronto

Corey Saperia, Grade 6, Toronto



Lily Paltsev, Grade 2, Toronto

Israel advocacy reinforced at weekend retreat

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Sivan Raz spent the first seven years of her life in Israel, has served in the Israeli army for two years and is president of York University's Israeli Student Association.

But the third-year political science and women's studies student still felt she could benefit from attending a recent Israel Advocacy Retreat.

The Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) event, attended by 106 students including two from McMaster University and one from the University of Western Ontario, was co-funded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Hillel and the Consulate General of Israel.

Speakers included Israel-based political scientist Neil Lazarus, of Awesome Seminars, and David Goldberg, director of research for the Canada-Israel Committee.

JCS is dedicated to providing the tools and knowledge for students to become Jewish activists, wrote Zac Kaye, the organization's executive director, in a seminar handout.

Raz said she hesitates to call herself an activist, because the word has "radical" connotations for her. But she does not hesitate to articulate an Israeli perspective in one-on-one or small-group situations on campus. "An advocate, yes," she said following the retreat. "An activist – I don't know."

Kaye told *The CJN* that he believes there is a role for advocates.

"An advocate expresses strong views, in this case pro-Israel views, whereas an activist moves beyond mere words into doing." We do not live in an age of activism, Kaye said, although some students are taking part in activist-type events like media monitoring and even creating their own newspapers.

"We certainly feel that we're in a critical moment for Israel," he said.

Unlike Raz, Craig Byers came to the conference with little knowledge of Israel. The third-year business management student at Sheridan College is in the process of converting to Judaism and his campus has no Jewish student organization.

The weekend gave him "a new perspective" and he said he now "definitely" sees himself as an advocate for Israel. "This has begun a whole new journey for me. It has added another dimension to Judaism for me."

Lonny Kates, a third-year radio and television arts student at Ryerson University and vice-president of internal programming at Ryerson's Jewish Students Association (JSA), sees himself as an advocate, rather than an activist, for Israel.

Although his campus is relatively non-political – in fact, he noted, the JSA and its Muslim counterpart enjoy a good relationship – there was an incident of anti-Semitic and anti-homophobic graffiti there earlier this year.

That incident sparked questions, Kates said, and made him realize the importance of taking a stand. "I learned different skills [on the retreat] that allow me to help combat anti-Israel sentiment."

For Raz, Kates and about two dozen other students in the larger group, the weekend was more than just an advocacy event: They are part of a fledgling leadership development program of present Jewish student leaders and their potential successors.

The program is expected to culminate in an 18-day trip to Israel this spring, said Ron Somogyi, president of the Jewish Students' Union at the University of Toronto and an organizer of the leadership program, which was initiated by Kaye.

One of the keys to the ultimate success of the program, said Somogyi, is the diversity of the student leaders, in terms of denominational affiliation, Jewish background and involvement.

The students at the retreat were also diverse in their political views, Somogyi noted. There were many who had "strong issues" with Israeli policies, and many who "had different opinions about how we should go about being activists and advocates," he said. Some, for example, favoured public rallies while others suggested promoting dialogue.

One of the things that came out of the weekend, particularly in Lazarus' session, was a discussion about "responding honestly" if there is discomfort about Israeli policies, for example, but at the same time keeping in mind the context and the bigger picture, Kaye said.

Somogyi's only regret about the weekend was the last-minute change of venue. Because of a snowstorm, the out-of-town retreat was moved to Toronto, juggling sessions at the Lipa Green building and other locations, including York University. Although students missed out on some of the late-night and informal dialogue that might have taken place in another location, Somogyi felt the weekend was "still very successful."

Stuart Lapowich, who was hired in November as JCS' Israel affairs co-ordinator, was disappointed that a number of out-of-town students did not attend because of the weather, but otherwise said the retreat "went great."

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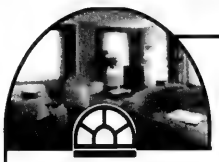
Resources and upcoming programs in Toronto

The following is an addendum to the list of resources and upcoming programs for university students in Toronto that appeared in the Feb. 7 issue.

March 3 to 6
Colouring Ourselves: A Festival of Jewish Creativity. More than 100 student artists will be participating in the event.
Sunday, March 3
Art Gallery Showing, 2-6 p.m.
Artwork will be on display the entire week.
Opening Ceremonies, 4 pm
Cecile and Harry Pearl Gallery, Holy Blossom Temple
Pay what you can
Monday, March 4
Film Screening
Meet the artists during the question-and-answer session.
Doors open 6:30 p.m., screening at 7.
Bloor Cinema (506 Bloor St, at Bathurst)
Tickets $8
Tuesday, March 5
Theatre/Dance/Spoken Word
Doors open 7 p.m., show begins at 7:30.
Artword Theatre (75 Portland St.)
Tickets $8
Wednesday, March 6
Music Night
Doors open 7 p.m., show begins at 7:30.
Berlin Nightclub (2335 Yonge St., north of Eglinton)
Tickets $8
For tickets, call Jewish Campus Services at 416-785-1465 or Sarah Zelcer, JCS Arts and Culture Co-ordinator, at 416-878-9658.



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Preparing mishlochei manot for Purim

By RIVKA TAL
Special to The CJN

On the festive day of Purim, many Jews send gifts of food to friends and relatives, as was done on the very first Purim and reported in Megillat Esther, the Purim story. The minimum requirement is two different types of food sent to one person, but many people do more. This is a good chance to spread friendship and cement bonds.

But although mishlochei manot, as they are called, have increased in some circles, they really can be kept as simple as you wish.

Homemade efforts are always appreciated. Remember that presentation is vitally important. There are various options for gift containers: decorate gift bags with children's artwork; line and decorate food boxes; weave ribbon around the edges of a pretty basket lined with a colourful remnant of cloth, tulle, paper or a cloth napkin.

Fill with mini-loaves of Almond-Poppy Seed Bread (recipe below), hamantaschen or assorted cookies. Add a tiny jar of honey or homemade jam or a container of hot fudge sauce, along with directions for storage and heating. A tiny doily-lined cellophane box can enclose an extravagant assortment of homemade sweets, individually placed in fluted paper cups.

Try a batch of Orange Chocolate Truffles, Cinnamon Nut Mix (recipes below) peanut brittle, caramels, chocolate-dipped pretzel sticks, halvah, homemade fudge or crispy rice cereal (look in any comprehensive cookbook for recipes).

When sending a package to a large family, forget gourmet items and concentrate on providing a lot of inexpensive child-friendly items: hamantaschen, popcorn balls, frosted cupcakes, chocolate spoons, chocolate-covered dried fruits, lollipops, chocolate "gold" coins. Don't forget that most people prefer to receive sealed or wrapped items only.

In Israel, many people like to send part of the food to be served at the festive Purim meal. It is best to let the recipients know in advance what you are planning, of course. Special challot, a whole baked fish, the traditional kreplach, filled Moroccan "cigars" are often sent.

A health-conscious family would be pleased to receive your own blend of herbal tea, perhaps with a sketch of the herbs on the label, bottled juices, dried fruits and nuts, homemade nut butters, marinated salads or mustards, or herbal vinegar in attractive new or recycled glass bottles or jars.

ALMOND-POPPY SEED BREAD

Three small breads can be made at one time to speed up production.

1 cup unsalted margarine, room temperature
2 cups sugar
3 eggs
1½ tsp. vanilla extract
1½ tsp. almond extract
3 tbsp. ground poppy seed
3 cups all-purpose flour, sifted
3 tsp. baking powder
1½ cups orange or white grape juice

For optional frosting:
1 cup powdered sugar
4 tbsp. orange juice
1 tsp. almond extract

Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease 3 disposable aluminum loaf pans about 5 inches by 9 inches.

Cream margarine, sugar and eggs until light. Add extracts and poppy seed and mix well. Stir together flour and baking powder in a separate bowl. Add to first mixture alternately with liquid. Mix only until thoroughly combined.

Pour evenly into prepared pans. Bake for about 30 minutes or until breads pass the toothpick test. Let cool before frosting. For optional frosting: Combine powdered sugar and orange juice in a small pan over low heat. Stir until sugar dissolves. Remove from heat. Mix in extract and pour over cakes.

ORANGE CHOCOLATE TRUFFLES

These truffles are great for any special occasion treat. If packing, be sure to wrap truffles carefully so they don't get crushed. If you would prefer these to be dairy, substitute heavy cream for pareve whip. Refrigerate if cream is used, and keep under lock and key.

⅓ cup pareve whip
¼ cup unsalted margarine
6 oz. chocolate chips
2 tbsp. grated orange peel
1 tsp.chocolate liqueur
3-4 tbsp. unsweetened cocoa powder
3-4 tbsp. powdered sugar
3-4 tbsp. chocolate sprinkles

Combine pareve whip, margarine and chocolate chips in a small heavy saucepan over medium heat, stirring constantly, until bubbling and chocolate is almost melted. Remove from heat.

Stir until chocolate is completely melted and mixture is uniform. Stir in grated orange peel and chocolate liqueur. Pour mixture into a shallow baking pan and refrigerate 40 minutes, until firm enough to shape.

Spread 3-4 tbsp. each of cocoa, powdered sugar and chocolate jimmies on a plate. Divide cold chocolate mixture into 21 equal portions. Roll each into a ball. Roll balls in coatings, 7 per coating. Place balls in small fluted paper or foil cups. Store in airtight container. Yield: about 21 truffles.

CINNAMON NUT MIX

2 cups whole almonds
2 cups pecan halves
1 cup white sugar
1 cup firmly packed brown sugar
¼ cup ground cinnamon
1 tbsp. ground ginger
2 tsp. ground allspice
1 tsp. ground cloves
2 egg whites

Preheat oven to 300. Cover almonds and pecans with water in a large saucepan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Reduce heat and simmer 1 minute. Remove from heat and drain well.

Combine sugars, cinnamon, ginger, allspice and cloves in a large bowl. Whisk egg whites in a medium bowl until foamy. Add nuts and stir until nuts are well coated. Pour nuts into sugar mixture, stirring until well coated.

Spread evenly on a greased baking sheet. Bake 25 minutes, stirring occasionally. Cool on baking sheet. Store in airtight container.

Jewish women preserve tradition through food, professor says

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — Next time you put challah on the table, make a pot of chicken soup or deliver hamantaschen on Purim, consider the pivotal role of food – and the women who have traditionally made and served it – in preserving Jewish identity and customs.

That's the message from Norma Baumel Joseph, associate professor of religion at Concordia University, who spoke recently at Vancouver's Jewish Community Centre on Feeding an Identity: Jews, Food & Gender.

After studying various ethnic groups, Joseph contends that food is a powerful tool that can be used to study a group's social history and provide ethnographic data for understanding community and personal identity.

Who, for example, makes and delivers the food, and where, and to whom, is it served? What is the hierarchy around the dinner table, and who sits at its head? These are some of the questions we should be answering, Joseph says.

In Judaism, women are typically the cooks and servers, yet their vast repertoire of knowledge has frequently been ignored or demeaned in studies of Jewish history, she says.

"Women are the ritual specialists, the people we rely on to make sure that we eat the right things at the right time," but the importance of that knowledge has been eclipsed over the past 50 years, as issues of women's egalitarianism rose to the forefront, Joseph says.

To ignore that wisdom is a mistake, she cautions.

"We need to look for places where women did and do have power – places that are outside of the sphere of men." As an example, she cites recent literature about the expulsion of Jews from Spain in 1492, a time when they were forbidden from praying or attending synagogue.

"Women kept the Jewish tradition alive through their cooking, for example, by cooking a challah for Friday night, or by not cooking on a Saturday. Because of their role in the kitchen, women were the preservers of tradition, – but we tend to ignore, downplay and demean it," she says.

Women continue to play a critical role in the kitchen, though Joseph concedes there has been a shift in recent times.

There are fewer Jewish women in their 30s than their used to be who know, or care deeply, how to make gefilte fish or who would consider making, rather than buying, a challah.

Yet, despite the choice to buy rather than make Jewish dishes from scratch, "those same women are still concerned that the right foods be served at the right time, because they are ethnic and religious markers," Joseph says.

She has this message for Jewish women: "Enjoy making and eating Jewish food, be proud of it and see it as part of your rich heritage."

For those looking to expand their repertoire of Jewish cooking, Joseph recommends the following cookbooks: Claudia Roden's *The Book of Jewish Food*, Joan Nathan's *The Foods of Israel Today* and *The Classic Cuisine of the Italian Jews* by Edda Servi Machlin.

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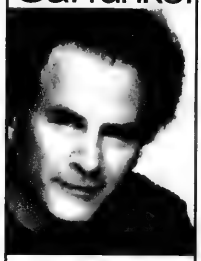

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Seniors Scene

Painter's life full of narrow escapes

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Charlotte Knapp with one of her paintings.

TORONTO — For most of her 90 years, Charlotte Knapp has loved to paint.

Throughout her life, Knapp, who survived two wars, relocated from Hungary to Romania, Israel, Montreal and finally Toronto, and who recently became visually impaired as a result of macular degeneration, has recorded on canvas much of what she has seen and imagined.

Interviewed in her Thorncliffe Park condominium where she lives alone, Knapp is surrounded by her many paintings: still-lifes, florals, Israeli scenes, portraits and abstracts. She considers the most significant paintings of her career to be the 30 impressionistic works depicting scenes from the Holocaust – the gates at Dachau, the cattle cars, the scenes of destruction.

Although Knapp was not in a concentration camp, she says she became obsessed with the Holocaust, questioning why it happened and why God didn't help the Jews.

"It was my anger that led me to create the series of Holocaust paintings... I began to think that I was a survivor," she says.

She is, in a way. Born in 1911 in Arad, Hungary, now Romania, Knapp lived through World War I, the subsequent remapping of the area, the rise of Nazism, the persecution of the Jews, deportations, confiscations, loss of family and the rise of communism.

Speaking of the dangers and escapes that she calls "miracles," Knapp says, "My life can be a novel. I lived through so many death-defying instances."

One of those experiences was her arrest while she was visiting her uncle in Hungary during World War II. Sent to a detention camp, she was told she would soon be deported.

She escaped into the forest where she tried to reach the Romanian border and return to her family. She heard rustling and came across a Romanian policeman. She begged him to help her and not to turn her in. They began talking and he confided that he wanted to get married but didn't have enough money to buy a ring. She removed her engraved ring and said, "Now you can get married." At first, he refused to take it but she insisted. He then led her to the border and to safety in Romania.

"He saved my life," she says.

As a young girl, Knapp won a scholarship and went to Budapest to study art. She won many awards and went on to paint professionally for galleries.

In 1946, she married Ernest Knapp, a chemist. In 1950, she, Ernest and three-year-old son Gabe left for Israel, where Ernest worked at the British Petroleum Company in Haifa. While in Israel, she studied and created ceramics and paintings and sold her work in gift shops.

In 1957, the family emigrated to Montreal where Knapp began creating original commissioned art works for renowned art dealers. The family made a job-related move to Toronto in 1965. Ernest died 12 years ago.

Knapp recently exhibited her paintings at the Anghel Bucur Gallery in Yorkville. She has returned to painting scenes and abstracts but says her wish is to exhibit her Holocaust collection.

Parents scout out Israel trips for kids

Continued from page 3

HaShomer Hatzair has two Israel programs coming up: Yedid Plus – a leadership program for students in Grade 10, with a three-week Israel component; and Shana Tova – a 10-month college credit program. About a dozen students have signed up for the former; seven for the latter, said Merin.

Based on Merin's experience both here and in Israel – where she managed the educational touring department of an Israeli tour company – she said generally the youngsters are excited about Israel trips and their parents are concerned.

But Lori Olyan of Calgary said that neither she nor her daughter Hila, 16, had any hesitation about her participation in the parents' delegation or about Hila's participation in an upcoming Canadian Young Judaea program this summer.

"Our Jewish friends all think it's great," she said. There was only one comment that could be construed as negative: when Lori phoned to inquire about health insurance, she was asked, "You're going where?"

Having lived in Israel in the 1980s, Lori said, "It always sounds worse here in Canada than it actually is."

Participant Fran Isaacs was excited last week at the prospect of her first trip to Israel. The co-ordinator for Temple Har Zion's confirmation class, which is eligible for one of the Reform movement's youth trips, also has a son who is the right age.

"I'm realistic enough to know there are certain dangers, but I believe the trips are well supervised and that they're not going to take us to dangerous places."

For parents who may consult her about the advisability of sending their children to Israel now, "I think they would trust me to be honest," she said. "And that's what I intend to be."

Coast to Coast

Family passes down tradition of serving on chevrah kadishah

By MOURA WOLPERT
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — For almost a century, it has been a Garshowitz family tradition to serve on the local Jewish burial society.

Since 1908, when Golda and Yisroel Garshowitz arrived here from Russia, there has always been at least one member of the Garshowitz family in the Hamilton chevrah kadishah, whose volunteer members perform the ritual preparation of the dead for interment.

It is a family tradition that was likely established generations ago.

"It's the last thing you can do for a person and it's not about what you receive back. The women who work with me feel the same way," says Golda and Yisroel's great-granddaughter, Cheryl Katz, who today is in charge of the chevrah kadishah's women's section. (Her eldest son, Jordan, is a chevrah kadishah volunteer in New York.)

In 1911, Golda and Yisroel's son, William (Zev Wolf), a widower with two young daughters, married Sarah Borovoy. They had another five sons and five daughters.

Sarah taught Jewish burial rituals to her daughters, and later her sons and sons-in-law became involved, as did other relatives.

Two of her daughters, Goldie Robbins and Esther Shecter, still volunteer when they are not in Florida for the winter.

Robbins, the second youngest of William and Sarah's children, has been a volunteer for 37 years, while her late husband, Harry, who served as a nurse with the Canadian forces medical corps during World War II, was a volunteer for 47 years, almost "from the day we were married," she says.

In 1970, when they retired from their clothing store, Shecter and her late husband, Al, also joined the chevrah kadishah.

The ritual washing of the body is performed by men for males and by women for females. (According to tradition, only older, post-menopausal women are permitted to perform this task.) When the time came, William asked Sarah, who was already a midwife, to help out.

Robbins remembers how her mother would often go out, saying simply: "I have to go out now." She never mentioned where she was going, nor would she say anything when she returned.

"It's something you don't talk about," says Robbins. "We work quietly. When we've finished, we lock the door and go home. We never talk about it."

Robbins says that one day when her mother was off work due to illness, she "took me by the hand and said: 'You've got to help.'"

Although completely blind by then, Sarah taught the rituals to her daughter. She also continued to instruct others and worked for the chevrah kadishah until the very end of her life.

When Sarah died, only her daughters attended to her, as she had wished.

As time went on and the family began to disperse, it became more and more difficult to find volunteers in Hamilton and, eventually, the rabbi who oversaw the chevrah kadishah allowed younger women to join, provided they were trained nurses or doctors.

Katz, one of Robbin's four daughters, recalls how in the past, when no one else was available, "it was always my mom and dad" who would answer the call.

Sometimes, during the summer, Katz says, her parents would arrive at their cottage only "to turn around and drive right back."

Robbins is impressed with the dedication shown by the next generation. "They take it very seriously," she says. "It is something you do from the heart."

Adds Katz: "It's the one thing you can do for a person [for which] they will not be able to thank you."

William (sitting second from left) and Sarah Garshowitz (sitting second from right) with 10 of their 12 children. Inset Goldie and Harry Robbins.

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Coast to Coast

Arab journalist puts lie to Palestinian claims

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Joseph Farah has been a newspaperman for more than 25 years, but it wasn't until he took on what he calls the myths of the Middle East in a same-titled column on his WorldNetDaily.com Web site on Oct. 11, 2000, that he became an overnight sensation.

"Something magical happened," he says. "That column was read by millions of people around the world and translated into 15 languages."

In the article, the right-wing commentator charged that Palestine is a fiction, that there is no distinct Palestinian language or culture, that "Palestinians" are Arabs indistinguishable from Arabs in neighbouring countries and that there are no real Islamic holy sites in Jerusalem.

But it wasn't so much the charges that caused the sensation as much as Farah himself. Farah is an Arab-American (he is Christian, not Muslim).

"He is an inspiration to us all," said David Asper as he introduced Farah to an audience of several hundred at the Shaarey Zedek Synagogue in Winnipeg on Feb. 10 in what was Farah's first speaking engagement in Canada. (Farah was the latest in the Asper Foundation Performance's Lecture Series.)

"He has broken new ground in Internet news," Asper said. "And he is one of the few people in the media who speak the truth and provide the real facts despite the risks involved considering his background."

Farah, who came of age during the Watergate era, told the audience, "I tried to model myself after Woodward and Bernstein [the reporters who broke the Watergate story]. I believe in a free press that acts as a watchdog over government."

Farah, who grew up in a Lebanese community in New Jersey, said early in his career he shared his community's prejudices concerning Israel. The turning point for him came after a visit to southern Lebanon in the early 1980s, before the Israeli invasion. He saw the devastation caused by the PLO in that area. He found that when he tried to print his stories with the truth in Arab American newspapers, the stories were either rejected or heavily edited to reflect the usual Arab viewpoint.

> *'The truth is the Arabs want all of the Middle East'*

"Most news sources will tell you that the problems in the Middle East revolve around the Palestinians' desire for a homeland and Muslim desire for control of their holy places," he said. "Those are phony excuses. The truth is the Arabs want all of the Middle East. No matter how many concessions Israel makes, it will never be enough."

Western politicians and the media make the mistake of taking Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat and his spokespeople at their English words. They don't pay attention to the quite different statements he makes to his own people in Arabic, Farah said.

Farah said one of the reasons why most media outlets seem more sympathetic to the Arabs is that the Arabs are much better than the Israelis at public relations. The Arabs, he said, have always been outstanding storytellers and are quite comfortable lying in fiery, threatening, bellicose language. They make up fantastic stories about Israeli atrocities, while Israeli spokespeople, on the other hand, are low-key and will admit to errors, he added.

"You have to give the Arabs credit," Farah said. "This Palestine fiction is the most effective propaganda campaign that the world has ever seen."

Farah also pointed to the moral relativism that permeates the western world which makes it difficult for westerners to deal with outright lies.

"There is clearly a right and a wrong side in the Middle Eastern conflict," Farah said. "Israel isn't perfect. Neither is the United States. There are a lot of things Israel does that I disagree with. Yet when you compare Israel with its democratic freedoms with the repressive, totalitarian regimes in the Arab world, there is no comparison."

As to who or what defines a "Palestinian," Farah said that the meaning of "Palestinian" is whatever Arafat wants it to mean.

Most Arabs living in Jerusalem have come from other countries, Farah said. Since the Oslo Accords were signed, tens of thousands of Arabs have illegally crossed into Israel, Judea and Samaria from other Arab countries drawn by the economic opportunities and freedom. Since 1967, there have been more new Arab settlements built in Judea and Samaria than Jewish settlements, he noted.

"If Israel were so intolerable for Arabs, why do they continue to come? How many years do you have to live there before you become a Palestinian? Two? Five?"

As for Arafat, Farah charged that in 1973, the PA president gave the order to kill American and Belgian diplomats that his terrorists were holding hostage in an effort to win the release of Sirhan Sirhan, Robert Kennedy's assassin. The American state department knows this, Farah said, but department officials still see Arafat as their best chance for peace and are reluctant to admit they have been wrong all along.

The bottom line, Farah said, is that the Middle East conflict is a struggle between good (the Israelis) and evil and the only way Israel is going to prevail is with "prayer and the use of force."

LifeStyle

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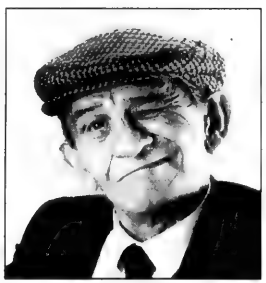

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Coast to Coast

Community should respond to anti-Israel reporting: Asper

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — The Jewish community needs to be more aggressive in responding to slanted media stories about Israel, says Gail Asper of CanWest Global Communications.

Speaking at an interfaith luncheon at Winnipeg's Shaarey Zedek Synagogue last month, Asper said Southam newspapers, which are owned by the Asper-family-controlled CanWest, are flooded with letters from Muslims around the world whenever a pro-Israel article runs.

"We need the same systematic and active monitoring system," she said in an interview. "We Jews have become incredibly complacent. We can't even get 200 people out to a rally in Winnipeg to show our solidarity with Israel here."

She said ordinary Jews need to take personal responsibility rather than wait for Jewish organizations to act. "It is not somebody else's job, it's our job," she said.

Asper, daughter of CanWest executive chairman Izzy Asper, said she has personally written a number of letters to the *Globe and Mail* about articles she feels are slanted against Israel. They haven't all been printed, she said.

"Most people I know don't send letters because they don't feel they're knowledgeable enough," she said.

Terry Moore, comment editor for the *Winnipeg Free Press*, recalls one story that attacked Islam that ran in his paper about 6 months ago and drew a huge Muslim response. "The e-mail traffic was enormous," he said.

"We had e-mail from all over the world. It was a stupid piece. Our publisher, Nick Hurst ran an editorial a couple of days later saying that it was a stupid piece."

A more recent opinion article by Ottawa contributor Harry Sterling on the Pakistani intelligence service's record of promoting terrorism also drew reaction from local Muslims, Moore said.

On the other hand, he said, Gwynne Dyer's columns on the Middle East elicit reaction from some Jewish readers.

"Gwynne has a blind spot where the Middle East is concerned," Moore said. "Some of our Jewish readers don't think he paints an honest picture of the situation."

Joe Wilder, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, agrees with Gail Asper that the Jewish community has been apathetic about speaking out for Israel.

"Since Oslo and the Madrid Conference before it, we have been waiting for peace to break out," Wilder said. "It has only been since the violence began in September 2000 that it has become apparent that peace is not going to happen any time soon.

"People have had to transfer to a different mode of thinking. Sept. 11 was a real wake-up call. It takes time to retool, but I believe that the organized Jewish community is doing it."

As proof, Wilder cited the Israel solidarity rallies held across Canada last fall and the CIC's new outreach committee, which has crossed the country.

CIC representatives, he said, have also met with the editorial boards of the *Globe* and the *Toronto Star* to discuss their reporting on Israel and the organization's Web site has information about how to write letters to media outlets and politicians.

Vancouver volunteer opportunities

All of Vancouver's volunteer opportunities are co-ordinated by the Volunteer Centre at Shalom BC, located at the Vancouver Jewish Community Centre (JCC). For more information, stop by Shalom BC Monday to Friday from 2 to 4 p.m., call Debbie Koffman at (604)-257-5181, or e-mail: volunteer@shalombc.org. For more opportunities, please see The CJN *Internet's community section.*

* * *

Chutzpah!, the Jewish Performing Arts Festival, at the Norman Rothstein Theatre from Feb. 23 to March 10, needs volunteers for opening night preparations, as well as bartenders, ushers, drivers and those interested in extending hospitality to participating artists. All ages and backgrounds are welcome.

* * *

Jewish Family Service Agency's kosher food bank seeks volunteers to help out once a week in the morning, packing and sorting food at the JCC.

* * *

The Yaffa Housing Society's Meals on Wheels program seeks volunteers to deliver food to people with special needs in one complex in East Vancouver. Volunteers should be prepared to help out once a week from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

* * *

The preschool at the Vancouver JCC is looking for volunteers to assist with classroom activities on an ongoing basis.

* * *

Talmud Torah Elementary School seeks a hall monitor to supervise students during their lunch break.

* * *

B'nai Brith Youth Organization seeks volunteer youth group advisors to provide guidance and support to teens planning and organizing group events. The position requires four to eight hours per month on Sundays.

* * *

Jewish Family Service Agency is seeking a companion and visitor to visit a senior in downtown Vancouver once a week for an hour. Have tea and chat, or take your host out for a brief walk to get fresh air and exercise.

* * *

The JCC is looking for volunteer servers to socialize and deliver lunch to seniors once a week on Mondays.

* * *

The Louis Brier Home in Vancouver is recruiting volunteer activity assistants to play card games with seniors and to accompany them to appointments and special events outside the home.

Compiled by Lauren Kramer

LifeStyle

Advt.

Celebrate with the Stars

"People often have the misconception that planning a wedding, bar or bat mitzvah has to be a stressful and tedious experience," states Marla Kay, organizer of "A Celebration of Stars," a trade show which assembles a large variety of party professionals serving the Jewish community.

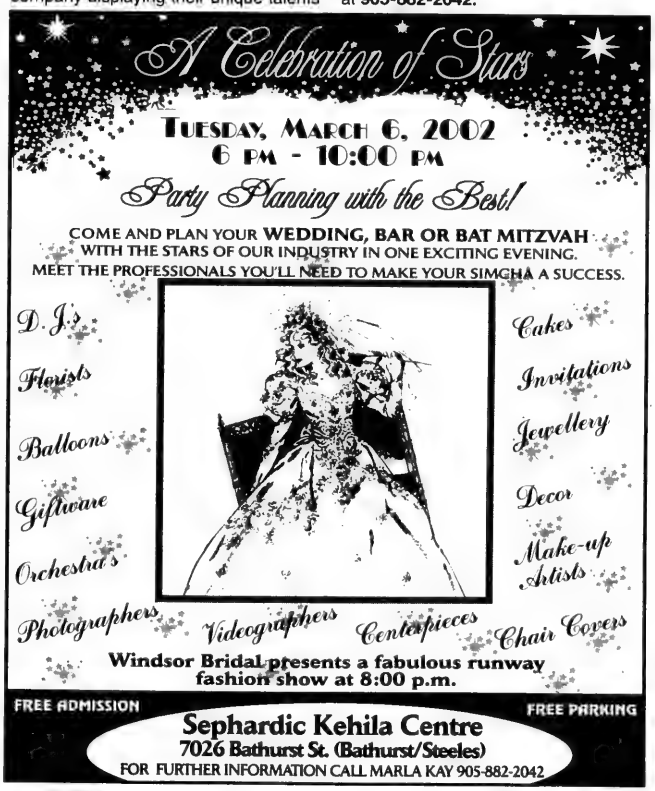
"As a bridal and party consultant over the past 20 years, I know how wonderful it is to plan a simcha. There are so many details to be looked after. For the past 9 years at each of my shows, I have brought together over 60 professional "stars" of the party industry to display their wonderful products and services."

This year, the Celebration of Stars Wedding, Bar and Bat Mitzvah Show will take place on Wednesday, March 6, 2002 at Sephardic Kehila Centre (Bathurst/Steeles). It starts at 6 p.m. and runs until 10:00 p.m. This year Windsor Bridal will be presenting their 2002 bridal collection on a fabulous runway fashion show, which will begin promptly at 8 p.m.

When you attend the Celebration of Stars Show, all of your entire party needs will be represented and you will be able to meet our party's finest on an informal basis. Each of the various stages of party planning will be available and by having more than one company displaying their unique talents in a particular category, you have the choice of which individual will suit your needs. You may choose from a variety of party professionals who will strive to maintain the highest standards of excellence in their particular area of expertise. You will be offered bridal and party consultants, catering (Kosher), invitations, florists, make-up artists, personalized party favours, photography, videography, cakes, creative room decor and centrepieces, orchestras, DJ's, and jewellery & giftware. Some of the "stars" are very well known in the simcha industry and there will also be some new faces as well.

"Every Celebration of Stars Bridal, Bar and Bat Mitzvah Show that I have organized has proven to be so successful for both guests and exhibitors that as soon as I finish one, I begin plans for the next one," says Kay. "Organizing a party is what I do best and I think that it is certainly reflected in my shows."

Come and see for yourself that the Celebration of Stars has got it all and is one show that you don't want to miss. Admission and parking is free. For further information ... contact Marla Kay at **905-882-2042.**



Misdirected, misplaced cynicism

According to Reports

With the media focusing so intensely on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, other issues in the Middle East posing serious risks to regional peace and security are often overlooked.

Lebanon is a good example.

Hezbollah, aided by Syria and controlled and funded by Iran, threatens to open a second front along the Israel-Lebanese border, beyond the glare of TV cameras and, evidently, beyond the interest of most editorial writers.

In addition to recent provocations, Hezbollah was also involved in the "Karine-A affair," the attempt to smuggle fifty tons of heavy weaponry from Iran to the Palestinian Authority (PA). The full implication of this PA-Iran-Hezbollah connection has yet to be covered properly.

The UN has certified that Israel has fully withdrawn from Lebanon in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425. But Hezbollah supports the extremist agenda promulgated by Iran's ayatollahs who call for Israel's destruction. It is determined to continue its armed confrontation with Israel, although in doing so, it has lost any semblance of international legitimacy.

Earlier this month, Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres charged that Iran had stationed members of its Revolutionary Guard in south Lebanon and supplied Hezbollah with 10,000 rockets, some with a 70-kilometer range capable of striking at Israel's heartland.

"Iran has transformed Lebanon into a powder keg, endangering the future of Lebanon," Peres said.

Instead of taking these threats seriously, major elements of the media have directed their cynicism at what they view as Israel's propaganda campaign against Iran – a campaign they believe is shaping U.S. policy. The very idea that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon could lead U.S. President George W. Bush by the nose is noxious, but fairly widespread. On Feb. 9, the highly influential conservative British weekly *The Economist* published an article entitled "Israel and America: Influence or confluence?" and subheaded "George Bush's hit list could have been written by Ariel Sharon." At the other end of the spectrum, in the leftist *Guardian*, David Hirst, a staunch critic of Israel, writes: "There is no issue on which the Israelis, through their extraordinary influence in Congress and elsewhere, have proved better able to shape U.S. policies than this one" (*Guardian Weekly*, Feb. 7-13).

Such estimates of the influences on U.S. foreign policy tread on dangerous ground, evoking unsavory connotations about Jewish power and control. They also insult the intelligence of Americans who determine policy according to their own national interests and distract attention from the real issue: Iran's nefarious activities in Lebanon and elsewhere.

Prepared by Paul Michaels of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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PA needs to restore Israelis' belief in peace, leader says

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The head of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Abu Ala (Ahmed Qureia), says the Palestinian Authority needs to take actions to restore to the Israeli public a belief that peace is possible with the Palestinian people.

In a lengthy interview broadcast last Friday on Palestinian TV, Abu Ala said Palestinian mistakes were among the reasons Israelis no longer supported peace.

"I believe that we must also consider the rightward shift that Israeli public opinion has taken," he said.

"You know who is in the running [for the elections] in Israel," he added. "Unfortunately, even the other movement [meaning Peace Now] has begun to dwindle in Israel, apparently due to some of the methods that we use."

Abu Ala added that "some of the actions that harm us need to stop. We must know how to organize a proper resistance so that it will bring results and not disappointment."

He said most of the efforts need to focus on an attempt to renew negotiations with Israel, adding there is a worldwide consensus that the Palestinians are to blame for the current situation.

"Let's be honest. Everyone who visits us or we visit them hold the same opinion: The Palestinians are the source of the tension," he said.

When asked about his talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Abu Ala said the discussions revolved around whether joint recognition of the existence of both sides, based upon the borders of June 4, 1967, would convince both parties that the other was serious about peace.

The Palestinian legislator said he believed Peres was honest with him. "We are not talking about a man off the street here," Abu Ala said. "It is not a government ploy either. The man who spoke with me was the Israeli foreign minister."

In a demonstration, the type of which Abu Ala criticizes, Palestinian youth burn the Israeli flag last week in Gaza. **[RNS/Reuters photo]**

Europe must support U.S.: Peres

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

ROME — Europe must back the United States in its war against terrorism and should not take sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, says Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Earlier this week, Peres told the Italian daily *La Repubblica* it was bad for Europe to be seen as pro-Palestinian and the United States to be seen as pro-Israel.

"I hope that Europe will continue to support the U.S. stance, especially with regard to terrorism. In general any division between the United States and the European Union is dangerous and counterproductive for peace," he said. "I ask my European friends to be neither pro-Israeli nor pro-Palestinian, but simply to be pro-peace."

Peres said granting Palestinians autonomy in areas of Gaza and the West Bank has been insufficient. "The Palestinians now seem weaker than before. Therefore, I think that there is an urgent need to recognize their state. Moreover, I don't see any reason to wait. The sooner this is done, the better," he said.

Peres was to meet Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar today to discuss the Mideast crisis. Spain currently chairs the 15-nation European Union. Europe believes there should be less stress on security and more on political aspects of the conflict, while Israel and the United States have urged a halt to violence in the region before peace talks can resume.

Peres said the IDF would respond to any new threat, even if the political goal was to avoid more violence.

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Security services foil suicide bombers

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The police, Shin Bet and IDF foiled five suicide bombers last Sunday. Two were killed not far from an army camp near Hadera. Three others were captured on two separate missions inside the West Bank.

A suicide bomber, apparently on his way to Jerusalem, was arrested near Ramallah, and a senior army officer said the IDF captured another two suicide bombers between Nablus and Ramallah.

Three police officers were injured, one seriously, in an incident that began near the army base east of Hadera.

Officials with the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, affiliated with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attempt and said Mohammed Hmuda, 18, planned to detonate himself in a suicide attack on the base, while 22-year-old Abdeljaber Khaled, was to spray the camp with bullets from the assault rifle he carried.

In response to the attack, Ra'anan Gissin, Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's spokesperson, said Israel would not escalate the violence, but "the terrorists will find out that we have more ways to reach them than what we have done up to now."

Red Crescent workers implicated in attacks

By AMOS HAREL
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israeli security officials allege that three members of the Palestinian Red Crescent emergency medical services were involved in the Jan. 27 suicide bombing in Jerusalem that killed one elderly Israeli and injured more than 100 people.

As reported recently in *Ha'aretz*, Red Crescent officials have denied Israeli suspicions that the female attacker, Wafa Idris, had travelled from Ramallah to Jerusalem in a Red Crescent ambulance. Idris, who died in the explosion, apparently did not plan to commit suicide but was killed as a result of an error with the detonation of the bomb.

On the basis of their investigation into the attack, Israeli military and security officials say that Idris, who volunteered as a medical secretary and aide with the Red Crescent, was sent to carry out the attack by Mohammed Hababa, a Fatah activist from the village of Beit Ichsa near Ramallah who worked as a Red Crescent ambulance driver.

According to the Israeli sources, a second Red Crescent employee, Monsour Noor, was also involved in planning the attack. Noor, from the town of Anabta, near Tul Karm, is currently under interrogation by the Palestinian Authority security forces.

Israeli officials say they do not yet have a clear picture of how Idris got to Jerusalem and whether she made use of Red Crescent identification papers to get into the city.

The officials allege that another ambulance driver, identified as Hamas activist Nidal Nazal of Qalqilyah, also took advantage of his job with the Red Crescent and used his ambulance to provide courier services for a network of Hamas outposts in the West Bank. Nazal, who is being held by Israel, denies the charge.

Kassam-2 can't hit cities from W. Bank: Intelligence chief

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — IDF Intelligence Chief Maj.-Gen. Aharon Ze'evi says the range of the Kassam-2 rocket does not extend to populated areas inside Israel when launched from the West Bank.

"We believe that the range of the rocket is six kilometers, no more," he said in a television interview last Sunday. "We conducted tests with the Raphael Armament Development Authority and discovered that it cannot hit populated areas in Israel."

He added that the rocket was no more dangerous than a mortar, but said the Palestinians are continuously trying to improve the rocket's range.

Ze'evi also said IDF intelligence had information that Palestinian organizations were planning more suicide bomb attacks inside Israeli cities.

Regarding Iraq, Ze'evi said Israel believes "[Saddam Hussein] has chemical weapons and that he might use them should he find himself in a crisis. We believe that the air force can handle them."

He also said the IDF was prepared for an escalation of violence on the northern border, including both Hezbollah in southern Lebanon and on the Syrian front.

Ze'evi refused to reveal his position on kidnapped air force navigator Ron Arad. "That is a delicate issue which will be discussed with the family, and not in studio," he said.

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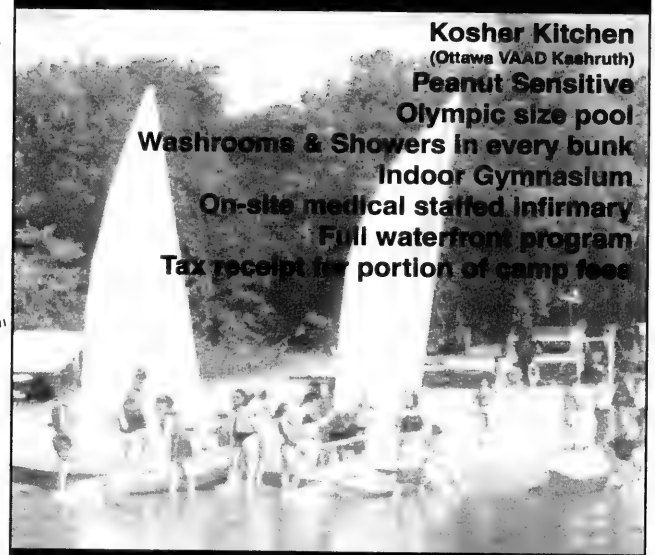
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The Week in Israel

Feb. 11

• The Knesset passed a law regulating the work of the Shin Bet domestic security service. Under the law, a five-member ministerial committee will monitor Shin Bet and report to a subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee.

Feb. 12

• A serious conflict reportedly developed between Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Jibril Rajoub, the head of Palestinian security in the West Bank. During a heated exchange between the two, Arafat pulled his gun on Rajoub, Israel Radio reported.

The following day, Rajoub denied any feud with Arafat.

Feb. 13

• The IDF entered the northern and central Gaza Strip in a search for rockets, arms and suspected terrorists. The incursion came shortly after Palestinians fired mortars and rockets from Gaza at Israeli positions. Five Palestinians were reported killed during the Israeli incursion.

Feb. 14

• Three Israeli soldiers were killed and one suffered moderate to serious wounds when a bomb went off next to their Merkava 3 tank on a road between the Netzarim settlement and the Karni checkpoint in the Gaza Strip, Israeli military officials said. The Merkava is considered the safest tank in the world.

Feb. 15

• The commander of the elite IDF Duvedevan unit, Lieutenant Colonel Eyal Weiss, 34, was killed during an IDF operation in the West Bank village of Saida, located in a Palestinian Authority-controlled area close to Tulkarm. A member of the militant Islamic Jihad group was killed by the unit during the operation.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Israel home to majority of Jews by 2030, study says

By JESSICA STEINBERG
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Thirty years from now, most of the world's Jews will be living in Israel, the Jewish Agency for Israel says.

The projection was released as part of a new worldwide Jewish demography research project launched last week by the Jewish Agency.

Headed by Hebrew University Professor Sergio DellaPergola, the project – known as the Jewish Demography Initiative – will gather and co-ordinate data aimed at helping Jewish and Israeli government decision-makers set policies regarding immigration, housing and related issues.

The initiative, which will have an international advisory board, will also seek to increase public awareness about the impact of demographic trends on Israeli society and world Jewry.

In 1939, there were 17 million Jews worldwide. By 1945, after the Holocaust, there were 11 million. If steps are not taken to strengthen Jewish identity, today's population will drop, said Sallai Meridor, chair of the Jewish Agency.

"The major difference is that now there is a lot we can do about it," he said.

Meridor said the committee's plan for Jewish survival will aim to strengthen the family, improve Jewish education, and increase immigration to Israel.

He said strategies are also needed to prevent intermarriage, but at the same time help the children of such marriages connect to Judaism.

DellaPergola said worldwide Jewish population growth, which has slowed down over the past 40 years, is now close to zero per cent. From 2000 to 2001, it rose 0.3 per cent, versus worldwide population growth of 1.4 per cent.

DellaPergola said in the 13 years after the Holocaust, the Jewish population grew by 1 million. It took another 38 years for it to grow another million, he said. Even an increase of 0.4 per cent in the fertility rate would add millions of Jews over the next 50 years, DellaPergola said.

Meridor said it is more likely Jews will remain Jewish if they live in Israel, home to about 37 per cent of all Jews.

Israel's Jewish population increased by 1.6 per cent last year, while the Diaspora population dropped by 0.5 per cent, DellaPergola said. In 2001, 8.3 million Jews lived in the Diaspora and 4.9 million lived in Israel.

Among the other statistics released by the agency:

• The worldwide Jewish population, currently about 13 million, is expected to reach almost 16 million in 2080.

• Some time after 2030, Israel will be home to the majority of world Jewry, due to high assimilation rates and low birthrates in the Diaspora.

• The Jewish population in the Diaspora is older than in Israel. According to a 1995 survey, 27 per cent of Israel's Jewish population is younger than 14, compared to 18 per cent in the Diaspora. Only 12 per cent of Israel's Jewish population is over 65, compared to 19 per cent in the Diaspora.

• Mixed marriages are reducing the number of Jews, because only a fraction of the children of such marriages regard themselves as Jewish.

• In 2080, 81 per cent of Jewish children under 14 will live in Israel.

"Two of the most serious problems for Jewish demography are birthrates and intermarriage. Living in Israel has a clear advantage over the Diaspora in both cases," DellaPergola said.

"When it comes to intermarriage, had the millions of immigrants who came from the former Soviet Union over the last decade stayed in their own countries, it is reasonable to assume that 90 per cent of their children would not be defined today as Jewish," he said.

Commenting on DellaPergola's findings, Housing Minister Natan Sharansky said last week that the "reality of these figures is that Israel is the safest place for the Jewish future, even in these difficult times, when Jews are killed almost every day."

Also commenting on the figures, Jewish Agency treasurer Chaim Chesler focused on non-Jews who have come to Israel along with their Jewish relatives, primarily from the former Soviet Union.

Some "275,000 new immigrants are not Jewish according to halachah [Jewish law]," Chesler said. "But they have joined their destinies with that of Israel. They serve in the army, and they have paid a heavy price in blood in the course of terrorist attacks."

Calling the issue of their non-Jewish status a "social time bomb," Chesler called on the Orthodox Chief Rabbinate to find a "lenient" solution that "will enable those who so desire to become part of the Jewish people."

DellaPergola said that North America's Jewish population of about 6 million is the largest in the world, and that most Jews in the world live in cities.

He said greater Tel Aviv, with 2.5 million Jews, is the world's largest Jewish city, followed by New York with 1.9 million, Haifa with 655,000, Los Angeles with 621,000, Jerusalem with 570,000 and southeast Florida with 514,000.

With files from Ha'aretz

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Israel's Museum Mania

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The Bloomfield Science Museum – Also in Jerusalem, this facility, built with the help of Montreal's Bloomfield family, is an interactive, lively look at how science accompanies daily living.

Beit Hatefuzot in Tel Aviv- Popularly known as the Diaspora Museum, it's a multi-media exploration of Jewish life around the world.

The Israel Children's Museum in Holon, south of Tel Aviv –This is where kids are actually invited to touch and feel all the exhibits.

The Clandestine Immigration and Naval Museum The boats that carried illegal Jewish immigrants to Palestine under British rule are brought to life, here on Haifa's Allenby Street.

For a complete listing of Israel's remarkable museums, visit www.ilmuseums.com.

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World Court ruling dims chances of Sharon trial in Belgium

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

THE HAGUE — The legal adviser to Belgium's foreign ministry said last week a war crimes lawsuit filed in Brussels against Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon would likely be dropped after the World Court ruled serving ministers should be protected from prosecution.

But despite the ruling, an Israeli group said it will continue to pursue a similar suit seeking to have Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat tried for crimes against humanity.

"The Sharon case, in my opinion, is closed," legal adviser Jan Devadder told Reuters after the ruling by the UN's highest judicial body.

The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ), also known as the World Court, ruled in a case similar to the one against Sharon that Belgium had no right to issue an arrest warrant for a former Congolese minister accused of human rights abuses because he was immune from prosecution and the warrant was issued while he was in office.

"The immunities under customary international law, including those of ministers for foreign affairs, remain opposable [applicable] before the courts of a foreign state, even where those courts exercise an extended criminal jurisdiction on the basis of various international conventions on the prevention and punishment of certain serious crimes," Gilbert Guillaume, president of the ICJ, said in his ruling.

The Congo case was similar to the case against Sharon, whose trial on genocide and war crimes charges is sought by Palestinians alleging that, as Israeli defence minister, he was involved in the 1982 massacre of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon by a pro-Israel Christian militia.

Devadder said the court in the Sharon case "will have to take into account the judgment. The judgment is clear: immunity for all ministers for all crimes while they are still in office."

The day after Devadder's statements, the Terror Victims Association, representing 30 Israeli victims of Palestinian political violence, pledged to continue with their suit against Arafat.

The group petitioned a Brussels court in November to prosecute Arafat under a 1993 law giving jurisdiction over foreigners who committed human rights violations outside Belgium.

"We are continuing with our suit against Arafat," group chairman Meir Indor told Reuters. "The fact Sharon has been relieved of the legal farce fabricated for him need not prevent a true trial of he who truly committed crimes and brought about the murder and injury of thousands of victims."

The Israeli group said the ICJ ruling in the Congo case did not apply to Arafat and his Palestinian Authority.

"An autonomy is not a state, and international law does not afford protection to its senior officials," said the group's lead attorney, Yaakov Rubin.

Another 22 complainants have been added to the suit, the group said.

The Sharon case has been delayed while a Brussels appeals court decides if Belgium has the right to prosecute the prime minister.

Devadder said it was no mistake that the Brussels ruling on Sharon was not scheduled to be released until after the World Court had given its ruling in the case of the former Congolese minister.

Belgium used a controversial human rights law to issue an arrest warrant against Congo's then-foreign minister Yerodia Aboulaye Ndombasi, on charges of crimes against humanity. But the court ruled in favour of the Democratic Republic of Congo and said Belgium must cancel the arrest warrant.

The landmark ICJ decision could lead Belgium to revise its laws and possibly drop cases against not only Sharon and Arafat, but other leaders as well, including Cuban President Fidel Castro.

Arafat must rein in violence, says Britain's Foreign Secretary

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

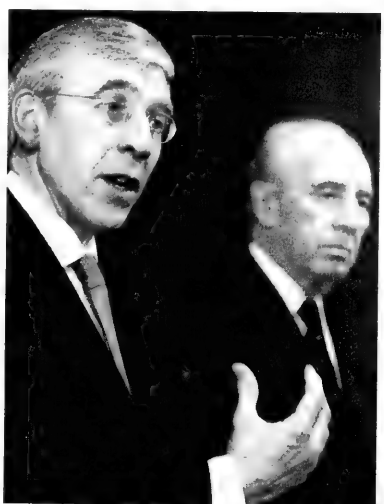
JERUSALEM — British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said last week that Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat needed to clamp down on violence against Israelis as the first step toward renewing negotiations.

Europeans should not adopt a position at odds with the United States, Straw said. "If the international community is divided... that will make the path to peace much more difficult."

Speaking following meetings with Israeli leaders in Jerusalem, Straw said the suicide attacks that Israelis had endured during more than 16 months of conflict were "almost impossible to imagine."

"The first steps that have to be taken are to make the life of the people of Israel much more secure, and that means clamping down on the terrorism which comes from the occupied territories," Straw said during a joint news conference with Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, adding that he would take that message to Arafat at the PA Chairman's headquarters in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

Straw did not criticize Israeli raids in the Gaza Strip last Wednesday in which five Palestinian policemen were killed. When asked about the incursions, he said: "I regret the death of anybody in this region and elsewhere. It's possible to reel off similar lists on both sides and very long lists of people who have been killed in suicide bombings.



Jack Straw and Shimon Peres at a press conference last week.

"This is a dreadful situation for every innocent person," he said.

Israel has demanded a complete cessation of Palestinian violence for seven consecutive days before resuming negotiations, and the United States has not opposed that stance. Palestinians say that is a ploy to prevent talks from ever getting started.

European Union foreign ministers, who met recently in Spain, diverged from the U.S. approach to Middle East peacemaking and said there should be less emphasis on security and more on political aspects of the conflict.

But Straw, who said the U.S. and EU should maintain the same position on the conflict, drew a parallel between the wave of attacks that Israel has faced and the 1998 bombing carried out by a breakaway group from the Irish Republican Army that killed 29 people in the town of Omagh in Northern Ireland.

"If that had continued weekend after weekend, it would have completely changed our politics and the ability of the British government to take action as we would have wished," he said.

Threats won't sway mosque committee: Sharansky

By ORI NIR

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Housing and Construction Minister Natan Sharansky, who heads the ministerial committee reviewing the construction of a mosque near the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, has warned the quarreling sides not to threaten the panel.

Attempts to "influence the committee's work at the last minute can only hurt" those attempting to do so, Sharansky said earlier this week. "I advise everyone... not to get involved in threats, because it will not influence us."

The panel, he said, would make its decision according to "the law, the state's interests and the desire to protect the holy places and the rights of religious and national minorities."

Representatives from both sides involved in the dispute – the Catholic Church and the Waqf (Islamic religious trust) – over the building of the Shihab a-Din Mosque opposite the basilica have recently warned of the negative implications of the committee's recommendations.

Last week, the Islamic representatives said a decision to halt construction will prompt severe protests, adding that they will continue with the construction, no matter what the panel rules. Meanwhile, Vatican representatives said the mosque would not merely affect Israel's relations with the Vatican, but would also prejudice the relations of the entire Jewish people with the Christian world.

David Jaeger, the Holy See's legal adviser on Israeli affairs, defended this threat, saying it was Israel that had first defined itself as the representative of the Jewish people as a whole. When it negotiated the establishment of relations with the Vatican in 1992-93, he said, Israel had insisted that the agreement explicitly stated that it had been signed "in the context of the reconciliation between the Jewish people and the Catholic Church."

Jaeger added the agreement included a promise of mutual respect for each other's religious symbols, noting the basilica was the chief symbol of Christianity in Nazareth. Construction of a mosque at this site, therefore, "is like a fist in the face," he said. "It is a wound that can never be healed... It will be a cancer in the body of relations between the Vatican and the Jewish people."

Construction of the mosque was approved by both the Netanyahu and Barak governments, but the current government agreed to reconsider the issue in response to pressure from the Christian world.

Sources say the committee is weighing two options. One is to forbid construction at the current site, but give the Muslims an alternative plot of land in downtown Nazareth, plus generous compensation. The second is to permit the building of a smaller mosque than originally planned.

Scientists to establish cancer, cardiac research centres

TORONTO — Two senior scientists at Sunnybrook & Women's College Health Sciences Centre recently received about $20 million to continue research in their respective fields of cancer biology and cardiac imaging.

With money from the federally funded Canadian Foundation for Innovation, the province's Ontario Innovation Trust and Sunnybrook & Women's, Dr. Robert Kerbel will establish the Toronto Angiogenesis Research Centre and Dr. John Rowlands will found the Imaging Research Centre for Cardiac Intervention.

"Cancer and heart disease are two of Canada's most deadly diseases," said Dr. Michael Julius, vice-president of research at Sunnybrook & Women's. "These centres are the departments of 'future medicine' that will develop novel approaches to treating and detecting these diseases and ultimately work to save lives."

Angiogenesis – the growth of new blood vessels – occurs naturally in a healthy body to heal wounds and and to restore blood flow to tissues after an injury.

In diseases such as cancer, new blood vessels grow to feed diseased tissues. In the process, they destroy normal tissues and allow tumour cells to escape into the circulatory system and lodge in other organs.

Antiangiogenic therapies to halt the growth of new blood vessels are being developed to treat cancer and other conditions.

"One of the most significant recent developments in the treatment of cancer is the use of drugs as angiogenesis inhibitors," says Kerbel.

"The drugs currently being used in this application do not cause tumour shrinkage, but instead they induce dormant, stable disease. We're looking at how to starve tumours and control their growth over a long period of time and treat cancer as a chronic illness such as diabetes."

A team of researchers and clinicians from Sunnybrook & Women's and the Hospital for Sick Children will staff the Toronto Angiogenesis Research Centre, which will work to translate animal anti-angiogenic research into human trials.

It will also be a hub for testing new drugs and therapies and a resource for designing and implementing anti-angiogenesis-based trials.

A multidisciplinary team will also come together to form the Imaging Research Centre for Cardiac Intervention, a laboratory where clinical teams and researchers can work together to develop and evaluate the latest equipment and methods in cardiac imaging.

"It's our intention to build the blueprint for what cardiac intervention suites will look like in the future," says Rowlands. "Our lab will use several imaging modalities such as MRI, ultrasound and X-ray to provide more revealing pictures of blockages in the arteries, which will improve treatment and have an impact on our population's cardiac health."

The Canadian Foundation for Innovation contributed 40 per cent of the total funding for the two centres and the Ontario Innovation Trust is expected to match this amount. Sunnybrook & Women's, which is affiliated with University of Toronto, will cover the remaining 20 per cent.

North York General opens new neonatal unit

TORONTO — Tony Clement, Ontario minister of health and long-term care, recently opened the new Tippet Foundation Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at North York General Hospital.

The $4.5-million unit features care-by-parent rooms, equipped with a bed, bassinet, bathroom and kitchenette. Parents of babies who have been unable to care for their child while he or she was in the NICU can use the rooms before going home to learn, under a nurse's supervision, how to care for their baby.

There is also a courtesy room with a shower, so parents of a critically ill newborn can stay overnight.

The new unit contains state-of-the-art equipment and has a low-stimulus environment, including lighting that can be dimmed over each bassinet, carpets that minimize noise levels, and controlled air temperature and quality. Each baby can have his or her own space, with curtains for privacy.

"The completion of the new NICU is an important step in cementing our role as a designated Regional Children's Health Centre and a founding member of the Child Health Network," said Susan Kwolek, director of the hospital's Pediatric and Maternal Newborn Programs.

With an expected 40 per cent increase in patients by the year 2003, North York General Hospital will become one of Ontario's busiest maternity centres, with more than 5,500 babies born annually.

About one in 10 of those babies will be born prematurely or critically ill and will require special intensive care in the hospital's new NICU. This advanced level 2 centre can handle infants that require short-term assisted ventilation and intravenous nutrition.

The hospital's original NICU opened in 1977. It was designed to handle nine babies, but could accommodate up to 16 babies when demand was especially high. The new unit includes 12 bassinets and four care-by-parent rooms. It can accommodate future expansion to 25 bassinets.

The Tippet Foundation, which supports youth, health, education and social services in the province, donated $500,000 to build the NICU, while the Ontario government contributed $3 million. The remainder of the cost came from other donations to the hospital's $35-million fundraising campaign, which has raised $28 million since 1999.

Youth groups build menschen: Mock

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Youth groups such as BBYO play a key role in helping parents raise their children to become menschen, says Karen Mock, newly named executive director of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation.

Mock, former national director of the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada and an alumnus of BBYO, told a recent gathering of BBYO's alumni association that BBYO has had a lifelong influence on her. Youth who participate in these groups, said Mock, develop a positive self-esteem and meet role models who teach them the difference between right and wrong.

Extensive psychological research has been done on people who risked their lives to save Jews during the Holocaust, she said, and although many of these people had very little in common, they did share four characteristics that distinguished them from others.

The rescuers all had positive self-esteem, were critical thinkers who did not necessarily follow the crowd, had positive role models, and felt a sense of belonging to their own family, community or group.

Cults and white supremacist groups know that young people are drawn in because the youth do not feel a sense of belonging to their own group, Mock said.

"Without that sense of grounding, youth seek out groups who can offer them a pseudo-religion. They are drawn in because they have not felt part of a family or youth group."

Teens who belong to Jewish youth groups develop a world view, "understand that there are people beyond their own backyard, and are introduced to Israel," said Mock, who travelled there for the first time in 1961 with BBYO.

Parents and other adult role models help youth understand about stereotypes and prejudice and teach them the difference between individual perpetrators of crime and a whole group, she said.

What we are looking for, she said, is "integration, not assimilation. A menschsh is not a wish-washy person. We are looking for acceptance, not tolerance. Tolerance suggests putting up with [someone]."

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Arts & Travel

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

PRODUCER HOPES TO HAVE US LAUGHING IN THE AISLES

Organizers of a new international festival of comedic film, slated for Toronto next February, are seeking entries of comedy films in various categories.

"Not only is a good laugh fun, but it's also therapeutic, cathartic and can even help one reflect upon the deepest moral and societal beliefs of our lives," says **Carla Nolan**, founder of the World Of Comedy International Film Festival.

The festival invites submissions; the deadline is Oct. 31. 416-487-7574. Web: www.worldcomedyfilmfest.com

* * *

CBC Profiles Reitman: Ivan Reitman arrived in Canada as a Czech refugee at age five. Today he's known as one of the most successful producers of film comedy in Hollywood, responsible for such blockbusters as *Ghostbusters*, *Meatballs* and *Beethoven*.

Ivan Reitman

A CBC press release spins out his legend: "Although he now lives the life of a big Hollywood movie mogul, Reitman remains a proud Canadian and a devoted family man."

CBC-TV's upcoming documentary *The Making of Ivan Reitman* takes a behind-the-scenes look at his career. Made with the full participation of the subject, as well as his family and friends, the documentary was directed by **David Paperny**. It airs on CBC's *Life & Times*, Tuesday Feb. 26, 7 p.m.

* * *

Shabbes Goy: Ted Schmidt, a retired teacher who grew up on Palmerston Ave. in the 1940s and 1950s, has written a memoir about what he calls "a Catholic boyhood on a Jewish street in Protestant Toronto."

In **Shabbes Goy**, Schmidt recounts childhood memories of the Bathurst-Bloor area of Toronto, including **Ed Mirvish's** small discount clothing store at Bloor and Markham streets, and the Grey Cup matches held in Varsity Arena.

Schmidt reads and signs copies of *Shabbes Goy* at David Mirvish Books, 596 Markham St., Sunday Feb. 24, 2 to 4 p.m. (Remarks at 2:30 p.m.) The book sells for $21.95. 416-531-9975.

* * *

Purim Fun: The Miles S. Nadal JCC presents Purim Carnival 2002 and the premiere of a new Purimspeil, *Esther Potter Meets the Lord of the Hamantaschen*. Live music with **Klapman's Klezmer Trio**. Games, prizes, music, fun. $2 at the door. 750 Spadina Ave. at Bloor Street. Sunday Feb. 24, 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. 416-924-9244.

* * *

At the Galleries: Toronto and Haliburton artist **Ruth Wolkoff** "reaches the souls of her subjects: people, trees, nature, then abstracts them in her own unique way." Her new mixed media show will be on view at the Heliconian Hall, 35 Hazelton Ave., March 1 to 27. Meet the artist, Mar. 2 & 16, 2 to 5 p.m. 416-922-3618.

* * *

Music, Drama, Film

•Cinematheque Ontario's tribute to Russian filmmaker **Alexander Sokurov** continues this week and next with numerous screenings of films like *Dimitri Shostakovich: The Viola Sonata* and *Whispering Pages*. 416-968-FILM or www.bell.ca/filmfest

•*Sing-A-Long Sound of Music*, starring **Julie Andrews** and all audience members who care to join in, runs Feb. 22 to March 21 at the Eglinton Theatre. Reserved seats. 416-872-1212.

• **The North Toronto Players** present the **Gilbert and Sullivan** show *Patience*. Leah Posluns Theatre, Feb. 22 & 23 and March 1 & 2.

•**The Yorkminstrels Show Choir** and the **Toronto Police Association Male Chorus** perform *Two For A Song*, popular songs from Broadway, the movies and country. Northview Heights Secondary School, Sat. March 2 at 8 p.m. and Sun. March 3 at 2 p.m. 416-291-0600.

Battle royale over plundered art

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

While surfing the Internet a couple of years ago, by sheer chance Vera Gara stumbled upon a startling document.

She discovered a list of possessions – paintings, carpets, antique furniture and so on – that the Nazis had stolen from her family in German-occupied Austria after 1938.

In the plunder was a valuable painting by Albin Egger-Lienz entitled *The Scythe Sharpener*. It was one of many works of art pillaged by the Nazis before and during World War II.

After tracing it to its current owner, a wealthy Austrian physician and art collector named Rudolph Leopold, Gara and her husband, George, tried to reclaim it.

When Leopold laughed off their challenge, the Garas instituted legal proceedings against him in a bid to recover the priceless painting.

The battle royale pitting the Garas against Leopold is documented by CBC television on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 8 p.m. in the film *Restitution*. Part of CBC's *Witness* series, *Restitution* was written by Robert Lower and directed by Elise Swerhone.

The story is a microcosm of a much larger issue. Spurred on by the publication of Hector Feliciano's *The Lost Museum*, a groundbreaking book which thoroughly exposed a brewing scandal, Jews have come forward to reclaim artworks that are rightfully theirs.

At stake are thousands of artworks, worth hundreds of millions of dollars, in public and private collections around the world, including Canada.

These treasures were wrested by Germany from Jewish families throughout Europe. Members of the Nazi hierarchy, from Adolf Hitler on down, fancied themselves sophisticated collectors.

Vera Gara's father, Moritz, a well-to-do businessman, was one of their victims.

After the Nazis robbed him, he and his family fled to Hungary. There they lived until they were rounded up.

Vera and Moritz were dispatched to Bergen-Belsen in 1944. Moritz perished there at the age of 61.

Vera and her husband immigrated to Canada in 1970, and now live in Ottawa.

After the war, Hitler's looted collection was found in an Austrian salt mine. Since the owners could not be traced, the works of art were returned to their respective countries of origin. No genuine effort was made to find their true proprietors.

About 40 years ago, Leopold purchased *The Scythe Sharpener*. During the 1950s and 1960s, he bought many paintings, never bothering to examine their provenance. Today his impressive collection is housed in a gallery bearing his name.

The Garas realize that litigation may well drag on for years. They also know that Leopold has been exempted from a special law passed by Austria for the recovery of stolen art.

But they are determined people, and will press on with their case.

Arts & Travel

Exploring The Outer Banks – the home of the lost colonists

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

OUTER BANKS, N.C. — Over the last 15 years, the 193-km picturesque islands known as The Outer Banks in N.C. situated midway on the Atlantic Seaboard, has developed into a popular getaway, attracting a number of Canadian tourists especially during its peak summer months.

In fact, so many windsurfers are attracted to the area, that one of America's hottest windsurfing spots located on Hatteras Island, is known as Canadian Hole.

Until the 1930s, The Outer Banks was accessible only by boat but now there are bridges connecting the islands and a ferry service carrying visitors from Hatteras Island to Ocracoke Island.

In 1587, Sir Walter Raleigh sent the first English settlers to this land to begin a new life on Roanoke Island. In 1937, Paul Green, the "father of outdoor symphonic drama", was commissioned to write *The Lost Colony*.

It is the longest running outdoor musical spectacular – running from mid-June to August each year – telling the compelling story of the first English settlers in the New World. Mysteriously, the entire colony disappeared off the face of the earth without a trace.

The Waterside Theatre, constructed especially for the performance, sits on the land were the actual event happened. A number of actors including Andy Griffith, who now makes his home nearby, made their professional debut in this production.

Also on Roanoke Island, next to the theatre, are Fort Raleigh National Historic Site and The Elizabethan Gardens, an impressive American garden, where it is promised that something is always in bloom. The Roanoke Island Festival Park captures 400 years of history at Roanoke Adventure Museum - with interactive exhibits and period costumes that all are welcome to try on.

The Legend of Two Path, a 45 minute film that depicts the Native American reaction to the arrival of the English colonists, plays in the park's movie theatre. Strolling through the Settlement Site, you can learn how the settlers braved the trials and tribulations of living on the rustic land.

Also at the park is a sailing ship, called Elizabeth II, built to resemble the sailing ships of the 16th century.

Roanoke Island is also home to The New North Carolina Aquariums. There are snapping and sea turtles, exotic fish, river otters, alligators, stingrays that are touchable and sharks guarding a replica of the sunken civil war shipwreck, the U.S.S. Monitor.

Once you've arrived at the Outer Banks, you might want to first visit the Aycock Brown Welcome Centre in Kitty Hawk, where you can see a video about the area, pick up literature, brochures and maps. Places of interest include the villages of Duck and Sanderling, chockfull of art galleries. Jockey's Ridge State Park located in Nag's Head is the largest living sand dune on America's East Coast.

If you are up for the challenge Kitty Hawk Sports will teach you to hand glide off the top of the dune, or you can opt to just fly a kite. Kitty Hawk Sports caters to water lovers too, with guided 2-hour Kayak Tours. Other activities available in the Outer Banks include offshore fishing and golf.

Aviation buffs will want to see where Ohio bike mechanics, brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright, flew the first successful powered flight on Dec.17, 1903. Their accomplishments are recognised today with a hilltop granite monument and a museum, home to a replica of the their biplane the Wright Flyer. Big plans are already underway to mark the 100th Anniversary in 2003.

The Cape Hatteras Lighthouse – America's tallest brick lighthouse – was recently moved from its original location. [Kathryn Kates photo]

A drive along United States' first national seashore, from Bodie Island through to Cape Hatteras National Seashore, will bring you to Cape Hatteras and the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse - America's tallest brick lighthouse.

In 1999, the 4,400-ton lighthouse was moved 16,000 ft. from its original location, which at one time was also 16,000 ft. from the now eroded shore.

The Outer Banks has a number of campgrounds, 50 B & B's and 90 hotel/motels including the premiere property: The Sanderling Inn Resort located between the Atlantic Ocean and Currituck Sound. Rooms are equipped with microwaves and a small fridge. The Spa at The Sanderling is impressive, offering a wide variety of face and body services in a serene and nurturing environment rivalling many big city spas.

Luxury cottages are available for both short and long term rentals. A 5-bedroom oceanfront cottage rented during the summer months costs approximately $2,000 US, per week.

For more information, contact the North Carolina Outer Banks Visitors Bureau at www.outerbanks.org or 1-800-446-6262.

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An anti-Communist 'Christmas' play about trees

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Despite its title, the play *Christmas at the Ivanovs* is not about Christmas.

"It will not turn anyone against the idea of a statutory holiday on Christmas," says Arkady Spivak, the play's producer. "The original title is *Birch Trees at the Ivanovs*, because that's what it is about – trees, not Christmas."

The play, an anti-Communist drama that takes place on Christmas Eve, was written by non-Jewish playwright Aleksander Vvedensky (1900-1941). Spivak and his theatre group, Talk is Free Theatre, have adapted it to include work from Jewish short story writer Daniel Kharms (1905-1942), a member of the same Russian theatre group as Vvedensky. Both writers died in the purge ordered by Josef Stalin.

The new adaptation, running from Feb. 14 to March 2 at the Poor Alex Theatre, marks the first time the play is being performed in North America. There are 8 p.m. shows every night of the run. Two-for-one tickets are available for midnight performances on Saturdays and Valentine's Day.

Spivak, a Russia Jew who came to Canada in 1990 at 15, said the political content of the drama will not be above the heads of the audience, even though no names are mentioned and the country is referred to only as "the state."

"During the Communist regime, from 1917 to 1990, any references to religion, including the Jewish one, had to be hidden," Spivak, 27, said. "*Christmas at the Ivanovs* is an attempt to show that people in artistic and other groups disappeared without explanation in those days."

In the play, seven of the 20 characters (played by 10 actors) disappear, presumably to be killed. "It is not a family show – I would not recommend it for children," Spivak said.

Arkady Spivak

But, he added, "it has a lot of comic touches inspired by commedia dell'arte techniques. It is almost like Monty Python... It combines the European Theatre of the Absurd with certain improvisational features of the TV series *Whose Line Is It Anyway*?"

In fact, Spivak said, audiences may hear different; improvised lines from night to night. Yet the play, whose cast is mainly from George Brown College's theatre school, is not experimental, he said.

"It has a lot of Jewish themes – for example, the fate of small people, like Tevya the dairyman, in Sholom Aleichem's play [*Fiddler on the Roof*]," he said.

A talkback session follows each show at Insomnia Restaurant Cyber Bar, 583 Bloor St W., at Bathurst Street.

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Actress a little schizophrenic playing five women on stage

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Community musical theatre actress Julie Lennick's busy schedule as a communications operator for Toronto Police Services only enables her to act in one play per year. But this year's choice of The Civic Light Opera Company's production of *Stop The World, I Want To Get Off* allows her to perform five different roles.

Stop The World, I Want To Get Off written and originally performed by Anthony Newely, co-stars this production's director Joe Cascone. The story centres on an "Everyman" character called Littlechap and his life, loves and pursuit of success and happiness. During his world travels he meets and falls in love with a number of women, all played by Lennick, 46.

"There's sort of a Greek chorus behind Littlechap helping to tell the story," she says. "I play all the women in his life. All the characters have a slight variation in appearance, but the accents are different. I've had to learn them. It was difficult, but now that I have the words, I can have fun, play with them and work with each character separately. It is going well, but I am worried about thinking who am I now – I'm feeling a little schizophrenic," she says.

This is her fifth production with the Civic Light Opera Company since joining in 1987.

The Tony Award-winning musical co-written by Newely and Leslie Bricusse features the famous song *What Kind Of Fool Am I?*

Lennick was born into the arts – quite literally – when her parents Sylvia and Ben Lennick of *Wayne & Shuster* and *The Trouble With Tracy* television fame were broadcasting their CBC radio show *At Home With The Lennicks*.

"I was brought up in the arts, so it was second nature to me to keep doing it. My parents met in theatre, they had their own theatre - Belmont Theatre Productions and they took over the Central Library Theatre. They produced their own shows and my father taught acting for years. I inherited so much and through osmosis got a lot," adds Lennick.

Her brothers also followed their parents into the arts. Michael is a television producer and David works in the recording industry.

Lennick studied theatre, voice and dance throughout her life, including taking a musical theatre course at the Jewish Community Centre on Bathurst Street.

"I considered going into acting professionally – had the opportunities. I guess in the back of my mind, I knew, it was going to be so difficult to do it and be able to maintain the lifestyle that I wanted. Doing community theatre is rewarding enough to me.

"I've been in community theatre for almost 20 years. My favourite roles would be Adelaide in *Guys & Dolls*, Sally Bowles in *Cabaret*, Mazeppa in *Gypsy* and Rizzo in *Grease*," says Lennick.

Lennick has also lent her talents to the community groups – Like Magic Productions, Scarborough Music Theatre and York-Weston Players.

Stop The World...runs at the Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Drive, North York on Feb. 22, 23, 24, March 1 and 2. For more information and tickets call 416-469-8450.

Artist's exhibit commemorates Unmarked Lives

By MIRIAM CHINSKY
Special to the CJN

TORONTO — A visit in 1997 by Montreal-born Joanne Soroka with her Jewish father and Scottish Japanese mother to the Lithuanian shtetl of Seda, birthplace of her paternal grandfather, was the catalyst for Unmarked Lives.

The touring exhibition of tapestries, textiles and paperworks, is at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House, University of Toronto, until March 7. Hours are Monday to Friday, 11 a.m.-7 p.m., Saturday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m.

Seda has a deserted wooden synagogue and its Jewish cemetery has only five headstones — the rest were torn out for use in building foundations. It was outside town, on farmland once owned by Soroka's great-grandfather, that local Jews were rounded up after Germany invaded the area. The young men were immediately shot, and the others were herded into a barn and killed within two weeks.

Taking no prisoners, the Germans killed 96 per cent of Lithuania's Jews.

Soroka, a weaver and tapestry designer who has exhibited in Europe, North America and Japan, was stirred by thoughts of her diverse forebears from Lithuania, Ukraine, Scotland and Japan. Unmarked Lives is her response.

These were not powerful, high profile individuals, she says."I wanted to commemorate ordinary people whose lives were often unmarked, to celebrate them."

She has done just that with loving sensibility in richly coloured, intricately woven and textured tapestries, digitally reproduced family photographs and fine paperworks.

Soroka's parents, both Canadian-born, met in Montreal and married in 1947. She diligently researched their backgrounds, travelling to the home countries and following immigration paths to Canada.

Her Japanese grandfather, an importer-exporter, came to Vancouver around 1905. He later went to Montreal, married a Scottish woman, travelled back and forth between Japan and Canada and eventually moved back to Japan. Her Lithuanian and Ukrainian grandparents and great-grandparents settled in Montreal in the 1890s.

Soroka's tapestries combine thorough research with her parents' stories and her own imagination.

Scratching the Surface (in wool, linen, cotton) shows a part of the scraped, over-painted and worn hull of a boat she saw on a beach in Lithuania, near where her ancestors started their voyage to Canada.

Joanne Soroka and her partner, Mike Griffiths, stand in front of *Chaya's Dream (Nightmare).*

"The title, as well as the pattern, attempts to understand them, the place and way of life they left behind," she says. "The depicted detail of the boat symbolizes their journey and hopes for the future."

Another boat — on a Scottish shore — suggests the experience of her early Scottish family.

Chaya's Dream (Nightmare) depicts the story of Soroka's great-grandmother, who persuades her reluctant husband to leave Lithuania to escape persecution and before their sons are drafted into the army.

In *Water Kimono IV*, patterns on a huge kimono evoke ripples and shadows on the surface of the water. "The presence of the old country looms large in the eye of the immigrant even when it is far away," says Soroka. "With my grandfather, the strength of this feeling pulled him back to his homeland."

Digitally reproduced photographs of great-great grandparents on semi-transparent silk bring her relatives to life. Each is layered over a drawing associated with that person. Thus, her Ukrainian great-grandfather is seen with his tallit, her Japanese great-grandmother with pages from ancient family records stored in a Buddhist temple.

Soroka now lives in Scotland, where she is a tutor at the Edinburgh College of Art. The former director of the Edinburgh Tapestry Company and founder of Ivory Tapestries has a bachelor's degree from McGill University, a diploma in design from the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design and a post-graduate diploma from Edinburgh College of Art.

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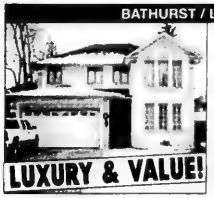

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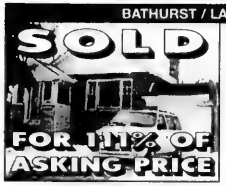

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Sports & Leisure

CHAT girls win Becker tourney

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The hard work – both on and off the court – of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT) varsity girls basketball team paid huge dividends at the recent Israel Becker Invitational Tournament.

The host Tigers captured the sixth annual Jewish high school event, going undefeated and beating Philadelphia's Akiba Hebrew Academy 61-41 in the championship game. Yeshivat Ramaz (N.Y.) took home the boys title, defeating CHAT 56-45 in the final.

The four-day tourney is dedicated to the memory of the former CHAT player who was killed in an automobile collision in January 1994.

The 17-team co-ed field, one of the largest of its kind in North America, also included entries from Toronto's Yeshivat Or Chaim, CHAT's Richmond Hill campus, Hebrew Academy of Montreal, as well as schools from Boston and New Jersey.

The CHAT girls were resilient, rallying from a seven-point deficit early in the second half to finish the game on a 32-5 run.

"We just wanted to win so badly and we knew that we could," said tournament MVP Jessica Bogach, who played the entire 32-minute final. "We'd beaten [Akiba in the round-robin]. We worked as hard as we could and we did it. We were really a team."

CHAT girls won their second championship after their fundraising efforts over the past two months kept the tournament alive following a budget shortfall.

"They called alumni, businesses, held their own little events and raised close to $20,000," said Aubrey Zimmerman, CHAT's athletic director and coach of both the girls and boys basketball teams. "There was a bunch of kids who worked really hard behind the scenes to raise money."

Zimmerman, in his 12th year at CHAT, coached Israel Becker for one year.

Zimmerman said the total cost of the tournament was between $50,000 to $60,000, but there was about a $15,000 shortfall before the girls went to work. Any surplus will go towards the next event, tentatively scheduled for next December.

Close to 250 players, coaches, and teachers participated in the weekend Shabbaton, held in conjunction with the 39 games that took place at CHAT and the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Congregation B'nai Torah hosted the Shabbaton and its members housed the players during their stay in Toronto.

"Beautiful, balmy weather, the Shabbaton was very nice, the kids' behaviour was excellent, and the games were great," said Zimmerman, describing the championship weekend.

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Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female,35 yrs old, 5'2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

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Pretty Jewish young female, 5'5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a bit non smoker for social outings, friendship. **AD#1028**

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men seeking women

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I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1394**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with **AD#1334**

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Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wears glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

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Canadians vault into bridge world's elite club

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — When it comes time to compete against the elite powers of international bridge, Canada is usually considered an also-ran, not much more than cannon fodder for top teams from Italy, the United States, Norway, Poland and France.

For Canada to win a world class tournament would be akin to France winning the gold medal in hockey at the Olympic Games.

So before they play the *Marseillaise* at the conclusion of this year's hockey tournament, consider that Canada has pulled off the near-impossible, shocking observers with a remarkable upset win at the the fourth International Olympic Committee Grand Prix, held a week before the Olympics began.

The World Bridge Federation (WBF), which sponsored the tourney and is lobbying to include bridge as an official Winter Games sport, described the championship as "one of the best played and most exciting finals of recent years."

Fred Gitelman, a member of Canada's six-man team, called it "a real Cinderella story," while his partner, Joseph Silver of Montreal, pointed out that the Canadians, who are all amateurs, bested opponents who are by and large full-time, professional players.

Other members of the Canadian team were Keith Balcombe of Oshawa, Gordon Campbell, Nicholas Gartaganis and Peter Jones, all from Alberta.

Seeded no higher than seventh in the 10-team event, the Canadians showed mental toughness all the way through, refusing to be humbled by the reputations of their higher-ranked opponents, Silver, 60, said.

Canada's best-ever performance at a world-level event came in 1995 when the team, which included Silver and Gitelman, finished second. But that group, perhaps more talented than this year's crew, failed to stay together, opening the door to a new crop of players, Silver said.

The Canadian contingent proved remarkably tough. When things went badly, they refused to throw in the towel, instead rallying themselves and persevering, Silver said.

That psychological toughness proved valuable during the round robin event but was crucial during the two playoff games in the duplicate bridge format. Finishing fourth after the round robin, the Canadians went up against the world champion Italians in the semi-final. At first, the playoff match did not go well, as the Italians jumped in front and took a 44-point lead.

"At the half-way mark, the odds against Canada were 100 to one," said Gitelman, "so we had this amazing come from behind win."

"We pulled ourselves together," said Silver. "This Canadian team had so much heart, so much courage, we kept on going."

In the third quarter, Jones and Gartaganis shook off early errors and narrowed the gap to 18 points. The last round was left to Gitelman and Silver, partners on the 1995 silver medal-winning team.

Gitelman, who writes a monthly bridge column for *The CJN*, and Silver, who practises law, "have a magic connection together," Silver said.

Gitelman made a gutsy bid for a slam, and the twosome, who have had success in the past against Italy, made the contract. Canada pulled ahead and hung on to defeat Italy by 10 points.

In the final against Poland – which boasts two of the best duos in the world – it appeared the stress of the semi-final would work against Canada.

"We were exhausted," Silver said. Nevertheless, Canada jumped way ahead, leading by 48 points at the half. The Poles whittled away at the lead – making it look like they were going to do to the Canadians what the Canadians had done to the Italians – and by the three-quarter mark, Canada led by only 17.5 points.

The Poles continued to make inroads on Canada's lead, and Gitelman and Silver, playing the last boards, had to defeat a Polish contract for four spades to ensure the victory. They did so – by a single card.

"It was a very hard fought contest," Gitelman said. "It's especially nice [to win] in that it was pretty much an unknown team… It was exciting to win it with these guys."

Also remarkable is that the Canadians all hold down day jobs while their top opponents make a living playing bridge. Even more astounding is that Gitelman and Silver rarely play together. The last time they partnered was about one or two years ago, Silver said. Even on his home turf in Montreal, Silver practises infrequently. He plays in three major North American tournaments every year as well as the Canadian championship, he writes a column for a couple of bridge magazines and he reads a lot about the game.

Fred Gitelman

To overcome their lack of playing time together, Silver and Gitelman have decided to "play a very simple, logical style, with very few bells and whistles," Silver said.

Gitelman believes Canada's showing will bring the country more respect on the international scene and the tournament may help pave the way for the inclusion of bridge as an Olympic event.

"It's a difficult issue," he concedes. "I've always been interested in sports and playing sports and seeing them only as physical contests.

"But bridge has things in common with sport. Bridge is played all over the world and it's a viable, competitive [activity] with physical aspects. You get tired out in tournaments."

The WBF has already been recognized by the IOC as a sports federation. Should bridge be included as an official sport in Turin in 2006, Gitelman and Silver can take credit for putting Canada among the contenders for a gold medal.

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Germany humbles Israel in soccer friendly

By ASHER GOLDBERG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

KAISERSLAUTEN, Germany — Memories of Denmark were in the air last week, as Israel conceded goal after goal against a German side that let Israelis dream for 45 minutes and then dashed that dream in the most painful, crushing knock-out an Israeli team has suffered in many years.

In the playoff for the 2000 European Championships, Denmark beat Israel 5-0 and 3-0 in Ramat Gan and Copenhagen. Last week in Kaiserslauten, Germany tore Israel apart, 7-1, and witnessing the humiliation from the sidelines was Israel's Danish coach, Richard Nielsen.

For 22 minutes, Nielsen's charges toyed with the idea of pulling of a sensational upset and beating Germany on its own turf. In the 27th minute, in one of Israel's solitary attacks of the game, Yossi Benayoun sent a crisp pass to Ilan Bahar, who stormed into the German penalty area. Bahar cut the ball back to Idan Tal, whose shot rocketed onto the crossbar, onto keeper Oliver Kahn, and into the goal.

When the teams left the field at half time, the crowd booed the home team all the way to the changing rooms.

Both teams underwent some sort of metamorphosis during the interval.

Germany was ruthless in the second half, and Israel capitulated entirely.

Netminder Dudu Awat, whose first-half heroics had kept the Germans at bay, was overwhelmed in the second, but the rot did not stop between the posts. The entire Israeli team was simply unequipped to deal with the German onslaught, and the home team could easily have reached double figures.

This is not the first time Israel has conceded seven goals in a friendly international. In 1986, Argentina beat Israel 7-2 at Ramat Gan, and the national team lost by the same score in Poland in 1959.

The match was originally slated to be held in Israel, but was moved to Kaiserslautern due to security concerns.

Spiegel said there were no reservations in Israeli sporting circles against Germany, noting that basketball and other sports teams from Israel had appeared in Germany, both at international and club level.

"Up until about 10 or 15 years ago, there was some resistance and prejudice in Israel, but I'm convinced that's not the case any more," Spiegel said. "Israelis are especially enthusiastic about international sporting competition. They need them and seek them."

Recommended Reading

Fiction

• ***Too Many Men***, by Lily Brett, William Morrow, $39.50, HC.

An extremely powerful novel about the daughter of a Holocaust survivor who travels to Poland with her father, seeking understanding and striving to come to terms with her parents' intense suffering. This philosophical, insightful work by an award-winning writer who doesn't miss a beat also describes life in Poland today, the money-making rackets known as Holocaust museums, and the deep anti-Semitism that still prevails.

• ***The Road to Fez***, by Ruth Knafo Setton, Counterpoint, $34.95, HC.

This captivating, descriptive novel about a Jewish family in Morocco takes the reader on a journey to an exotic world. Full of passion and mythology.

• ***Mind the Doors: Long Short Stories***, by Zinovy Zinik, Context Books, $34, HC.

A magnificent collection of moving stories that are both thought-provoking and humorous.

Non-Fiction

• ***Miscarriage of Justice: The Jonathan Pollard Story***, by Mark Shaw, Paragon House, $36.95, HC.

Provides fresh details about the case of Jonathan Pollard, who is serving a life sentence in an American prison for passing top-secret documents to the Israelis. Interesting information about his life and family before the arrest is included. According to former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, "the sentence is disproportionate, unfair, and should be commuted."

• ***Jews in American Politics***, edited by L. Sandy Maisel and Ira N. Forman, Rowman & Littlefield, $59.95, HC.

A history and analysis of the Jewish contribution to American politics as well as its effect on the American Jewish psyche.

• ***Conversations with Chaim Potok***, edited by Daniel Walden, University Press of Mississippi, $29.75, SC.

Fascinating discussions on literature, art, philosophy, religion and mysticism with the universally renowned author who prefers to be known simply as a writer rather than an American Jewish writer.

• ***The Zaddik***, by Elaine Grudin Denholtz, Prometheus Books, $41.50, HC.

This shocking account of the kidnapping of a boy from a secular Jewish family by a chassidic sect exposes profound corruption in the American political and judicial systems. On the other hand, we are saved from despair by two powerful lawyers who ignore financial loss in pursuit of truth and justice. (The religious hypocrisy and cruelty of a group of thugs should not reflect on the observant community as a whole.)

Youth

Ages 3-6

• ***Russell's Secret***, by Johanna Hurwitz, HarperCollins Publisher, $23.95, HC.

An adorable story about a little boy who wants a day off from school. Wonderful illustrations by Heather Malone.

Ages 10-14

• ***Walker's Crossing***, by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, Simon & Schuster, $6.99, SC.

A teenage boy becomes involved with a dangerous militia group that wants to keep Wyoming free of immigrants, minorities and government interference.

Ages 4-8

• ***On Purim***, by Cathy Goldberg Fishman, Simon & Schuster, $23.50, HC.

This lovely book explains the story of Purim and conveys the joyful spirit of the holiday. Beautiful, colourful illustrations by Melanie W. Hall.

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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1 large onion, peeled & thinly sliced
2 cloves garlic, peeled & crushed
1 cup pitted & finely chopped prunes
1 apple, cored & chopped
1 cup finely chopped dried apricots
1/2 cup raisins
1/4 tsp. ground black pepper
1 tsp. cinnamon
1/4 tsp. turmeric
1 tsp. sugar
1/2 cup orange juice

Heat oil in a non-stick skillet and brown onion and garlic. Add prunes, apple, apricots, raisins, pepper, cinnamon, turmeric and sugar. Mix well.

Preheat the oven to 350°F. Stuff the chicken with fruit mixture and truss the cavities shut. Place chicken in a greased roasting pan and pour in the orange juice.

Cover and bake in oven for 1 1/2 hours, basting with pan juices, until the meat separates easily from bone.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

At the end of each year, my school has a semi-formal. One boy, whom I'm not really friends with, asked me if I would go with him as his date. I said yes, because he caught me off guard and because I felt bad saying no. But I was really hoping to ask the boy that I have a crush on. Now I don't know what to do. Can I tell the first guy that I changed my mind? Or do I have to go with him?

Indecisive dater

Dear Indecisive,

Ultimately, whatever you choose to do is your own decision. However, it is very important to consider other people's feeling when making your own decisions. Because you have already agreed to go with this boy, it would be very hurtful to him if you told him you have changed your mind. It is not proper etiquette to agree to go with someone and then back out.

Instead, why not suggest to your date that you go to the semi-formal as part of a group of friends. That way you can feel relaxed with your own friends, but still feel you are acting properly toward your date by including him in all the plans.

It is important to keep everything in perspective. The semi-formal may seem very important, but in reality it is only one night. If you are upset that you have lost the opportunity to spend time with your "crush," I guarantee there will be other opportunities. For now, just focus on making the night as much fun as possible. Sometimes when things don't turn out the way you have planned, they end up even better.

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

The Canadian Jewish news

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 39.)

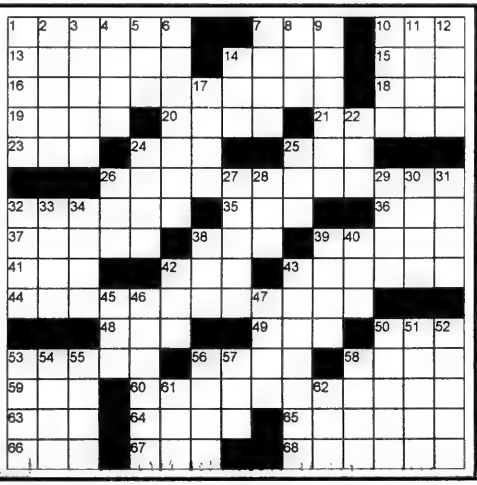
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Passover events
7 Biologist Stephen ___ Gould
10 Steinem cause
13 Jewish Newton-John
14 "Beverly Hills, 90210" name
15 Bagel topper
16 With 26-across, multi-volume literary masterpiece written by a French Jew
18 Samuel's teacher
19 Scott Turow book
20 Colleague of Klein and Karan
21 Shoe accessories
23 Sephardic yeses
24 ___ in "Adam"
25 Asner and Norton
26 See 16-across
32 Woody Allen title role
35 Harass in a wifely way
36 Disappointed reaction from a fan
37 Lend ___ (listen)
38 Pig's place
39 "The ___ Game" (Jonathan Winer's show on MTV)
41 Gasteyer of "Saturday Night Live"
42 "American ___" (1999 comedy)
43 Fodor's offering
44 Author of 16-across
48 Havana gold
49 Pop up to Koufax
50 Stomach muscles
53 Billy Joel's instrument
56 Off the ___
58 Prefix with space
59 Not Pac.
60 Actress who once served in the Israeli army
63 Take advantage of
64 Neither in the red nor the black
65 Participating frequently in, as a temple
66 Laid-back
67 Einstein's the
68 *Couplehood* author

Down

1 Jewish-Hungarian-American zillionaire
2 1985 movie set in Greece
3 They're worth ten cents
4 Stuntman Knievel
5 Hoopster's hoop
6 "___ Prayer" (*Fiddler* song)
7 Stewart and Turteltaub
8 Semicircle
9 Bond outputs
10 Part of GE
11 Part for Hoffman
12 Hitler's side
14 Brandeis figures: abbr.
17 Holiday start
22 Egyptian trouble
24 In the distance
25 Kugel component
26 ___ dare
27 Part of ICBM
28 Vote for Schumer
29 Ending for Islam
30 Not the whole schmear
31 Ten below?
32 Ahad ___
33 Tolstoy heroine
34 In the vicinity
38 Have some wine
39 Involved
40 Used a menorah
42 Peace process org.
43 Coalition-led conflict
45 Bad thing
46 Crumbled, as political support
47 Coming ___ slump (recovering form)
50 Protection
51 Musical note
52 More hurt
53 Singing Simon
54 "___ boy!"
55 Mallory's bro, on "Family Ties"
56 Radio user, for short
57 Coffee holder
58 Prefix with Semite
61 Adam's madam
62 Diamonds, to Siegel



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This Week

National

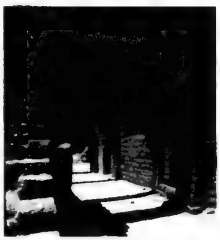
Move to open Vatican archives gets 'mixed' reviews. *Page 5*

Conference in Washington inspires young leaders. *Page 19*

On Campus

New McMaster student centre may pose problems for faith-based groups. *Page 29*

Travel



From Caesarea to Akko: Touring Israel's northern coast. *Page 37*

Sports & Leisure

Adventure travellers visit exotic locations. *Pages 46*

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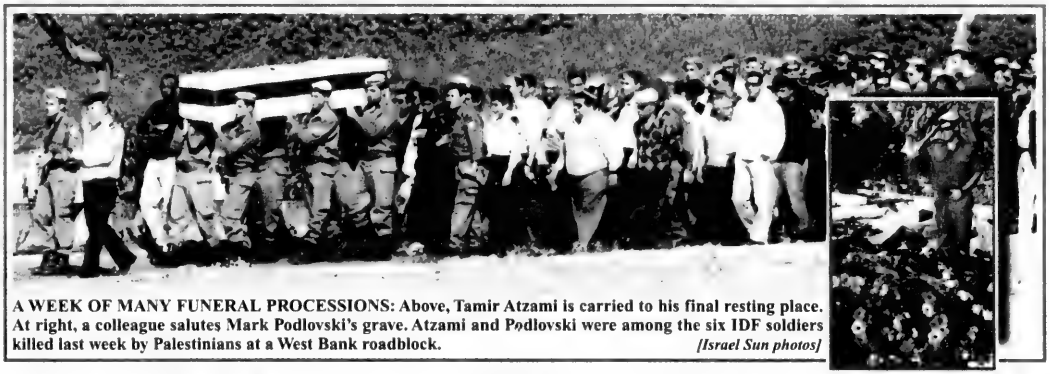

A WEEK OF MANY FUNERAL PROCESSIONS: Above, Tamir Atzami is carried to his final resting place. At right, a colleague salutes Mark Podlovski's grave. Atzami and Podlovski were among the six IDF soldiers killed last week by Palestinians at a West Bank roadblock. *[Israel Sun photos]*

Saudi plan positive: Sharon aide

Ha'aretz Daily Newspapers Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A senior aide to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has called a new Saudi peace initiative "a positive trend," but said Israel would not agree to a key provision – a return to the pre-1967 war borders – in exchange for pan-Arab recognition of the Jewish state.

"Under the assumption that what has been published is correct, it must be said that we're speaking of a positive trend," cabinet Secretary Gideon Saar told Army Radio on Monday.

"This does not mean that we agree to the demand for a return to the 1967 borders. It's clear that we won't agree to this," Saar said.

Last week, Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah gave details of the plan to *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman. According to Friedman, Abdullah said he favoured an initiative that would see the entire Arab world recognize Israel and fully normalize relations in exchange for a complete Israeli withdrawal to pre-1967 borders.

As a range of Israeli officials said the plan bore consideration, President Moshe Katsav offered Monday to go to Riyadh to help foster a deal.

Katsav told reporters: "I very much hope that if a Saudi ruler will not come to Jerusalem, he will invite the rulers of Israel to Saudi Arabia. We would be happy to go to him. If we were invited to Riyadh, I would be glad to go there."

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was to leave Monday for Paris to further the Saudi initiative as well as the draft peace plan that he had forged in recent months with senior Palestinian official Abu Ala.

Continued on page 31

The CHAT Tigers, in white, congratulate their Israeli junior counterparts after the game.

CHAT beats Israeli juniors

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Fans were torn at the recent Hockey Night in Toronto exhibition game featuring Israel's Junior National Team and the CHAT Tigers.

"Do we cheer for Israel or do we cheer for our own Toronto team?" asked David Szymkowicz, one of about 1,000 fans at the game, held at the Herbert H. Carnegie Centennial Arena.

Continued on page 30

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat Parah: Ki Tisa
Candlelighting: 5:47
Havdallah: 6:52

Congratulations to all Canadian Olympians!

The News in Brief

CANADA

Abella Honoured

TORONTO — The Law Society of Upper Canada has awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree to York University Prof. Irving Abella for his contributions to the public and to the legal profession. The degree was awarded as part of the society's call to the bar ceremonies in which new lawyers are sworn in. Abella serves as national chair of Canadian Professors for Peace in the Middle East, president of the Canadian Historical Association and is past president of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

ISRAEL

Services Extended

TEL AVIV — Financial services giant Citibank has added to its presence in Israel, launching a retail banking service to go along with its corporate banking operation. The corporate banking service was opened in July 2000. Two months later, the bank said it planned to expand into retail banking by the second quarter of 2001, but the outbreak of the intifadah delayed that development.

WORLD

Demjanjuk Loses

CLEVELAND — A U.S. judge has revoked the citizenship of Nazi guard John Demjanjuk. The judge agreed with U.S. prosecutors who argued that Demjanjuk had fraudulently become a U.S. citizen after the war by covering up his past as a guard at several concentration camps. Demjanjuk, 81, formerly lost his U.S. citizenship in 1981 on evidence he was the sadistic Nazi guard "Ivan the Terrible" at Treblinka from 1942-43. Demjanjuk was extradited to Israel in 1986 to stand trial for crimes against humanity. An Israeli court convicted Demjanjuk of being Ivan the Terrible and sentenced him to death in 1988. He spent five years on death row before the Israeli Supreme Court determined in 1993 there was reasonable doubt that Demjanjuk was the Treblinka guard. He subsequently returned to the United States.

Sharon on Trial

BEIRUT — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and other Israeli officials are being tried in Lebanon for alleged war crimes. The trial is based on charges brought by 21 Palestinians and Lebanese over the 1982 Sabra and Shatila massacre in Lebanon, a Lebanese newspaper reported. One witness said she saw Sharon watching through binoculars and personally directing the massacre. Sharon, however, was in Israel on the day Lebanese Christian militias carried out the killings.

Cleric Arrested

LONDON — A London Muslim cleric who allegedly urged his followers to kill Jews has been arrested. Abdullah Faisal, 38, was questioned in a London police station after his arrest last week. British lawmakers had called for action following newspaper reports that Faisal had toured Britain calling for the killing of Jews and nonbelievers. *The London Times* reported he was selling audio cassettes instructing all Muslim males to train for battle and calling on boys to learn to use Kalashnikov assault rifles.

Speech Irks Havel

PRAGUE — Czech President Vaclav Havel said he was "deeply troubled" after his prime minister compared Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority to Adolf Hitler's Third Reich. Speaking after Prime Minister Milos Zeman made the comparison during a state visit to Israel, Havel said it was unacceptable to take out of context "different historical experiences." Havel added: "Such emotive and simplistic statements can only lead to a further stepping up of tension between the parties involved in the conflict in the Middle East." Zeman said his comments had been misunderstood and that he never meant to compare Arafat to Hitler.

Closing Opposed

NEW YORK — Mayor Michael Bloomberg has opposed a city council resolution to close Palestinian offices in New York City. The resolution, which is still in committee, would declare the Palestinian Authority and the PLO terrorist organizations and close their offices in New York, including the Palestinian Mission to the United Nations. "As the host city for the UN, we have to, even when it is painful and disgraceful and disgusting, any term you want to use, we have to be willing to let anybody that the UN wants to credit, or visit them, come here," Bloomberg said.

Jewish Life is Expensive, Report Says

NEW YORK — The average American Jewish family with children must spend about 40 per cent of its income to participate fully in Jewish life, according to an American Jewish Committee study.

Sending two children to Jewish day school and summer camp, paying for synagogue and Jewish community centre memberships and making a moderate Jewish federation gift of $200 (all figures US) totals more than $30,000, according to *The Costs of Jewish Living: Revisiting Jewish Involvements and Barriers*.

However, the median income for a Jewish family with children is reportedly $75,000. The high cost of affiliation means efforts to expand participation in Jewish life are unlikely to succeed unless philanthropists underwrite more subsidies for low- and middle-income Jews, the report says.

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Polish schools begin teaching Holocaust studies

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – Schools in Poland have begun teaching the Holocaust as an independent subject.

Since the Polish education system was reformed three years ago, the Holocaust has been a compulsory, stand-alone course, said Piotr Trojanski, who co-wrote the new curriculum.

It is outlined in a pamphlet entitled *Holocaust. About the History and Extermination of the Jews Within the Framework of Humanities Lessons in Post-Primary Schools*.

"Before 1999, the Holocaust was taught as an event in the war," he explained in an interview. "Now it is recognized as a distinct subject."

Approximately three million Polish Jews, or more than 90 per cent of Poland's pre-war Jewish population, were killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

He believes the Holocaust remains an unprecedented event in the annals of history.

A 33-year-old scholar on the staff of the Pedagogical University in Krakow, Trojanski was here to attend a York University international conference on The Future of Memory.

It was co-sponsored by The Canadian Centre for German and European Studies and the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University.

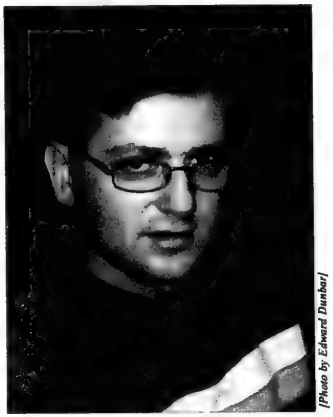
Trojanski said the curriculum is designed for middle and secondary school students 14 years of age and up.

The syllabus places the Holocaust in the context of combating racism and anti-Semitism.

He strongly believes that students who are acquainted with its horrors are much more likely to be tolerant.

Since last summer, *Mowia Wieki*, the national magazine of the Polish history teachers' federation, has published nine excerpts from the curriculum.

He co-wrote it with a colleague, Robert Szuchta. It focuses on three basic problems: Why was the Holocaust possible? How did it happen? What can be done to prevent it from happening ever again?


[Photo by Edward Dunbar]

Piotr Trojanski

"The Holocaust," he noted, "should be taught in such a way as to make students realize that it is still possible for the crime of genocide to recur.

"The effects of the Holocaust can be found even today in the acts of terror, ethnic cleansing and mass murders committed in various parts of the world."

The Holocaust, he added, "should not be taught in isolation from Jewish history and culture."

In pedagogical terms, the Holocaust has gone through three phases in post-war Poland, said Trojanski, whose PhD thesis was on the Jews of Cracow province from 1918 to 1939.

During much of the Communist era, its Jewish victims were described as victims of fascism, and their Jewish backgrounds were hushed up.

From the early 1980s onward, they were portrayed as Poles in what, Trojanski said, was a "process of Polonization."

This, he suggested, was an essentially blinkered approach.

Continued on page 22

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Greater Toronto Area

'A chapter closes'

Last week, on an unusually mild February morning of this unusually mild Toronto winter of 2002, his family and some of his friends laid to rest one of Canadian Jewry's most revered and venerable sages.

Ben Kayfetz, a "towering historical figure," as Irving Abella described him, was 85. Striving constantly to bring us closer to the society of social justice envisioned by our ancient prophets, Kayfetz was one of the community's pre-eminent "public servants," a relentless, indefatigable warrior on behalf of the betterment of Canadian life for all of Canada's people. He retired in 1985 after an exemplary career with the Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) that spanned some 37 years.

Among those who eulogized Kayfetz at the funeral were two people who worked with him, admired him, learned from him and, in their own ways, even emulated him to a certain extent.

I reproduce brief excerpts from those two eulogies. The comments provide for readers some of the intricate and moving detail of the passionate, colourful canvas that was Ben Kayfetz's life, a canvas of living history, a dynamic, kinetic, ongoing process of involvement each day in the ups and downs of trying to build a better world for others as well as for himself.

Manuel Prutschi, CJC's national director of community relations: "Ben spoke with a quiet, gentle voice, and never did an unkind word about those he dealt with ever cross his lips. His voice was like the still, small voice of the shofar. It did not have to be loud to make itself heard. And yet, it was piercing enough to awaken even the complacent and the indifferent to the pursuit of justice. And it was shrill enough to shatter the defences of the bigots and the anti-Semites.

"He was one of the key fighters against discrimination and he centrally contributed to shaping a human rights culture… in this country. He set the guideposts for combating anti-Semitism and racism. He was instrumental in the development of legislation to protect society from the hatemonger. He motivated ethnocultural and faith communities to co-operate with one another, and he led the way in the building of solid inter-group coalitions."

Irving Abella, renowned historian and former national president of the CJC: "It was in the late 1940s… Ben was busily involved in the campaign of his life, which would change this country in ways no one could imagine.

"It was just after the war and a pall of anti-Semitism and racism still enveloped Canada. It was then that an intrepid group of young Jewish activists, in the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Jewish Labour Committee decided to shake off the traditional timidity of the Jewish community and to aggressively challenge the discriminatory practices that had for so long suppressed minorities in Canada.

Ben Kayfetz

"Ben was one of the architects of this campaign, and its strategist. He helped devise the tactics, wrote much of the publicity and lobbied politicians and journalists. He was, in the words of Pierre Berton, who wrote about this effort, key to its success.

"And success came quickly. In rapid order, the government of Ontario, soon followed by other provincial governments, introduced fair employment and fair housing laws along with other anti-discrimination legislation, culminating in the creation of human rights commissions.

"Ben and his allies had changed this country for the better. The old Canada – parochial, nativist, xenophobic, exclusionary – disappeared, and it in its place arose the new Canada we know today, a Canada of open minds and open doors, of tolerance, of diversity, of humanity, a Canada in which Jews and other minorities could take their rightful place in Canadian society."

Keith Landy CJC's current national president, placed Kayfetz's life's work into the context of the Jewish history of Canada: "Ben Kayfetz's death closes a significant chapter of Canadian Jewish history… He guided the Jewish community through some of its most difficult times, becoming both its voice and conscience. He leaves behind a legacy of leadership which present and future Jewish communal leaders will seek to emulate for the good of the community and for all of Canada."

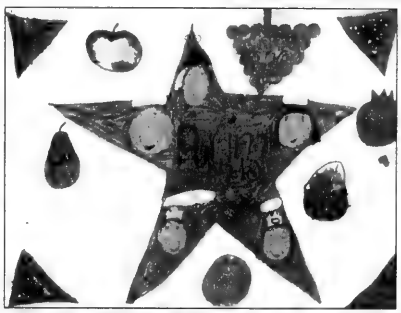
All of us – those who knew Ben Kayfetz and those who did not – can learn from what he tried to achieve, and find in his achievements an inspiration for what we can do with our own lives, if we only want to and try.

* * *

This is a reminder to all readers. The Canada Israel Committee Parliamentary Dinner is on March 6 at the Westin Hotel in Ottawa. Support Israel. Register. Attend.

MBD

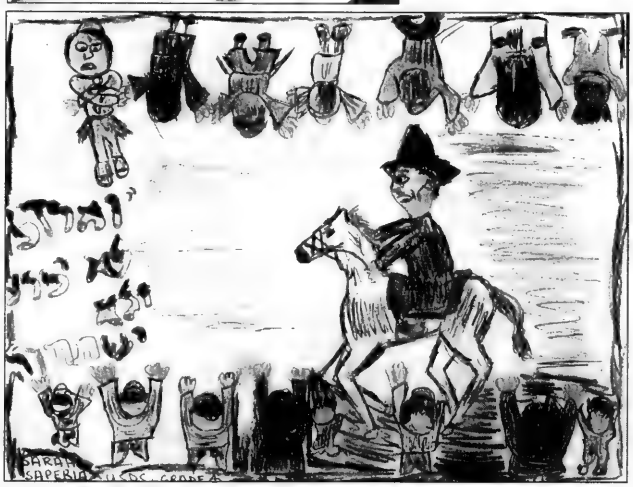
SeeJN



OOPS!!

These two Purim drawings were not seen by our judges. Apologies to DALYA COHEN (left) and to SARAH SAPERIA (below). Our thanks go to all children who sent us their drawings.

The editor



Greater Toronto Area

Move to open Vatican archives gets 'mixed' review

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The recent decision by the Vatican to open part of its World War II archives is a positive development, but falls short of satisfying demands for unfettered access, says a Canadian specialist on the Holocaust.

"I have mixed feelings," said Michael Marrus, a University of Toronto historian, in a telephone interview from Siena, Italy, where he is on a four-month sabbatical.

"On the one hand, it's a step in the right direction. It's a good idea, and I want to encourage that process. On the other hand, I don't appreciate the release of documents showing the Vatican only in a favourable light."

Documents should be released on the basis of pure objectivity, he noted.

"The Vatican has a responsibility to come to terms with the Holocaust," he added. "All the records should be made available."

In mid-February, the Vatican announced it would release selected documents next year from 1922 onward.

The first batch will deal with the Vatican's relationship with Germany from 1922 to 1939.

This was a period during which Pope Pius XII – a controversial figure whom the Vatican wants to beatify in advance of granting him sainthood – served as the Vatican's ambassador to Germany.

According to the *New York Times*, the first wartime documents to be released will be those dealing with Pope Pius XII's charitable work with prisoners of war and victims of war, regardless of their religion or race.

But documents about the pontiff's policy during the Holocaust will not be released for at least three years.

Marrus, the author of *The Holocaust in History* and *Vichy France and the Jews*, speculated that the proposed release of some – but not all – documents represents a compromise between officials who want the archives to remain closed and those who want it to be opened.

"There are different points of view in the Vatican," said Marrus, pointing out it is not a monolithic institution.

The planned release of Vatican documents comes in the wake of the recent suspension and breakup of an international historians' commission established to study Vatican archival material.

The commission was jointly set up in 1999 by the International Jewish Committee on Interreligious Consultations and the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews.

The Jewish and Catholic historians on the panel, of which Marrus was a member, suspended their work after concluding that the Vatican would deny them access to post-1923 documents.

Subsequently, two Jewish panelists – but not Marrus – resigned, citing a lack of co-operation.

Scrutiny of wartime Vatican documents will inevitably turn on Pope Pius XII's role.

His pontifical reign began on the eve of World War II.

Some historians believe he was basically indifferent to the fate of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe.

Still others maintain that he helped Jews in the face of Germany's campaign to exterminate European Jewry.

Seymour Reich, chair of the International Jewish Committee for Interreligious Consultations, urged the Vatican to clear the air and release all its documents, according to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency (JTA).

The JTA quoted David Rosen, the American Jewish Committee's international director for interreligious affairs, as saying that while the release of some documents was "an enlightened step," the decision "does not resolve" the basic problem.

BIBLE COMPETITION: Eleven teams representing eight supplementary schools took part in the Supplementary School Bible Competition on Feb. 17. Seen here is the winning team, representing Bet Sefer Solel, with their coach, Simon David: from left, Greg Bundus, Jordan Tannenbaum, Miriam Schwab, David and Leah Zajdman. Beth Tikvah placed second and United Congregational Schools placed third.

What Can I Do To Help Israel Meet Its Crisis?

Dear Friends:

We all know Israel is currently facing one of the most difficult times in its history. The crisis is not only political but economic as well. There are things we in the Diaspora can do to help, including the following:

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VISIT ISRAEL!

Remember, Israel is so much more than the images we see on T.V. If five million of our fellow Jews can live their daily lives there, we can certainly visit! We must do everything we can to help.

Sincerely,
THE HERCZEG FAMILY

Conservative USCJ works to unite diverse factions

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A first-time joint convention among five subgroups of the Conservative movement provided an opportunity for a Canadian delegation of about a dozen people to meet with Judy Yudof, the newly elected president of the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism (USCJ).

Paul Kochberg, president of the Canadian region of USCJ, which had 23 delegates to the convention, said the tone of the meeting was a "very positive indication" of future co-operation. Canadian lay leaders had been meeting with Yudof's predecessor, Stephen Wolnek, on an ongoing basis for at least the past year to resolve issues including determination and distribution of dues.

Rabbi Wayne Allen, of Beth Tikvah Congregation, was also positive about the meeting with Yudof, who is the first woman to serve in her role, calling it an "instructive and fruitful conversation."

But, like other Canadian delegates, he pointed out a "deeply felt problem" in terms of a lack of understanding of the Canadian Jewish experience on the part of the New York-based USCJ, compounded by the distribution of Canadian members into member regions.

The so-called Canadian region of USCJ comprises only Ontario, Quebec and eastern Canada. Other member congregations are included in geographically closer American regions. But at least one Vancouver delegate was in on the meeting with Yudof, and Kochberg said there are plans to keep in touch.

Like other Canadians interviewed, Rabbi Allen spoke of the American slant of the conference, which ran from Feb. 10 to 14 at the Marriott Wardman Park in Washington, D.C. and was attended by about 1,500 people. A session he attended on outreach to the intermarried cited only American statistics. But the questions raised were questions that rabbis here are also asking. "Are those who are intermarrying really abandoning the Jewish community? Or is love taking precedence, but the people haven't given up on Judaism?"

A more pressing question, it appeared to Rabbi Allen from the amount of attention it commanded at the convention, was the issue of people picking and choosing which parts of Judaism they will accept or reject, including synagogue membership.

That way of thinking contributes to the dilemma of choosing whether to spend time and resources on outreach to uninvolved and/or intermarried Jews, or on inreach to those who are already involved and belong to a synagogue, he said.

Ideally, both might be attempted, he added. "I believe that is something every synagogue has to answer individually. I believe the idea [of such discussion] is to start the thinking processes."

Among the major issues discussed at the convention were the future of the synagogue and the future of Jewish education, he said.

Speaking on The Synagogue of the Future, Steven Cohen, a sociology professor at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, pointed out that while there is a disparity in observance between Conservative leaders and the rank and file, recent studies show that more Conservative Jews are educated and observant than at any time in recent history.

The five-day gathering in Washington earlier this month happened amid concern that the movement is too factionalized and may be losing clout.

The fact that five groups – the congregational arm, rabbinic arm and three professional associations for synagogue executive directors, educators and cantors – came together at the convention made it "a historic moment," said Rabbi Allen.

"It took 100 years for this to happen, but there is a recognition that the Conservative movement will only succeed when all our different arms are working cohesively."

Among other firsts, an Israel rabbi, Rabbi Reuven Hammer, was chosen to head the movement's rabbinic arm, the Rabbinical Assembly (RA); and an Ethiopian-born Conservative rabbi, Yafet Alemu, was inducted into the RA.

The gathering was an effort to unite the movement, said Conservative movement leaders. Yudof said she had spoken with the heads of the RA and the Jewish Theological Seminary to discuss how the groups can work more closely, and that all acknowledged the need for change.

"I would suggest there's still a lot of work to be done to recognize the contribution each group is making," said Shelly Maerov, executive director of Beth Tzedec Congregation. "By no means were the resources that were together well and properly mined to get the best from their presence."

Maerov — who was associate executive vice-president of UIA Federations Canada before moving to Beth Tzedec in 2000 – said the convention reminded him of the General Assembly of Jewish Federations (now General Assembly of United Jewish Communities) as it was 10 or 15 years ago. "I think [USCJ] can learn a lot from the federation."

The federation system, he said, has "gone a long way toward bringing many aspects of the community together under one umbrella when addressing issues."

He would recommend, he added, that USCJ recognize that there is a critical mass of Conservative Jews in Canada and plan sessions for those areas that are idiosyncratic to Canada as well as making general sessions more culturally sensitive and inclusive of Canadians.

As a first-time attendee, he enjoyed networking with his counterparts, and getting a sense of how Beth Tzedec is faring in relation to other large synagogues.

The synagogue was one of two Canadian congregations to receive Solomon Schechter Awards at the convention: Agudas Israel in Saskatoon received a silver award for publications; Beth Tzedec was awarded two silvers, for publications and adult education, and two honorable mentions, for programming in the areas of social action, and worship and ritual.

With files from JTA.

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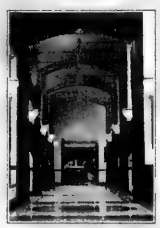

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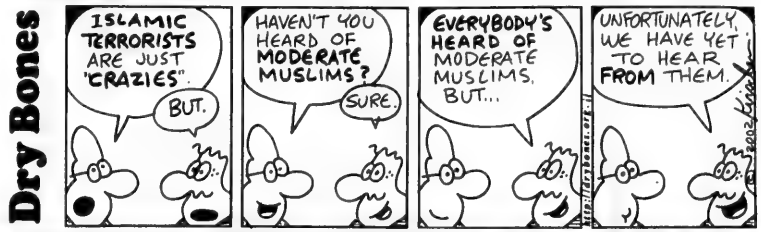
Dry Bones
ISLAMIC TERRORISTS ARE JUST "CRAZIES".
BUT.
HAVEN'T YOU HEARD OF MODERATE MUSLIMS?
SURE.
EVERYBODY'S HEARD OF MODERATE MUSLIMS, BUT...
UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE YET TO HEAR FROM THEM.

How they delighted in his murder

Authorities are convinced that Daniel Pearl was killed within days of his kidnapping on Jan. 23. His abductors, a previously unknown group called the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, never intended to set him free. Nor do they much care about the "restoration of Pakistani sovereignty." They intended only one fate for Pearl: his death. Even the group's name is a cynical ruse, much like the pretense of negotiations for Pearl's release. It was all simply part of the grotesque, obsessive hatred burning bright red inside of them, a holy incense for the spilling of other people's blood.

It is now clear from all of the circumstances that Pearl's religion was one of the key factors, if not the key factor, in his abduction. Indeed, one of the people arrested in connection with the murder told police that the abductors were looking for someone who was "anti-Islam and a Jew." Pearl was not anti-Islam, but he certainly was a Jew.

Daniel Pearl

That may very well have been the entire purpose of the kidnappers' ghoulish, grisly enterprise: to be able to boast to their confederates and other like-minded radical Islamists of the death of a hated Jew.

How else to explain the videotaping of the murder and the "statement of identity" Pearl was forced to intone just moments before his death?

"I am a Jew; my mother is a Jew," Pearl spoke into the camera. The recitation of the formulaic, matrilineal proof of his Jewishness was clearly intended to establish beyond any doubt, for the benefit of subsequent viewers of the videotape, that the abductors had captured the "right" man, namely, the enemy, a Jew. Mere moments later, more in the manner of a a ritual slaughter and the execution of a religious decree than the punishment of a prisoner, Pearl was grabbed by the hair, slashed across his throat and decapitated. How his captors must have delighted in their act of "restoration."

We grieve for Daniel Pearl, his family and his friends. By all accounts, he was a talented, loving, good man.

The hatred that drove the kidnappers to find "a Jew" is part of the very same hatred that drives Al Qaeda and all such like minded groups, individuals and supporters to strike at the West and at western values.

It comes as no surprise, therefore, that Pakistani and western police are looking for Al Qaida operataives whom they believe to have been involved in Pearl's abduction and murder.

The outcry has been sharp and swift from the West and from the government of Pakistan. There has, alas, been no outcry, no denunciation, no condemnation, not even sharp criticism from any other Muslim country: Is it not time that we heard from them too?

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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Jews, vote for social justice!

I was shocked and dismayed after reading the letter in the Feb. 21 issue in praise of the Ontario Progressive Conservative Party.

By tradition, and through the teachings of the prophets, Jews have always had a strong sense of social justice. The Ontario Progressive Conservative Party, since coming into power in 1995, have, by their actions, proven that they should be condemned.

On the private school funding issue, for every child that leaves the public school system, the government will withdraw approximately $7,000 from public school funding. After five years, the parents of a child in the private school system will be eligible for a tax credit of up to $3,500. This provides a benefit to the government of up to $3,500 for each child who leaves the public school system in favour of the private school system. Is this good for the Jews, or is it legislation for profit? Perhaps the exclusion of Jews from being able to vote for the next leader of the party, and therefore the next premier, will help answer this question.

In the next election, remember how Jews were disenfranchised from this process, and cast a vote for social justice – anyone *but* the Progressive Conservative Party!

Sol Hermolin
Toronto

* * *

Speak 'truth to power'

I was very glad to see that the Canada-Israel Committee has lined up an impressive roster, including Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Foreign Minister Bill Graham, for its 17th parliamentary dinner and policy conference on March 6. I hope that amid all the wining and dining an important message will be respectfully conveyed: the Chrétien government's Middle East policy has been unfair to Israel and deeply disappointing to the overwhelming majority of Canadian Jews. Over the last 1½ years, in vote after vote, in New York and in Geneva, in the UN General Assembly and at special conferences, the Canadian government has not stood up enough for its good friend and sister democracy.

This government's supposed "even-handedness," its constant talk about ending "the cycle of violence," has failed to distinguish between Israel, which took huge risks for peace during the Oslo peace process, and the Palestinian Authority, which in September 2000 made a calculated decision to turn away from negotations and try to achieve its political aims through terrorism.

Furthermore, too many Liberal MPs and ministers have failed to repudiate all forms of terrorism as an immoral political strategy, preferring instead to indulge in the fantasy that some forms of terrorism may be legitimate. Events since Sept. 11 have shown that when terrorism is repudiated, all of a sudden countries like Pakistan figure out ways to stop their homegrown terrorists. The nice-guy, even-handed approach of the Canadian government has failed dramatically in the Middle East, helping to mislead the Palestinians into believing that they can accomplish something through violence and terror.

On March 6, the deep, enduring friendship between Canada and Israel should be celebrated. Prime Minister Chrétien should be greeted properly. But it is in fact a mark of great respect in a democracy to convey criticism and concern as well as support. If Chrétien and company walk away from the evening with no awareness of the anguish their policies have caused, here in Canada and the Middle East, the CIC will have failed in its mission. As citizens in a democracy we must speak "truth to power" – respectfully, constructively, but clearly.

Gil Troy
McGill University
Montreal

* * *

CJC not suited to be art critics

So the Canadian Jewish Congress is taking on the role of art critic and, dare I say, censor, of the Canadian Opera Company. Because *National Post* reporter Tamara Bernstein felt so violated that a new wave of anti-Semitism was about to be unleashed on the Canadian public from this opera, the CJC now feels that it must look after Jewish interests in operatic productions.

What qualifies the CJC for this role? Do they know about art? Music? Opera? I hope they are familiar with Jewish history. The story of King Herod and Salome is not a pleasant one, as the opera illustrates. We Jews have had many heroes, but we have also had our share of villains, and Herod is certainly one of them. In fact, Herod's Jewishness could even be called into question. Herod was an Idumaenean, from the Land of Edom, a desert region of nomads to the south of Judea. His mother was of Arab descent. Today's rabbis would have a difficult time accepting him as a real Jew (he certainly was not a Litvak or a Galicianer). His reign as "King of the Jews" was marked not only by a great building program – Masada and Caesarea, for example – but also by tyranny and treachery. He had many members of his family murdered, along with other fellow Jews. Any attempt to whitewash the opera, making it politically correct by portraying Herod and his Jewish partners-in-crime as being less sinister, would be a crime in itself.

There are many more serious issues for the CJC to address. Leave art to the artists, and let productions of art reflect an honest history.

Howard Mednick
Thornhill, Ont.

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

A young adult sees a special, complex community

By SHIRA KOGUT

A great deal of the attention the media has been paying to Argentina has been on its economic crisis and the emigration of its citizens, especially its Jews, but there is so much more to this very special Jewish community.

I recently had the pleasure of going to Buenos Aires to visit some friends I had met on the Birthright Israel/March of the Living trip the year before. My friends exposed me to the beauty of this 250,000-member community and I would like to share that experience with all of you.

The Buenos Aires Jewish community is the largest Spanish-speaking Jewish population. They are incredibly loyal to Israel and especially loyal to their Jewish identity. In my countless philosophical discussions with various Porteños (meaning someone from Buenos Aires) about religion and identity, I cannot emphasize enough the amount of times they said they would only date and marry Jews, despite the fact that they would only go to synagogue on the High Holy Days.

During my stay, I went to two Reform synagogues, Dor Chadash and Bet Hilel (www.bethilel.org.ar). I was very impressed and overjoyed to see that although there was no special occasion, both synagogues were filled to capacity. Dressed in whatever attire they felt comfortable wearing, from casual to formal, the congregants, both young and old, attended services and sang each prayer with kavanah.

Both evenings highlighted the beauty in the similarities that form the special, universal Jewish bond as well as the beauty in the differences between Jews around the world. I was able to participate and feel at home in both services because, like services around the world, the prayers were said in Hebrew.

After services, I went to my friend's family's house for Shabbat dinner (his father happens to be the cantor at the Dor Chadash synagogue and has the most beautiful voice), where I spent a wonderful evening talking to my friend in English, his mother in Spanish and his father in Yiddish. The next Friday night, I went to the Bet Hilel synagogue and after services, while talking with my friends, I realized that we were living proof of the universality of the Jewish ethnicity and identity. Here we were, Jews from different countries with different customs, languages and cultures, yet bonded by our religion, our love for Israel and our language. What we could not express to each other in either of our native tongues we expressed to each other in Hebrew.

The Jewish community in Buenos Aires has numerous Chabad houses, which can be found all over the city. While I was there, they had a public candle lighting ceremony for Chanukah. I cannot even express the excitement I felt walking into a local shopping centre to find a kosher McDonald's in their food court.

In addition to the Jewish day schools, the community also has a Hebrew school for children who go to public school but want a Jewish education. I had the honour and privilege of attending the Ramah program on their final day of classes before summer vacation, which also happened to be the 8th night of Chanukah. I was touched to see tears come to both students' and teachers' eyes when they reminisced about the program over the last year knowing that it would not be continued in the year to come. There are many reasons that the school will not continue its Jewish programming next year, but the main reason is that the community simply cannot afford to sustain the program because, like the rest of Argentina, they are feeling the troubles of the major economic crisis.

At the height of the crisis last month, hundreds of unemployed Argentinians marched in Buenos Aires demanding jobs. [RNS/Reuters photo]

The current economic emergency in Argentina is not the first crisis to hit the Argentine Jewish community. On July 18, 1994, a terrorist detonated a car bomb in front of a building called AMIA, which housed most of the community's organizations. The community banded together to help in rescue efforts and in order to rebuild the building. Now a memorial stands in front of the building and trees dedicated in the names of each victim line the street. I had the pleasure of visiting the Keren Kayemet Le-Yisrael of Argentina and watching as they prepared Jewish and Israel education programs for the 14 Jewish summer camps of Argentina and Uruguay.

This article is just a taste of Jews of Buenos Aires because it is impossible to explain such a complex community in so few words. It was such a delight for me to make this visit and have this experience. It is a mélange of the religion I am accustomed to, united with a Latin American character of passion and warmth. It is no wonder that as the community starts to feel the pressure of the economy and begins to move around the world they all feel the intense longing expressed in the famous tango song *Mi Buenos Aires Querido*.

Shira Kogut is a freelance writer.

Mission sees a community struggling to survive

By FLORENCIA ARBISER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BUENOS AIRES — For Karen Shapira, the United Jewish Communities' fact-finding tour to Argentina last week made a deep impression.

"Two weeks ago, I knew the figures" of Argentina's economic crisis, said Shapira, chair of the Overseas Pillar of the UJC, the umbrella for the North American Jewish federation movement.

"But to be here, to see the effects of the crisis on the middle class" is something else, she said.

Shapira was one of a group of UJC leaders who travelled to Buenos Aires recently to evaluate the needs of the country's Jews – about 250,000 people – after Argentina's economic collapse.

Before the mission was over, UJC leaders in North America, in a conference call with mission delegates, had approved some $5 million (US) in emergency aid for food, shelter and medicine.

The funds, to be distributed by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, are expected to come from local federations.

Steven Schwager, chief operating officer of the JDC, welcomed the development, and said the JDC will continue to look for additional funds to meet the estimated $8.7 million (US) Argentine Jews will need in 2002.

UJC still needs to determine its total budget for the emergency, taking into account the increasing needs of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which is helping to fund the emigration and absorption of Argentine Jews to Israel. (Argentina was a major focus at last week's meeting in Israel of the Jewish Agency's board of governors.)

While in Buenos Aires, the UJC contingent met with local Jewish professionals who coordinate welfare programs, visited centres focused on helping Jews emigrate to Israel and met with religious and other community leaders.

They also met with ordinary Jews, most of them belonging to middle-or former middle-class families, who shared their stories and needs with the UJC visitors.

Though Shapira had read about the Argentine situation, she said the people she met in the welfare centres were not the kind of people she had imagined would be in such a situation – educated, hard-working members of the middle class who have become part of the "new poor."

Outside the group's van, Shapira said, people were begging and shops were closed.

She also noticed how much the leaders used phrases like "re-engineering" and "co-operation" in describing their efforts to help a community that has difficulty paying membership fees and dues to Jewish institutions.

"For me, one of the really important things here is to meet Jewish leadership, to see how they organize," Shapira said.

For Richard Bernstein, the co-chair of the UJC's Argentine Response Task Force, one of the most shocking discoveries was "how quickly things are happening.

"In a question of the last six weeks, there are parts of the Jewish community who started to have urgent needs," he said. "Some are uncertain about food and shelter for next week."

The UJC group also visited Emanu El Social Assistance Center, which works with the support of the JDC and Tzedaka, an Argentine Jewish social services organization.

At the centre, they talked to five formerly middle-class families, who said just meeting basic needs is a struggle.

Those talks made a deep impression on Schwager.

"They were clearly middle class, and now they have nothing, they have no hope. It is so hard to imagine," he said. "I think this is an emergency situation. And Jews around the world need to know about it."

The group also visited Comedores Populares Israelitas Argentinos, an independent welfare institution that provides kosher meals to approximately 90 people a day through financial help from the JDC.

"There are more people willing to come for lunch, but we do not have the money to feed them," a JDC spokesperson said.

The JDC estimates that it will need to assist 21,000 Jews this year – and, perhaps that many for many more years.

The delegation also met with Jews preparing to emigrate to Israel who were in the Jewish Agency office. The office is in the AMIA building, the central address for Argentine Jewry.

According to the Jewish Agency, about 4,600 people have inquired about moving to Israel since the beginning of 2002. In January, 210 Argentine Jews arrived in Israel, another 330 were to depart in February and 500 more are expected in March.

Both Jews staying in Argentina and those leaving need help, Bernstein said.

After touring Comedores, the group was on its way to the Hebraica Jewish Institution, a social and cultural centre, when a young student stopped them and told them about his lack of hope for the future.

During another part of the trip, the group saw a man, apparently looking for a way to survive, handing out pamphlets for Hebrew classes in front of the AMIA building.

"Hebrew classes for emigrants for five pesos" – approximately $2.50 – "each hour," the low-quality, photocopied pamphlet read.

David Sarnat, the Jewish Agency's executive vice president, who was on the mission, picked it up.

"You will speak Hebrew in two weeks. Guaranteed," the man said.

Bright light in a dark world

One of the more problematic situations on the international scene is the lingering tension between Israelis and Palestinians. Many have tried solving or at least mitigating this apparently intractable problem, but their success has been less than noteworthy.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

I am glad to report that there is at least one notable exception. It is the Isabel Silverman Canada International Scientific Exchange Program, a charitable organization based at Mount Sinai Hospital and the University of Toronto, known by its abbreviation CISEPO. It has been conducting collaborative cross-border programs between Israelis and Arabs. Founded under the guardianship of the late King Hussein, it has been given one of the rare endorsements in current international affairs by both Israelis and Palestinians.

CISEPO has organized and sponsored educational programs that have brought Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian academics and their institutions together in such towns as Tel Aviv, Jerusalem, Amman, Gaza and Nablus. Canada, too, has been a locus of its activities that have led to the formation of the Middle East Association for Managing Hearing Loss, known by the abbreviation MEHA.

MEHA has thereby become the first of cross-border Arab-Israeli professional associations involving Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians.

A noteworthy feature of CISEPO is the support that it has drawn from private parties, as well as from the Canadian government, which has become a partner by financially supporting this venture. Members of the steering committee are Canadian, Israeli, Jordanian and Palestinian academics.

The organization wants to be known as one that has pursued a slow but relentless, people-based, cross-border, cross-cultural incremental progress since it was founded in 1984.

CISEPO thus provides a significant Canadian contribution to a group that now involves more than 300 people and 52 different projects on the Israeli-Palestinian track. Because educators, researchers and scientists provide CISEPO's hands-on action, MEHA has become an example of how the essential principles of security, mutuality, acceptance, respect and trust can help to create a small ray of hope between Jews, Christians and Muslims – a model for the Middle East and beyond.

If you wish to know more details about this unusual and inspiring program, I suggest you call or write to: Dr. Arnold M. Noyek at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto. A distinguished physician, he has become a key player in this latest effort at creating an environment of international co-operation that will, hopefully, bring important fruits.

Mah nishma? Don't ask

Mah nishma? Are you sure you really want me to answer that question? *Mah nishma*? It may mean nothing to those with no Hebrew, but in Israel it is heard constantly, as often as people in North America greet each other with its English equivalent, "How are you?" or the French ask, "Comment ça va?"

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

These days, however, asking someone in Israel how they are has become a loaded question, especially in Jerusalem.

Under normal circumstances (whatever that means in Israel), *mah nishma* elicits the same kind of banal, perfunctory answers that such a question usually does in other countries. But after nearly a year and a half of devastating Palestinian terrorism and with no end in sight, asking people in Jerusalem *mah nishma* touches a sensitive nerve.

On one hand, with so many terrorist attacks and so many people killed and wounded, residents feel thankful if they and their loved ones have not been in harm's way. Yet at the same time, no one is immune from the terrible news and pervasive sense of doom and gloom. Even in crisis-hardened Jerusalem, the collective mood seems to have sunk to a new low in recent weeks.

These days, to ask Jerusalemites *mah nishma* is to invite a wide range of reactions – extreme anxiety, gallows humour, religious belief, stoic determination, fatalistic resignation or a combination of the above. The answers reflect the extremely depressed state of the nation bedeviled by an enemy for whom suicide bombers are heroic martyrs. In the face of such savage violence, the psychological and emotional toll on Israelis – Jerusalemites in particular – is incalculably heavy. To say nothing of the disastrous economic fallout.

Life goes on, of course, as it must, but beneath the surface, Jerusalem is traumatized and shell-shocked. How could it be otherwise in a city whose downtown area was recently described in the media, following the latest wave of terror, as the "single most dangerous place in Israel"?

Jerusalemites may be a resilient bunch, but how long will it take to recover from this sadistic onslaught of suicide attacks, car bombings and shooting sprees? What will be the lasting impact on people confronted with the mass murder of so many innocent men, women and children? Has the cavalcade of carnage become so routine that people's senses are being numbed? How much worse can things get?

These questions spring to mind in light of the worst urban bloodshed that Jerusalem and the rest of the country have ever suffered. For now, answers and solutions are elusive. Far more apparent are the symptoms of an embattled society under siege, fighting a war of attrition.

The signs are everywhere in Jerusalem. People walk around with shock, disbelief, anger and incredible sadness, robbed of hope for better days soon. They are on edge, fearful of unattended objects, wary of Arabs in the city. Everyone is constantly worried about the safety of their children. The sound of sirens gives way to the worst thoughts. One turns on the news with trepidation. Getting on a bus, going downtown or visiting a shopping mall is an act of defiance, to be avoided whenever possible. And with good reason. Earlier this month, the country's top cop, Inspector-General Shlomo Aharonishky, presented some highly sobering facts and figures.

"We have just been through a year of violence and terror the likes of which we have not seen in the history of the state," he told reporters at police headquarters in Jerusalem. "But it is likely to increase in 2002."

Among the statistics he cited: last year, Jerusalem suffered 90 terrorist attacks, including 35 bombings and 28 gun fire assaults which killed dozens of people and wounded hundreds more.

Mah nishma? Maybe it would have been better if you hadn't asked.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

The moral imperative

Shortly after the atrocity of Sept. 11, the head of Reuters news agency in London declared that his agency would not use the term "terrorists" to describe the perpetrators of this or any other evil act.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

Stephen Jukes explained that this term is relative, subjective, and emotive – "We all know that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter," he said. Reuters, followed by the venerable BBC and a torrent of other news organizations (including the CBC and most other Canadian media), adopted the terms "activists" and "militants." People who preach hatred, strap explosives to their bodies or hijack airplanes to murder as many people as possible became "activists," a term also used to describe demonstrators protesting environmental pollution. As a result, as far as the politically correct media are concerned, there are no terrorists in the world.

This Orwellian distortion of the English language was fundamentally wrong-headed. The cliché equating terrorists to freedom fighters is fundamentally wrong; these terms are neither identical nor interchangeable. Terrorism is one of the few terms in international law and common practice among democratic nations that has an accepted and logical definition.

According to this definition, embodied in the legal codes of the United States, Canada and other democratic countries, terrorism consists of the random killing of civilians and non-combatants for political or ideological objectives. While the terrorist regimes in Syria and Iraq may seek to divert attention by creating different definitions, this effort is clearly self-serving and lacks any moral or legal validity. Planes directed into buildings, suicide bombing in Israeli cities, and firebomb attacks in Northern Ireland are all examples of random killing of non-combatants.

By contrast, freedom fighters (defined as the good guys) do not use such tactics. They may strike opposing armies, communications centres, and other physical targets, but if they target shopping centres or schools, they are terrorists.

This definition, as in the case of murder, is quite clear and does not require deep thinking or extraordinary intelligence. However, to distinguish between terrorists and freedom fighters, or the use of military power to defend against aggression, it is necessary to make moral judgments.

And this is precisely what the head of Reuters, the BBC and CBC and other journalists and many academics are unable to do. The inability to differentiate between good and evil, aggression and defence, and the absurd claim that such variations are entirely subjective and judgmental, reflects a fundamental moral blindness.

Instead, many journalists, particularly outside the United States, ridicule the clear ethical distinctions made by U.S. President George W. Bush, and the labeling of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and his followers as terrorists.

Years ago, many European politicians and pseudo-intellectuals sold their moral souls to the devil, in order to justify business deals (and the huge kickbacks and side payments they bring) to oil-rich dictators and mass terrorists such as Iraq's Saddam Hussein and Libyan leader Muammar Gadhafi. Morality became irrelevant.

A few months ago, when the Arab and Islamic nations demanded that those gathered in Durban condemn Jewish self-determination as "racism," Europe and Canada were with them. In sharp contrast, the American government took no part in this very blatant example of international evil and immorality.

The definition of terms such as terrorism and murder are neither subjective nor dependent on particular political environments. Effort to substitute morally neutral words such as "militant" or "activist" to describe unspeakable acts of brutality are, in themselves, acts of moral complacency and constitute acceptance of the unacceptable. The terrorism of the Palestinians in their drive to destroy the State of Israel, or of bin Laden and Al Qaeda in their war against the United States and the West, are clear examples of unmitigated evil.

No grievances, real or imagined, can be used to justify the random murder of civilians with the goal of intimidating and frightening these, or any other, societies into accepting political or ideological goals. To paraphrase Jukes from Reuters, we all know that this unethical code of conduct reflects moral bankruptcy and is leading the descent into barbarism.

The Kirshner File

Iran's goals in the Mideast threaten Israel

On Feb. 11, millions of Iranians in Tehran marked the 23rd anniversary of the Islamic revolution in Iran, a historic but retrogressive event that transformed the country into a theocratic, Israel-hating state and encouraged Islamic fundamentalists throughout the Middle East.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

The mood in the streets that day was distinctly anti-American. It was galvanized by U.S. President George W. Bush's recent denunciation of Iran as an "axis of evil" nation. He claims that Iran is trying to develop nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction. And he has accused Iran of supporting groups – Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah – that the United States considers practitioners of terrorism.

But for all the anti-American fervour coursing through the crowds earlier this month, Iran's reformist president, Mohammed Khatami, turned his wrath on Israel. Iran, he declared in a speech, desired détente and peaceful relations with all states in the world but Israel.

By singling it out, Khatami made it crystal clear that Iran has no intention whatsoever of reconsidering its hostile policy toward the Jewish State, and that when it comes to Israel, Iran's moderate and conservative factions, which rule the country together in an uneasy partnership, are in total agreement.

Of late, Iran has escalated its rhetoric against Israel, and Israel has responded vigorously, touching off a war of words between the two countries.

The tension was exacerbated by plausible reports that Iran was involved in a plot by the Palestinian Authority (PA) to smuggle 50 tons of weapons, munitions and explosives into the Gaza Strip on board the freighter the *Karine-A*, loaded on the Iranian Persian Gulf island of Kish.

The Karine-A affair, which has heightened suspicions of Palestinian intentions toward Israel and clouded the Palestinians' already bumpy relations with the United States, has raised alarms that Iran is attempting to form a strategic alliance with the PA.

PA president Yasser Arafat offered assurances to the United States two weeks ago that he has no plans to cozy up to Iran. But Israel, for good reason, is broadly concerned. Speaking to the Knesset defence committee recently, Shaul Mofaz, Israel's chief of staff, declared that Iran poses three major threats to Israel:

Iran wants to build non-conventional weapons and long-range missiles, both of which could pose a threat to Israel's very existence. Iran has stepped up support of Hezbollah in a bid to inflame Israel's northern border with Lebanon. Iran continues to back Hamas and Islamic Jihad so as to torpedo what still remains of the battered Oslo peace process.

And, as Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon warned in January, Iran is making an effort to stir up Israel's somewhat restive Arab minority, still reeling from the deaths of 13 Israeli Arabs at the hands of police forces in October 2000.

Jordan's monarch, King Abdullah II, has also issued a troubling warning about Tehran's meddling, saying that Iran has tried to carry out attacks against Israel from Jordanian territory.

According to Mofaz, Iran will acquire non-conventional weapons of mass destruction within three years. At a recent U.S. Senate hearing, George Tenet, the director of the Central Intelligence Agency, estimated that Iran is attempting to produce "various types of weapons – chemical, biological and nuclear – and their delivery systems."

Expanding on his warning, Tenet said that Iran is about five years away from producing enough fissile material for a nuclear device, and is exerting immense efforts to buy advanced weapons technology from abroad. Iran's foreign minister, Kamal Kharazzi, denies that Tehran is seeking weapons of mass destruction.

Keeping in mind Israel's 1981 bombardment of Iraq's nuclear reactor, *Jane's Intelligence Review*, normally a reliable source, predicted recently that Israel will almost certainly launch a pre-emptive attack on Iran's nuclear infrastructure. With Russia's help, Iran is currently building a nuclear power plant, supposedly for peaceful uses, near the port of Bushehr.

Truculently reacting to the *Jane's* report, Iran's defence minister, Ali Shamkhani, said: "If Israel carries out any military action against Iran, the response will be beyond the imagination of any Israeli politician." Israel says it has no interest in attacking Iran.

Ali Hashemi Rafsanjani, Iran's former Iranian president, touched off the sabre-rattling by insinuating that Iran possessed the capacity to annihilate Israel with nuclear weapons. In the Shahab missile, Iran certainly may have a viable delivery system.

When Shimon Peres, Israel's foreign minister, complained to the United Nations (UN) about his inflammatory comment, Rafsanjani said his remark had been misinterpreted.

Iran certainly opposes Israeli statehood. In a recent speech, Iran's supreme ruler and leader of its hardline faction, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called for Israel's destruction. He described Israel as "a malignant tumor that must be pulled from out of the Islamic soil."

Khamenei's invective underlined the fact that Iran has morphed into Israel's arch-enemy since the Islamic revolution. Prior to 1979, Israel and Iran maintained a cordial, if low-key, relationship.

Iran's involvement in Lebanese affairs also concerns Israel. Iran's Revolutionary Guards have been stationed in the Bekaa Valley since Israel's 1982 invasion of Lebanon, training Hezbollah recruits. Imad Mugniyah, a leading Hezbollah functionary, has close ties with Iran. He is believed to have been behind the 1983 bombings of the United States embassy and U.S. Marine compound in Beirut, and the 1984 murder of William Buckley, the Central Intelligence Agency station chief in Lebanon.

Iran's president, Mohammed Khatami (left) prays with Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, leader of the hardline faction.

Since Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000, Iran has reportedly been encouraging Hezbollah to mount attacks against Israeli forces in the Har Dov region, claimed by Lebanon but certified as Syrian territory by the UN.

Claiming it has turned Lebanon into a "powder keg," Peres recently accused Iran of supplying Hezbollah with some 10,000 rockets, some with a range of 70 kilometres, far enough to hit Haifa and its suburbs.

Several weeks ago, Hezbollah lobbed rockets into Israeli army positions in Har Dov. And since then, Hezbollah has fired on Israeli fighter jets patrolling the area close to Israel's border.

These tensions notwithstanding, Syria – Iran's ally – more or less keeps Hezbollah in check, fearing Israeli retaliation. Last year, following Hezbollah shelling of Har Dov, the Israeli air force destroyed two Syrian radar stations in Lebanon.

In addition, Iran is funding and encouraging Hamas and Islamic Jihad, both of which oppose the Oslo peace process and Israel's existence. Khatami, Iran's president, once said that Iran would not interfere in Israel's eforts to reach an accommodation with the Palestinians. But his adversaries – who control the defence and foreign ministries and who recently refused to accredit Britain's ambassador-designate because he is allegedly Jewish – are doing their best to sabotage attempts to revive the peace process.

In a reference to the *Karine-A* incident, Ephraim Sneh, an Israeli cabinet minister, charged there is "a partnership of interests" between Iran and the PA.

Just as ominously, Iran is attempting to infiltrate Israel's Arab community, one of whose members set off a suicide bomb in Nahariya's train station last September.

Since the eruption of the current intifadah, 100 Israeli Arabs have been arrested on security offences, and 25 anti-Israel Israeli Arab organizations, most linked to Hamas and Islamic Jihad, have been uncovered.

Last but not least, King Abdullah II has told Bush that Iranian-trained Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants have been caught 17 times trying to attack Israel with rockets and mortars from Jordanian soil.

Judging by the evidence, it's abundantly clear that Iran is working assiduously to amass weapons of mass destruction, destabilize Israel's northern border, rile up Israeli Arabs, wreck any chance of reconstituting the Arab-Israeli peace process and drag Jordan into conflict with Israel.

It is quite an indictment. But Iran stands guilty of sowing tension in the Mideast.

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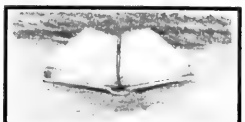
Jewish Life

Picking up the pieces

By RABBI MICHAEL WHITMAN



Rabbinic Reflections

It is hard to imagine a greater failure than the building of the Golden Calf, as recounted in the Torah narrative that we read in synagogue this Shabbat. Just 40 days after hearing God speak at Mount Sinai, somehow the Jewish people dramatically stumbled. Instead of Moses returning from the top of the mountain with God's laws to teach to the world, Moses breaks the two tablets of stone – and the broken pieces reflect the broken promise of the people's loyalty to God.

What happens next is much more important for us. God teaches the Jewish people the secret of repentance. By truly regretting a mistaken action, by ceasing to continue travelling along a sinful path (and making amends to those we have harmed) and by committing to improve in the future, God is willing to forgive our sins.

And as a sign that God's forgiveness was granted, He instructed the Jews to build a Tabernacle, a building to be taken by the Jews with them through their wanderings in the desert. This movable structure would be the meeting place of God and the Jewish people. The most important object in the Tabernacle was the Ark, in which were placed the new, second set of stone tablets containing the Ten Commandments.

But our sages in the Talmud (Brachot 8b) teach a critical lesson. In the Ark were placed not only the new, whole set of tablets. The broken pieces of the first set smashed by Moses were also placed inside the Ark. The catastrophe was turned into a positive lesson for all time.

Throughout the Torah we encounter failure. The building of the Golden Calf is just one example. The Jewish people fall short of God's expectations at other times as well. Even Moses ultimately fails in his desire to enter the Land of Israel.

At times in our own lives, we all face failure – in our relationships, in our careers, in our personal goals. This is inevitable. And when we do, Judaism teaches us that the most helpful approach is to pick up those pieces and include them in the Ark that is our lives. When we allow our mistakes to teach us something positive, even they can be holy and merit placement in the Tabernacle of God.

Rabbi Michael Whitman is spiritual leader of Adath Israel Poale Zedek in Hampstead, Que..

Setting an example?

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

JEWISH EDUCATION The Next Generation

The educational philosopher Thomas F. Green writes that "the necessary elements of a moral education will be understood only in a setting where adults are able to say to youth with confidence, with clarity and for a very long time, 'This is who we are and this is why we do these things.' Any awkward hesitation or apology in presentation will spell disaster for attempts at moral education."

As any salesperson will verify, it is harder – but not impossible – to peddle a product that you do not really think works. As the gap between the pitch and the level of conviction widens, getting the message across becomes almost entirely a question of rhetorical skill or perhaps sheer audacity. Though the word "child" may infer naiveté, their acute and intuitive grasp of the teacher as charlatan actually makes the "sale" of religious education to children a very difficult proposition if one does not truly believe what one is proposing they should follow.

In the realm of Judaism, it is a cliché that such internal contradictions mostly bedevil the non-observant teacher, who must either avoid the halachic heart of the Torah or selectively bypass it and become privy to the charge of inconsistency or worse.

Though this dilemma is undeniably commonplace, I do not believe that a certain lack of faith or, in Green's words, a "hesitation" in conveying Judaism is limited to the secular parts of the Jewish community. For even in traditional or observant communities, the most striking disparity (read: hypocrisy) continues to exist between personal conduct and pious rebukes to children.

An example that springs to mind for me occurred on a recent Shabbat service in a large, local Orthodox synagogue. A father was seated in the row behind his son, who in turn was sitting next to his friends. The father's prayer routine was an all too typical and yet idiosyncratic mixture of occasional focus on the prayerbook, mysteriously interrupted by sudden and persistent bursts of dialogue with his friend seated a few seats away. This back an forth between siddur (God) and friend (distraction from God) went on forever. At some point his son casually began speaking to his friends, which brought an almost instantaneous reminder from his father to "concentrate on davening and don't talk."

I wish this story were apocryphal. And it raises for me some questions that I cannot answer: does this well-meaning and sincere father, who prays three times a day to his God, believe that such a God is less concerned with his talking during prayer than that of his son? And what is his son to make of God? Is God real or just a bit of a game that religious people play at, not so unlike the potential knights and dragons of the son's fervent imagination?

Finally, and perhaps most urgently from the child's perspective: are the adults in my world to be trusted in what they say to me? Or is the real truth to be found in their actions with their grownup peers, in which they reveal again and again, with brutally startling clarity, an uneasy ambivalence regarding the very same things upon which they tell me my world should be founded?

PRAYING ON PATROL:

A soldier on guard duty on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem takes a break to put on tefillin.

[Isranet photo]

Jewish Life

Lots of Jewish literature

Books
Bernard Baskin

***Jewish American Literature, A Norton Anthology*, edited by Jules Chametzky, John Felstiner, Hilene Flanzbaum, Kathryn Hellerstein: Norton and Company, $55.**

Fifty-five dollars? Yes, but even at that price, this hefty tome, the most comprehensive anthology of Jewish American literature ever published, is an outstanding bargain. Many readers will remember the various comprehensive Norton anthologies from their college days.

The four professor editors have judiciously chosen from a vast assemblage of writings that cover 350 years, from a plea in 1656 to Peter Stuyvesant, governor of New Netherlands, on behalf of equal rights for Jewish settlers, to a recent short story by Allegra Goodman.

The selections from the work of 154 writers include fiction, poetry, drama, letters and speeches – as well as song lyrics, humour and translations into English from a variety of languages, especially Yiddish and Hebrew. The selections are impressively balanced and surprisingly complete.

Many of the writers, in one way or another, call upon Jewish Americans to examine who they are, where they come from, what fate they share and what spiritual, ethical and other qualities they must cultivate as they make their way in a land that their fathers and grandfathers fondly called the "goldene medina" (the golden country).

The anthology is divided into five major segments in chronological order. For the period 1945-1973, under the heading *The Golden Age of Broadway Song*, the editors offer samples of the lyrics of Oscar Hammerstein, Irving Berlin, Stephen Sondheim and others. A section on Jewish humour highlights the wit of Groucho Marx and Woody Allen, as well as offering a cluster of Jewish jokes.

This is a unique volume. There is nothing vaguely like it available. It offers untold hours of reading enjoyment and provides, at the same time, an exciting literary journey through three centuries of American Jewish history.

* * *

***Best Contemporary Jewish Writing*, edited by Michael Lerner: A Wiley Company $25.20 (paper bound).**

Michael Lerner, editor of *Tikkun* magazine, rabbi of a "renewal" synagogue in San Francisco, and author of several well-received books on Jewish topics, has been hailed by his admirers as "America's pre-eminent liberal Jewish Intellectual." Even his detractors acknowledge him as a persistent, if annoying, gadfly and able defender of minority opinions.

Best Contemporary Jewish Writing is a treasure trove of outstanding fiction, poetry, social analysis and spiritual insight. His selections were made, Lerner indicates, with the help of "dozens of Jewish writers, thinkers, rabbis, academics and community leaders."

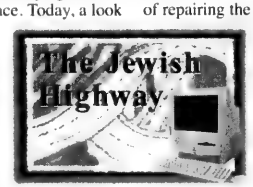
A helpful addition to the anthology is a "significant" list of 100 up-to-date Jewish books in English written since 1985. There are familiar titles by such luminaries as Aharon Appelfeld, Saul Bellow, Anita Diamant, Amos Oz and Philip Roth. The book also contains lesser known works by newcomers Ellen Frankel, Melvin Jules Bukiet, Benny Morris and Thane Rosenbaum.

Lerner plans to edit a similar collection annually. If they are of the same quality as the present volume they will provide a welcome tool for increased knowledge and understanding of contemporary Jewish literature and culture.

Tikkun Olam 1

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Unfortunately, we usually cannot go a day without being reminded of terror and evil in our world. So we mustn't forget that we don't have to look very far to find people who are trying to make this world a better place. Today, a look at tikkun olam on the World Wide Web.



Several rabbis and scholars have tried to define just what tikkun olam means, but there isn't a consensus. Rabbi Jeremy Schwartz of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, explains that when people use the term tikkun olam, "They usually are referring to a set of ideas and actions in the realms of social justice, kindness to others, and environmental health that are intended to make the world a better place."

Rabbi Schwartz says this use of the phrase is a recent phenomenon but that its roots can be traced to both the biblical concern for the weak along with the kabbalistic teaching of Rabbi Isaac Luria in the 16th century **[http://www.kolel.org/pages/reb_on_the_web/tikkun.html]**.

On the other hand, Eytan Kobre writes in the Jewish law Web site that he is concerned about how the term tikkun olam "has emerged over recent decades as the catch-all description of choice for all manner of socially conscious activities, from old-fashioned charity to saving the redwoods to fighting Republican tax cuts.

"The most important battles for the creation of a just and harmonious society are not fought primarily through sweeping campaigns for national reform," Kobre says. "Rather, the building of a better world for humanity is best achieved through the personal campaign of each individual to engage in a process of repairing the flaws of his or her own olam kattan, that microcosmic world known as the human soul. The G-d-given tools for that task are the mitzvot, both the overtly ethical and the so-called ritual precepts, which, in fact, can be deeply ethically enriching as well" **[http://www.jlaw.com/Commentary/PrePetals.html]**.

Arthur Green of Brandeis University writes that tikkun olam is mentioned in the *Aleinu* prayer that is recited three times daily. "There, *l'taken olam* means 'to establish the world in the kingdom of the Almighty,' or to bring about God's rule on earth." Green acknowledges that ideals such as the relief of human suffering and the protection of the planet from destruction may be a recent innovation, but he says these goals are rooted in a Jewish tradition that requires a concern for the "feeding, housing and health of all" **[http://www.socialaction.com/wordsmatter.html]**.

In a fascinating essay titled "Tikkun Olam: Orthodoxy's Responsibility to Perfect G-d's World," Jonathan Sacks, chief rabbi of the British Commonwealth, asks why there is no body of halachic law for tikkun olam similar to that for Shabbat or kashrut. He suggests that it never evolved because "for 2,000, what chance did we have? For 2,000 years we were dispersed, scattered, exiled, we were powerless... who in the world would think of learning from us?" But he quotes God's blessing to Abraham in Genesis 12:3: "Through you all the families of the earth shall be blessed"; in other words, "Don't think this Torah that I am giving you is for you alone – it isn't. This is your wisdom and understanding in the eyes of the nations, because when they hear and see this way of life, this Jewish way of life, they will say what a wise, understanding people is this great nation" **[http://www.ou.org/public/publib/tikkun.htm]**.

Repairing our world is such an overwhelming task that many people might decide it's not worth trying. Rabbi Aaron Bisno of Congregation Rodeph Shalom in Philadelphia tries to put the challenge into perspective. He tells the story of a teacher who tore a map of the world out of a newspaper, ripped it into many pieces and then challenged his student to reassemble it.

"The student dropped to the floor and, in short order, completed the assignment by correctly taping together each of the pieces of the whole of the world... When the teacher asked the student how it had been possible to reassemble the fragmented world so quickly, the response was short and to the point. 'There was a picture of a person on the back side. I repaired that one person and the whole world got fixed too'" **[http://www.clickonjudaism.om/pages/tikkun_olam.html]**.

Next week, examples of tikkun olam from around the globe.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Greater Toronto Area

School board dissociates itself from anti-American article

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Toronto school trustees have passed a four-part resolution that dissociates the board from a controversial anti-American article in a teachers' union newsletter.

The resolution, tabled by trustee Gerri Gershon at a board meeting earlier this month, is the first formal expression of the Toronto District School Board's collective view of the article, published in the December edition of *District 12 Voice*, the union newsletter for Toronto's public high school teachers.

The newsletter suggested the article, titled *Why America is Hated*, could be used by teachers as a classroom resource to explain "the seeming hatred emanating from the Middle East in the aftermath of the 9/11 crisis."

The resolution criticizes that suggestion, saying "a narrow ideological approach is unprofessional and offensive when teaching students." The vote on that part of the four-part resolution passed by a narrow 11-8 margin, with two trustees absent.

Another part of the resolution, which passed by a vote of 18 to 1, encourages teachers to address "controversial and sensitive issues such as the Middle East conflict in a balanced and evenhanded manner." A third section, which won unanimous approval, established a committee to study ways of helping teachers address sensitive topics in class.

A fourth clause that formally disassociates the board from the article and the suggestion to use it as a classroom resource passed by a 15-4 vote.

A fifth clause that would have cancelled internal courier distribution of *D12 Voice* was removed from the original resolution. Toronto District School Board (TDSB) staff had already taken administrative steps to do so, and those measures have prompted a grievance by the union, Gershon said.

Some of the trustees wanted to vote to distribute the newsletter, but the meeting ran late and there was no time left for that vote, she added.

Gershon first tabled her resolution almost three months ago when the controversy over the *D12 Voice* article first surfaced. The unattributed piece, which appeared previously in the left-wing U.S. publication *Z Magazine*, blamed the United States and Israel – beginning with its creation in 1948 – for generating "a deep seated sense of injustice in the Arab and Islamic worlds against the United States."

The suggestion the article be used as a classroom resource prompted angry responses from Canadian Jewish Congress, teachers and board members, who called the article one-sided and inappropriate for a classroom setting. TDSB chair Donna Cansfield read a statement at a board meeting distancing the board from "any type of unbalanced information presented in any classroom."

At the same time, school principals were advised by the board to caution teachers to avoid using one-sided and unattributed resource materials in class.

Gershon said that "simply by passing this [latest] resolution we've made a public statement that we will not take a narrow ideological approach to these issues in our schools."

The board set up a committee to study the experience of other school districts with a view to creating a set of guidelines for teachers, she continued.

The former North York board of education had developed a resource document that focused on the teaching of sensitive topics. The committee will likely study the document prior to reporting to the board. The board's latest resolution also contemplates soliciting the views of communities that might be concerned by controversial issues and providing teachers with professional development days and resource materials to assist them in the classroom, she said.

Congress declared it was satisfied with the TDSB vote. "The Toronto District School Board is to be commended for clearly drawing the line in terms of how controversial subjects should be taught," said Ed Morgan, chair of Congress' Ontario region. "We want our students to be intellectually engaged on all of the important matters of the day, but it is absolutely essential that teachers provide information to the students in a manner that is open and fair.

"Congress is also pleased by the board's commitment to continue to work with interested communities and to ensure that narrow, ideological approaches will be avoided in the classroom."

Gershon said some board members wanted to remove from the resolution a specific reference to the Middle East conflict. That motion was defeated by a 12-6 vote.

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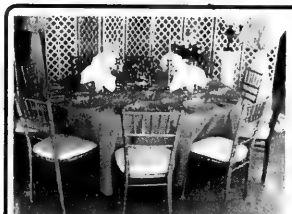

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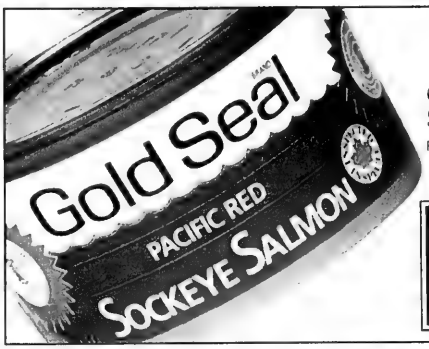

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If silence is golden, then what is gossip?

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.

It may appear old-fashioned to object to Gossip. Everyone does it, right? It's fun. Life would lose its zest without the thrill of discussing someone else's misfortunes. So what if the Germans call it *schadenfreude* — a "pig's joy"?

In family law, lawyers are often paid to formulate incisive affidavits or prepare a witness to give oral evidence about someone other than their client. This evidence is filed as a public document in open Court.

However, sometimes clients in family law cases use the opportunity not just to prove a point, but indeed to destroy the character of their opponent. Revealing a deficiency in the other party's parenting skills may strengthen their case.

But is it really necessary to generalize and imply or say that the same individual is a monster — a terrible father or mother? The father may owe the mother money, but does that make it okay for the mother to state that he has "defrauded me of my entire inheritance"? It may be crucial to show that your opponent earns more or spends more than he or she claims. But does that give you license to claim total dishonesty?

Grave sin under Jewish law

In Jewish law, Gossip (known as *loshon hora*) is one of the gravest sins. A Jew is normally forbidden by the Torah to say anything about a third party lest it destroy that person's reputation.

But is this kind of evidence submitted in Court "Gossip" in the way most people in modern Canadian society understand the word? Obviously not. Notwithstanding Jewish law, people are usually free to say anything they wish in Court to try to prove their case, even if what they say may appear to be defamatory. Even in a Jewish Court, a witness is permitted to give honest evidence about direct observations (not hearesay) if what he has to say is relevant.

Statements calculated to hurt

So why should anyone be concerned with some quaint, antiquated notion of "Gossip?" We're not living in Puritanical times, ancient Israel or *Mea Shearim* (the very observant neighbourhood in Jewish Jerusalem.)

However, many Judges and responsible counsel in family law have become increasingly alarmed at the extent to which clients unnecessarily exaggerate or complain about their spouse's conduct in these affidavits or open Court.

Master Cork is a Toronto judicial officer who for several years adjudicated many family law hearings. He often pleaded with lawyers to restrain their clients from attacking each other needlessly when giving evidence, especially when that evidence was submitted in writing. Children and other concerned parties often read this stuff during the dispute. This happens when a parent carelessly — or deliberately — leaves such written statements on the coffee table. Often years after the dispute is over, children or others will discover these damning allegations of duplicity, dishonesty, child neglect, abuse (physical, emotional and/or sexual), and depravity, which may be exaggerated or unnecessarily stated. Whether the statements are true or not, they are often calculated to be vindictively hurtful.

This practise is particularly reprehensible because it violates the unwritten rule that, in a visitation scenario, neither parent should speak ill of the other in the other's absence. So these statements *do* hurt — but they often hurt the wrong people.

The pain children feel when seeing their parents rip into each other is sickening. Yet not only do many fighting parents appear oblivious to these concerns, their lawyers often fail to advise their clients to adopt a more restrained approach.

Friends, relatives forced to take sides

It gets "better". The parents then "recruit" their friends and relatives into their own camp. These "significant others" sign similar affidavits or give oral evidence to prove their allegations. The friends and family members, who may have previously been neutral, are now involved in hurling insults and derogatory statements, *not because they want to, but because they were asked to.*

Unfortunately, it is sometimes necessary to obtain evidence from third parties that is relevant to a custody dispute. But unless the allegations are "documented" or focused with considerable detail on a truly serious allegation that a Judge must know about (such as child neglect), the process can be unnecessary and destructive.

Some of the allegations that I have seen in such materials are more than a complete waste of time; they trivialize the entire Court system. An unsupported allegation is one made without proof, i.e. without documents like a police report or a medical report. A parent who hurls this type of allegation may not be able to persuade a Judge. More importantly, if the allegation is exaggerated, the Court will not be pleased: it is a criminal offense to bend the truth in an affidavit or in Court. It's called perjury. Moreover, exaggerated statements will be considered *Gossip* — not evidence. Gossip can be damaging, both legally and spiritually.

Exercising restraint can be a mitzva

Restraint, on the other hand, can be a mitzva. As incongruous as it may sound in a legal context — especially a custody case — the exercise of restraint may allow you and your counsel to prove a point without annihilating your "opponent." Restraint also garners the Court's respect and immeasurably enhances the client's credibility.

I hope you enjoyed a *freilich* Purim.

John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of Basman Smith. Neither B'nai Brith Canada, Basman Smith nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion. John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 860-1942, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@basmansmith.com. You can also visit www.basmansmith.com and www.spousalsupport.com.

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ש'שאר ב'ני'נו

גידי קורן וחברים

ימים קשים

בשנה האחרונה, כל פעם שעלתה חומרת המצב בארץ, נשמעו קולות שהזכירו ימים קשים יותר, בעיקר את ימי מלחמת השחרור או מלחמת יום כיפור. אבל מה שקורה עכשיו מבהיל מעבר לכל דמיון. מפ"ל המשטרה פרקים בימים אלה מספרים שמוכיחים בעליל שמספר הפיגועים, מקרי הרצח ודומיהם הוא החמור ביותר מאז הקמת המדינה. כמעט שאין יום שבו לא נהרג ישראלי ממעשי איבה. אז מה עושים?

כשניסה אהוד ברק להגיע להסכם שלום עם עראפת "לפני שהכל יתפוצץ" עמדה לנגד עיניו תמונה שחורה שמתברר היום מכוונה. הוא גילה כמובן שעראפת אינו מעוניין בשלום, או שאין לו הכוח/ רצון לכפות שלום על אנשיו.

האינתיפאדה החדשה לא מושפעת מצעדי התגמול של ישראל, ולדברי נחום ברנע ב"ידיעות אחרונות" הפסיקה ישראל לאחרונה את החיסול הנקודתי של מנהיגי טרור כי ברור בעליל עכשיו שכל מעשה כזה מביא לתגובה של עשרת מעשי טרור.

הפרדה חד צדדית

הרעיון של הפרדה חד צדדית מושמע מפעם לפעם. מדובר ביציאה חד צדדית של ישראל ושל כל הישראלים משטחי הגדה, ויצירת חומת/ נדר גבול שתפריד בין המדינה הפלשתינאית לישראל. המכשלה הגדולה לרעיון זה באה כמובן מחוסר הקונסנזוס בעניין עקירת המתנחלים. בעבר היה הרעיון הזה "רעיון שמאלני" שנתמך על ידי השמאל הקיצוני הישראלי, אבל עושה רושם שיותר ויותר ישראלים סוברים שהמצב הנוכחי ורמות הסכסוך מסכנות את עצם קיומה מדינת ישראל. לאחרונה היסב חיז את תשומת ליבי לכך שהסופר אב. יהושוע פרסם בעיתון "הארץ" מסמך מסקם שבועה את כל הטיעונים מדוע ישראל חייבת בנסיגה חד צדדית מיידית. בגלל נקיעותו של הטור הזה, איני יכול להביא את כל הנקודות הקריטיות שמובאות בו. אביא אחת מהן שאנשים נוטים לשכוח:

"לא שטח המולדת הוא הנושא המרכזי של הציונות, אלא הגבולות שבהם ניתן לקיים את ריבונותה. וכאשר הסתיימה מלחמת השחרור בגבולות '49, ידע הציוני המובהק בן גוריון מה פירושה של ריבונות וגבולות והטיל את מלוא חריבונות הישראלית החדשה על כל השטח שראה אותו כשטח המדינה....מלחמת ששת הימים נכפתה על ישראל על ידי הרפתקנות נפשעת של שליט מצרים....אבל במקום לאמר לעצמנו בבהירות ציונית: כיוון שאין ביכולתנו להטיל ריבונות על השטח שנכבש, לספח את השטח ולתת זכויות אזרח מלאות למיליני תפלשתינאים.... עלינו להיזהר מאוד ולא להרחיב את גבולנו לשטח שלא נוכל לממש בו את מלוא הריבונות הישראלית....."

"לא לחינם נקראה מלחמת ששת הימים מלחמה יהודית, שכן אז, כמו רוח רפאים עלה היהודי הישן מתוכנו. חוצה הגבולות חזר לסורו ההיסטורי כמו בימים שהתיישב לו בכל רחבי העולם בתוך מציאות לא לו. כך תחל המעשה האנטי ציוני המובהק של התיישבות ללא ריבונות וללא תקוות ריבונות....."

"נוח מדבר של חלומות"

"הייתי רוצה להיות ילד בארץ אחרת, בארץ שאין בה הודעות על מות, פציעה ומלחמה". כך נפתח ספרה של ד"ר גרייס פוירשטיין Oasis of Dreams שיצא לאור לאחרונה. הספר מביא את סיפורה של התיישבות ייחודית, בה גרים ערבים פלשתינאים ויהודים יחדיו, שולחים את ילדיהם לאותו בית ספר, חוגגים את חגיהם ביחד ובונים חיים משותפים. נוה שלום עלתה על הקרקע ב 1972 ליד אבו גוש עם הרבה תקוות, פחדים אך בעיקר אומץ. חברתי הטובה גרייס, פרופסור בבית הספר לחינוך של אוניברסיטת טורונטו נסעה והיה בכפר. תצפיותיה ושיחותיה עם התושבים מובאים כמחקר נראטיבי בו סיפורי המתיישבים חושפים דרך חיים בה לבטים בנושא השפה (לימוד עברית וערבית), התרבות והארץ חופפים לממשיים ולעתים בלתי אפשריים אך עם הרבה תקווה לעתיד. אפשר למצוא את הספר החשוב הזה בחנות הספרים "בוב מילר" במרתף בניין הקונסוליה הישראלית.

גרייס, בת יחידה להורים יוצאי שואה מסיימת את ספרה בתקווה לשלום, בתקווה ששואה ניתן למנוע על ידי חידברות והתיישבות משותפת. נכון שעל רקע המצב המידרדר בארץ קשה לחשוב ללא סקפטיות על אפשרות שכזו...בנוח שלום לפחות מנסים.... **את שאר קוראי**

הנער הקורא

בטור האחרון דווחתי על הספר המדהים The Reader. שתי קוראות, אירית לפקין ופנינה הרל"פ תיקבו את תשומת ליבי לכך שהספר יצא בעברית תחת השם "הנער הקורא". אז רוצו למצוא אותו ומחכה לכם חוויה משחו.

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Bar mitzvah: a time to celebrate and remember

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Josh Nightingale's recent bar mitzvah was a time of celebration and a time of remembrance.

Josh, who had his bar mitzvah at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, was symbolically twinned with a boy who died in the Holocaust before having his own bar mitzvah.

Josh's father, Howard, whose parents were Holocaust survivors, said the family decided to twin Josh's bar mitzvah after reading on a Web site – www.jewishgen.org – about a bar or bat mitzvah twinning program in Montreal.

Howard contacted Lisa Albert, a consultant for the Montreal program, to find out about arranging a twinning for his son.

Albert's research turned up the name of a boy, Salomon Schonfeld, who was born in Jaroslaw, near Kanczuga, the town where Howard's late mother was born.

The first choice for a spiritual twin, Howard said, is a family member who died in the Holocaust. If no family members can be found, then a family can trace its roots back to a specific town, he said.

If, as in his Josh's case, no child can be found from that specific ancestral town or area, the next largest town nearby is researched and a child from that town is commemorated.

Howard visited Kanczuga last August but was unable to find information in any archives about a specific child or family.

"In order to make the twinning a meaningful experience for the child, it is recommended that he visit a Holocaust education centre and if possible speak with a survivor about his or her wartime experiences," Howard said.

Josh Nightingale

At the bar mitzvah, a pamphlet is distributed to the congregation that contains background such as a town's prewar, wartime and postwar history, pictures or maps, and the name of the child being commemorated along with any information that has been discovered about him.

"It is an educational as well as a sobering experience for the child who learns about his roots and about the Holocaust, and about a very specific child his age or younger who never made it to this eventful moment.

"Regardless how much one has read about the Holocaust, this is very real; it has a real impact," Howard said.

At the bar mitzvah, guests learned about Josh's "twin," Salomon Schonfeld, who died in Auschwitz, and about Kanczuga, once home to more than 900 Jews. "It had been a lively shtetl for centuries, but in 1942, most Jews were gathered in a public square, marched to the top of a nearby hill and executed," Howard said.

"Today, there is nothing Jewish that remains. The cemetery has been over-run with shrubbery, unkempt and forgotten... two existing structures for synagogues have been turned into an office building and a strip mall."

Josh said he would like to see all boys and girls – girls are twinned with another girl who died before she turned 12 – celebrate their bar or bat mitzvah this way.

"I felt very good about what I did, and at the same time I felt sad for the boy who never made it to age 13. This gave him a spiritual chance to have a bar mitzvah.

"I feel very lucky to be here instead of being in Nazi Germany, but at the same time I feel bad," said Josh.

Howard is trying to establish a twinning program here through the Holocaust Centre of Toronto UJA Federation.

CORRECTIONS

In an article and accompanying photo cutline in last week's *CJN* on the Garshowitz family's longtime involvement with Hamilton's chevrah kadishah, the family patriarch should have been identified as Samuel (Shmuel Leib), not William (Zev Wolf). The article also stated that Samuel's sons became involved with the local Jewish burial society. In fact, the Garshowitz males are kohanim and thus could not take part in the mitzvah. As well, it was incorrectly stated that only post-menopausal women are permitted to participate in the ritual washing of deceased women. *The CJN* regrets the errors.

***

In the article, "Israel advocacy reinforced at weekend retreat" (*CJN*, Feb. 21), Ron Somogyi was mistakenly identified as president of the Jewish Students' Union (JSU) at the University of Toronto. He is actually JSU's immediate past president, having been succeeded by Aaron Kasman last summer. *The CJN* regrets the error.

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Carrots Tzimmes	Pan Roast Potatoes	Green Beans Almondine
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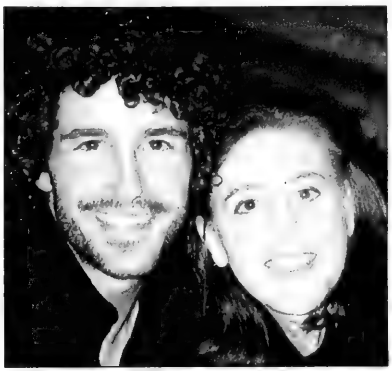
Washington conference inspires young leaders

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — David Spiro was one of about 2,000 participants at the National Young Leadership Conference of United Jewish Communities (UJC) held earlier this month in Washington, D.C.

For the 39-year-old Toronto lawyer – one of 70 Canadians to attend – the best thing about the three-day conference, the 13th biennial event of its kind, was the sheer number of people who share his priorities and challenges, such as getting ideas for programming, attracting new participants, and ensuring that people are aware of the work UJA does locally and abroad.



Montrealer Joan Zafran, right, posed for a picture with Ethan Zohn, of the television show *Survivor*, at UJC's young leadership conference in Washington.

The young leadership division of UJC and the 189 Jewish federations it represents is geared to young Jews, generally from age 25 to 45. An important component of young leadership programming is social, said Spiro. "Our focus has more of a social component, [as well as] consciousness raising and awareness, and education…It's very important – how to blend all these elements into a successful year and a successful campaign."

Next year – when his two-year term as co-chair of the Young Lawyers Network, a component of the Young Leadership Cabinet of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, expires – Spiro will make the transition to the lawyers' and accountants' division of the general UJA campaign, as is customary at the end of that term.

For Spiro, the conference provided inspiration for his volunteer work in the form of speakers who had been helped by UJA Federation dollars. Among them was a former jail inmate who turned his life around with the help of a chaplain whose visit was funded by UJA Federation.

There were also well-known speakers such as Joseph Lieberman, the first Jew to run on an American presidential ticket. "He's a wonderful role model of what someone who's Jewish can achieve in public service, without diminishing his Jewishness," said Spiro – who works for the federal department of justice – of the traditionally observant senator.

Among the more than 100 workshops that took place, Canadians met with former Torontonian David Frum, now a White House speech writer. Other speakers included Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israeli deputy minister for Foreign Affairs; Cokie Roberts, ABC News journalist; Omri Sharon, son of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon; comedian Richard Lewis; and even Ethan Zohn, who achieved celebrity only recently after appearing on and winning *Survivor*, the popular reality television program.

Joan Zafran, a 34-year-old Montreal accountant, met Zohn, who spoke about his Jewish upbringing, signed autographs and danced the horah with participants.

"It was fun and exciting," she said of meeting Zohn, but the "main thing [from the conference] was a lot of awareness of all the issues," particularly the situation in the Middle East and the political climate in Washington.

For Zafran, who has been involved for years in Montreal's Combined Jewish Appeal, attending the conference will translate into help with fund-raising now that she is back home.

She doesn't see the situation in Israel or the aftermath of the terrorist attacks in the United States on September 11 as making her job any harder. On the contrary, she believes that "the more we know that there are problems, the more we want to help."

"I think it's more important than ever for people to stand up and be counted," agreed Spiro. Although there were several sessions devoted to the aftermath of September 11, Spiro said he didn't believe that issue overshadowed the conference. "I think it was one element among many that played a part in people's awareness."

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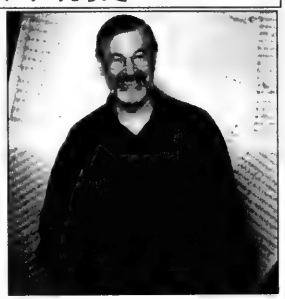

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, March 4, is deadline for March 14 issue and Monday, March 11, is deadline for March 21. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

This week's column was prepared by Rebecca Nadler.

Thursday, Feb. 28

SIX WAYS TO ASK GOD

Toronto Jewish Healing Project series, Six Rabbis: Six Ways to Ask God continues with **Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum** who will discuss When We Have Fear 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst St. For information call **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**, 416-944-3359.

OTTAWA HAIFA U MEETING

Canadian Friends of Haifa University's Ottawa branch presents a briefing by **Prof. Jonathan Berg** of Haifa University, on Multiculturalism in the Jewish State: A Case Study, 7:30 p.m. at Hillel Lodge. All welcome.

Sunday, March 3

PURIM CELEBRATIONS

The Winchevsky Centre presents The Story of Purim by Fairytale Puppet Productions. Also carnival games, singing, costume contest and hamantaschen. 10:30 a.m. Winchevsky students free, members $6, non-members $8. For information call **Maxine** 416-789-5502.

Chabad Lubavitch of Markham presents a program of song and laughter. MC will be **Isaac Kraus** of Yuk Yuk's. Live music and the CLOM choir. Two performances: 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. To reserve tickets, call 905-886-0420. Adults $10, students/seniors $8. A portion of proceeds will support Magen David Adom.

LAUGHING AT LAWYERS

Habonim Breakfast Club presents lawyer and humorist, **Barry Seltzer**, who will discuss A Humorous Look at the Law Profession: It Takes Two Judges To Try a Cow. 10 a.m. at 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and Lecture $6 per person.

FEMINIST BOOK GROUP

The Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network will discuss *Rest Harrow* by **Janice Kulyk Keefer** at 1:45 p.m. at the Barbara Frum Library. Call **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

A HEALING SERVICE

The Toronto Healing Project is conducting a healing service to experience hope, comfort, faith and support in the face of difficulties, with **Rabbi Reuven Tradburks** of Kehillat Shaarei Torah and music therapist **Mary Rykov**, 3-4 p.m. at The Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. For information, **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**, 416-944-3359.

JEWISH VIEW OF MESSIAH

Shaar Shalom presents **Prof. Martin Lockshin**, of the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University, who will discuss A Jewish View of Messianism: Mainstream and Chabad – Is Rabbi Schneerson the Messiah? 7:30 p.m. Question period following lecture. 2 Simonston Blvd. All welcome.

Tuesday, March 5

RELIGION EXPLORED

Queen's University's programme in Jewish studies presents **Ritche Robertson,** professor of German at St. John's College, Oxford, on the topic Conversations with Jehovah: Heinrich Heine's Return to Religion. 7:30 p.m. at the Policy Studies Building, Room 202. Everyone welcome.

BODY AND SOUL

The Narayever chesed committee presents Death and Dying: What Happens To The Body and Soul, with **Michael Benjamin** and **Rabbi Ed Elkin**. 7:30 p.m., 187 Brunswick Ave.

Continued on page 21

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What's New

Continued from page 20

BIBLE STUDY

The Chug Tanach continues with a discussion of Ezekiel, led by **Shmuel Pupko**, 8 p.m. at Beth David-Bnai Israel Synagogue.

PARENTING SEMINAR

Camp Robin Hood and Laidlaw Educational Services are presenting a lecture by **Michael Brandwein** on How to Have Great Communication With Your Kids Without Losing Your Hair or Your Mind. Admission is free. Vaughan City Playhouse. For information, call 416-736-4443.

Wednesday, March 6

CONFERENCE & DINNER

Canada-Israel Committee's 17th Parliamentary Dinner and Policy Conference will take place at the Ottawa Congress Centre. Conference begins at 10 a.m. Speakers include minister of foreign affairs **Bill Graham**, **Hugh Segal**, **Alison Smith**, **Margaret Wente** and **Martin Himel**. Israeli **President Moshe Katsav** and **Prime Minister Jean Chrétien** will speak at the dinner. For information and registration call 613-234-8271.

ASHKENAZI FOLKTALES

The Jewish studies program at U of T presents The 2002 Shoshana Sheir Distinguished Visiting Professor, **Dov Noy**, of Hebrew University, delivering the first of three weekly public lectures on The Folk Literature of the Ashkenazi Jews in Eastern Europe. Topic is The Folktale, 8 p.m. in Lash Miller Chemical Labs, 80 St. George St., Room 161. For information, call 416-978-8118. Free.

And What Else Is New

ISLAM'S INFLUENCE ON US

The Jewish Studies Program at U. of T. is sponsoring The J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Lecture by **Prof. David Novak** discussing The Influence of Islam on Judaism, 6:30 p.m. at the Munk Centre for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place. Admission free. Call 416-946-5937.

***THE STRUMA* SCREENING**

The Struma tells the true story of 779 Jewish refugees who fled Romania in 1941 on a dilapidated ship bound for Palestine. Abandoned by the world, all but one passenger perished at sea. The film will be screened at the Sheppard Grande Theatre, Wednesday, March 20, at 7 p.m. For advance tickets call 416-481-1330.

CELEBRATE SHABBAT

Come and share the beauty of Shabbat on Friday, March 22, at Temple Har Zion's family service, followed by a traditional Shabbat dinner. Everyone is welcome. $20, children under 6, $10. To register call 905-889-2252, ext. 5.

NISHMA CLASSES

Nishma offers classes evenings throughout the week in a variety of topics, including Jewish law and philosophy. 322 Wilson Ave. For information, call 416-630-0588.

HEBREW LANGUAGE CLASS

The Hebrew Culture Organization of Canada is offering classes in Hebrew language at beginner, intermediate and advanced levels, with **Chana Sargon**. Classes will be held during the day and evenings at 3995 Bathurst St., beginning April 8. For information and registration call 416-633-3988.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups: for information or to register, contact **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Mothers and Daughters – a new 6-session series focusing on helping mothers and daughters learn how to talk and listen so they both feel appreciated and understood. Starting Monday, March 18, at The Promenade, suite 313 from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club membership open for 2002, $12. Feb. 28, Collingwood trip; March 10, dance with live band 7:30-10:30 p.m.; March 6, Casino Rama: March 14, Casino Niagara. Dancersize classes with **Kitty Cohen** every Thursday at 10 a.m.; wood carving with instructor Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon. Free with membership. 416-395-7881.

Join the **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building) Feb. 28, literature evening, reading and stories. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets Tuesdays. March 5, movie 7 p.m. **Anna** ext. 110.

Attitudes and Interests in Screening Colorectal Cancer with **Dr. Lawrence Paszat**, radiation oncologist, Thursday, Feb 28, 10:30 a.m. in the synagogue.

Mental Health Series continues with a lecture titled A Personal Reflection of Depression, Thursday, March 28, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Call **Joan** ext. 126.

The movie *An Officer and a Gentleman* will be screened Sunday, March 3, at 2:30 p.m. in the synagogue. Members free, non-members $1.

Barry Seltzer will discuss Wills and Estates, Tuesday, March 5, 10-11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. Members $1.50, non-members $3. Call **Barbara**, ext. 134.

Low Vision Group will provide a workshop on Coping with Combined Vision and Hearing Loss, with **Letticia Adinkrah**, hearing care counsellor. Tuesday, March 5, 1:15- 2:15 p.m. in the music room. Call **Joan**, ext. 126.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Interactive lecture series via satellite broadcast from New York, Sunday, March 10, 7 p.m.: The Ten Commandments with **Rabbi Harold Kushner**, **Dr. Alice Shlavi**, **Rabbi Joseph Telushkin** and **Rabbi David Woznica**. Toronto moderator is **Dr. Seymour Epstein**. $10/session in advance, $14 at the door. Group rates available. Call ext. 271 or 416-924-6211.

A new show by Montreal artist **Gilbert Boyer** begins at The Koffler Gallery commemorating the anonymous, unofficial histories and narratives of everyday life. Thursday, March 14, artist talk 6 p.m., reception 7-9 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Good Ages Club presents a program with The Toronto General Hospital on Osteoporosis Prevention with **Doris Lui-Yee**, a research nurse, in the boardroom 2 p.m.

WOMEN FOR WOMEN: Dr. Nina Wine, endocrinologist at North York General Hospital, was guest speaker at the Toronto Hadassah-WIZO's annual Women for Women Breakfast on Diabetes Prevention. Seen are, back row, from left: Judy Zelikovitz, vice-president; Marla Dan, WIZO service chair; Mina Shwarz, vice-chair; Beverley Crackower, president. Front row: Wine and Susan Baker, representing Eli Lilly Canada, event platinum sponsor.

TOP GIFTS: UIA Federations Canada recently held a Top Gifts event at the Florida home of Sandy and Lionel Waldman of Toronto. Dr. Daniel Pipes, Mideast consultant and columnist, addressed the group. Seen, from left, are: Lionel Waldman, Pipes, Sandy Waldman and Roslyn and Harvey Wolfe.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 22

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All entries received by 3 p.m. on Friday, March 15, 2002 are eligible. The winning entries will be randomly selected at The CJN offices on Monday, March 18, at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. The Canadian Jewish News will not enter into any correspondence with contestants. **One entry per person.**
Employees and family members of Rainbow Cinemas or The CJN are not eligible to enter.
*Prize is valid from March 31/02 to March 31/03 and certain conditions apply.

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"An Evening to Remember" Sunday, March 10, 7:30 pm. **Glamorous RONDO Banquet Hall**, 398 Steeles Ave. W. (in "390 Steeles" Mall). Ages 35-55ish. Live Band. Dancing. Appetizers served. Elegant Casual. $15 Cash at Door. **Parties by Patsi, 905-886-3301.**

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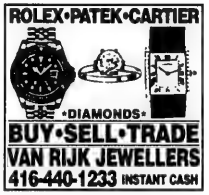

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Greater Toronto Area

Ben Kayfetz: An observer of Canadian, world Jewry

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Obituary

TORONTO — Ben Kayfetz, respected writer, broadcaster, human rights activist, Yiddishist and one of Canada's most knowledgeable documenters of Canadian Jewry, died Feb. 15. He was 85.

For more than half a century, Kayfetz was a professional and lay observer of Canadian and world Jewry. He was considered by many to be a veritable walking archive and a wellspring of information on a range of historical and other subjects. His open-door office at 150 Beverley St. was a place where politicians, community leaders and individuals with problems or those who just wanted to talk came to seek advice, exchange ideas or initiate projects.

Born in Toronto on Dec. 24, 1916, Kayfetz graduated from the University of Toronto in 1939 with a bachelor's degree in modern languages. He taught high school in Huntsville and Niagara Falls.

From 1943 to 1945, Kayfetz worked for the Wartime Information Board, and in 1945, he worked for two years as a uniformed civilian for the Canadian Control Commission in post-war Germany. When he returned to Canada, he took the position of director of public relations at the Canadian Jewish Congress' central division. He remained at the CJC for more than 37 years, in 1955 becoming the director of the CJC joint community relations committee and, from 1973-1978, the executive director of CJC central region.

Kayfetz was also the executive director of the national joint public relations committee of Congress and B'nai Brith until 1984, working for the enactment of an anti-discrimination law in employment, fair housing practices, non-sectarian teaching in public schools and anti-hate and war crimes legislation.

Although he insisted he was not a professional historian, Kayfetz published numerous articles and monographs on the Jewish community. He served as president of the Toronto Jewish Historical Society, was in charge of historical research for the Toronto Jewish Centennial in 1956-57, authored *Toronto Jewry 60 Years Ago*, and was a frequent contributor to the *Jewish Standard*, the *Globe and Mail*, the *Jewish Chronicle* of London, England, and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York City. He was also a regular commentator on CHIN radio.

Throughout his career, he was active in numerous committees on issues as wideranging as international affairs, Soviet Jewry, Yiddish, kashrut and Israel advocacy. In recognition for his tireless efforts in the fight for human rights, Kayfetz was made a member of the Order of Canada in 1986.

Kayfetz is survived by his wife Eva; daughters and sons-in-law Zena and Michael Tenenbaum, Tamara and Tim Kingston, Rebecca (who was married to Dick Hamill); and grandchildren Laya, Avraham, Elisha, Miriam and Devora.

See also the Editor's Desk this week.

Holocaust studies taught in Poland

Continued from page 3

"That's why Poles didn't know that most of the victims at Auschwitz were Jews."

Trojanski – a former history teacher – and Szuchta are currently finishing a textbook for teachers about the Holocaust. He hopes it will be published this year.

It will come out under the patronage of Poland's prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, and will be the only school text of its kind in Poland dealing exclusively with the Holocaust.

Turning to a related topic, Trojanski said that Poles of his generation are generally curious about Poland's Jewish past.

Prior to 1939, Poland was home to approximately 3.3 million Jews. After the United States and the Soviet Union, Poland had the world's largest Jewish community.

Today, he noted, there are anywhere from 8,000 to 15,000 self-declared Jews in Poland.

But, he observed, these figures do not take into account Jews who conceal their identity and pass as Christians.

Asked whether anti-Semitism is deeply rooted in Poland nowadays, Trojanski replied, "From my perspective, it's decreasing, especially among young people, who are very interested in Jewish culture and history. They want to talk about it. It was a taboo subject for years. Now young people want to fill in the gaps."

Trojanski, born in a village near Krakow, is a member of the Polish Society of Jewish Studies and on the editorial board of the periodical *Studia Judaica*.

Several years ago, after attending a conference about the Holocaust in London, England, he helped organize a series of seminars on the Holocaust for Polish teachers. These seminars, he acknowledged, prompted the ministry of education to introduce the current Holocaust curriculum.

In co-operation with the Polish-German Centre in Cracow and Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, Trojanski also created a travelling exhibition, The Jews in Poland, Fellow Citizens or Foreigners? It is now in Germany.

His own view is that Jews are, and were, fellow citizens rather than strangers in Poland.

"And that's one good reason why we should teach the Holocaust. Jews were fellow citizens. My generation thinks so."

Last year, in recognition of his efforts to document the Holocaust and the Jewish presence in Poland, he was awarded a diploma by Israel.

David and Ed Mirvish

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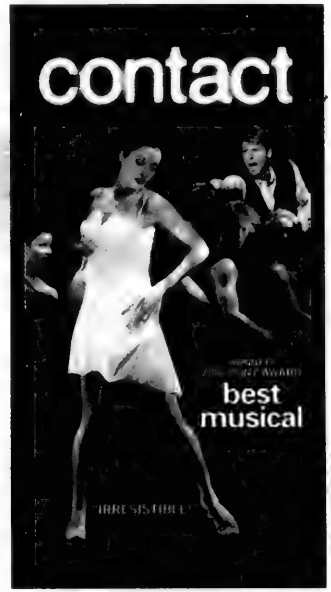

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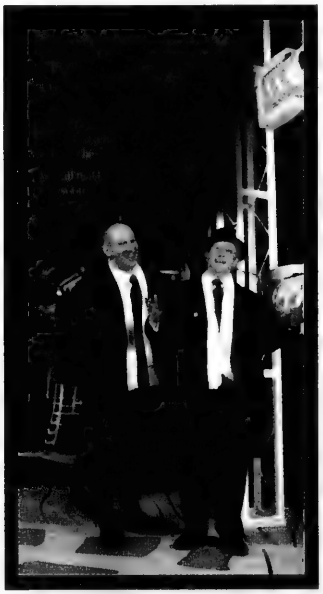

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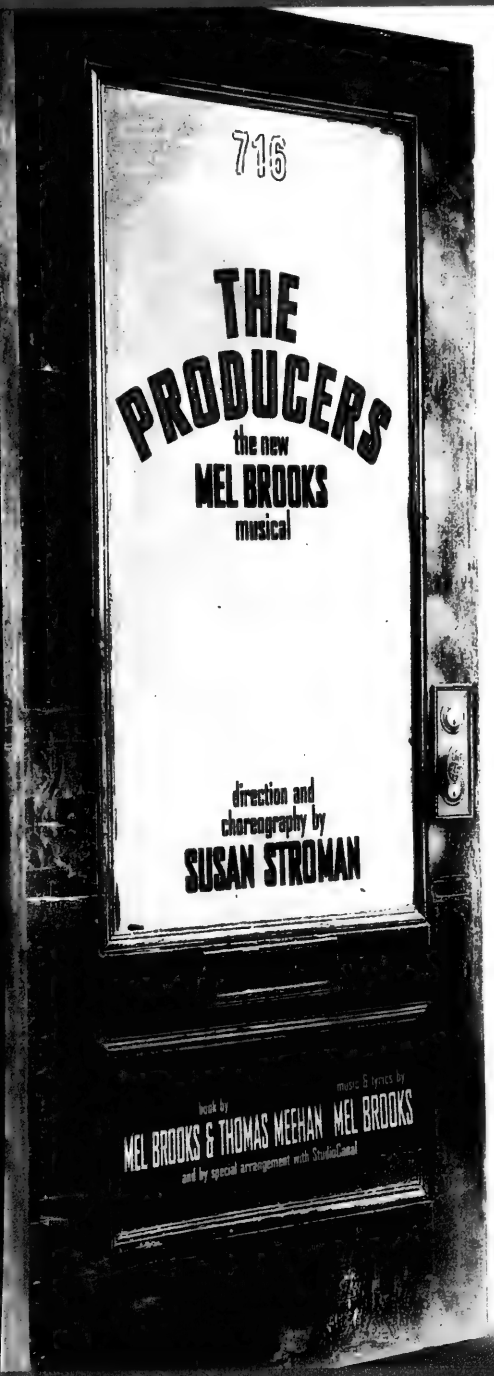

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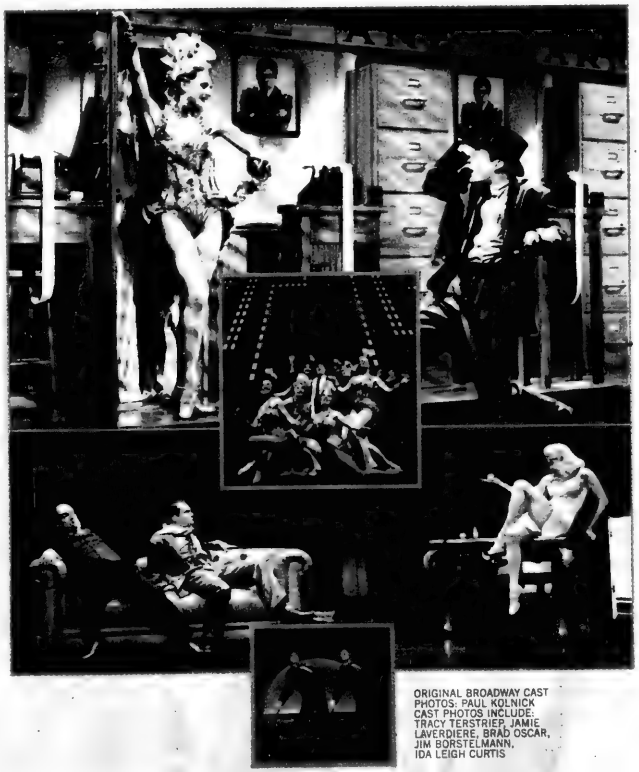

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Coast to Coast

Peace talks must resume: Clinton

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Israel should not shun Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat even though he made "a mistake of historic proportions" when he turned down the Camp David peace proposal, says former U.S. president Bill Clinton.

An interim agreement – with outstanding issues to be negotiated over the next 18 months to two years – is urgently needed to stop the violence, said Clinton to an audience of 2,600 at a benefit evening organized by Montreal ORT.

"The only possible solution" involves the creation of a Palestinian state, Clinton said. "After the divorce, [Israel and Palestine] should be friends and as soon as there is a property settlement go into business together."

The time is auspicious for a resumption of talks because the Palestinian "moderate camp" is dissatisfied, he said.

"The Palestinians now realize they did not make the wisest decision," he said. "That critical mass of opinion will be lost unless the two sides get back to the table."

The Palestinians' "traditional mode of operation of waiting for an offer and then waiting some more to get something better" backfired, said Clinton, who brokered the Camp David negotiations in the summer of 2000.

He deplored the deaths of both Palestinian and Israeli youths as "a slaughter of children because of the pride of their elders."

Clinton applauded Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah's recent condemnation of terrorism and incitement found in mosques and school textbooks, adding that Prince Abdullah is on the verge of recognizing Israel in return for a Palestinian state.

He urged the Bush administration to send back its Mideast peace envoy Anthony Zinni, and keep him there "until something gets done."

The evening was chaired by Dr. Roger Korman and grossed over $800,000, which will be split between the Montreal Children's Hospital, Ste. Justine Hospital and hospitals in Israel, where ORT students lead a computer program for kids facing lengthy care. Relaxed yet sombre, he received five standing ovations throughout the evening.

We need to face up to the discontent in much of the world, which is often directed at the United States, Clinton said.

"Our strategy against terrorism has to be more than defence, prevention and punishment," Clinton said. "We have to do something to make more friends."

The world would have fewer terrorists if the wealthy nations spent more money alleviating suffering and creating opportunity in poor countries, he said.

Wealthy countries have to close the gap in the standard of living between them and the large part of the world that has not benefited from globalization, he said.

For "a relatively small amount of money," he said, problems like unclean water, lack of basic medical care and education, and stymied economic opportunity could be alleviated and thereby reduce the likelihood that people will turn to extremism, ethnic and racial hatred, and violence.

"In an age of greater interdependence in the world that ever before, we have to make more partners and fewer terrorists," Clinton said. "For a few billion dollars, all of the kids in the world could be in school. That's a lot cheaper than going to war."

The United States also has to do a better job of "getting its story out there," especially in the Muslim world, he said. The rise of Islamic terrorism is due to extremists spreading the belief among the discontented poor that the West is "hostile to their values, way of life and economic interests."

The Muslim world should be told how many of their co-religionists live and thrive in the United States and how the United States protected Muslim lives in Kosovo and Bosnia, he said.

If people remember one thing from his speech, Clinton said he hopes it is this: "Do we want to live in a society that places more importance on our interesting differences or on our common humanity? It may be easy to say the latter, but it is hard to live it, particularly for the poor living under stress."

Israeli gymnasts coming to Canada

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — For the first time, five Israeli teens will compete in an annual international gymnastics competition here that organizers say will give them much-needed international exposure.

The March 8-10 competition, called Gymnix International, will take place at the Centre Sportif Claude Robillard.

About 30 young, elite female gymnasts from Canada, Ukraine, Russia, Brazil, Mexico and France are also competing, said Thea Abisror, a mother of a gymnast who worked to bring the Israeli girls to Montreal.

The competition is being organized by Club Gymnix, a 28-year-old Quebec gymnastics club that's earned a reputation for honing international calibre talent since its inception in 1973.

The five Israelis are all members of Hapoel Tel-Aviv. Founded 30 years ago, the club has trained gymnasts who made the 1984 and 1988 Olympics as well as world championships.

The competition's events will include the vault, beam, uneven bars and floor exercises.

The Israelis will be in town from March 6-14, and will either be billeted with members of the Jewish community through contacts made to local school and synagogues or placed in homes of other gymnasts by Club Gymnix. Then they'll be off to another gymnastics competition in Canada – the Burlington Spring Cup in Burlington, Ont.

Abisror said despite the good news, Hapoel Tel-Aviv is struggling to find ways to cover the high travel expenses involved.

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3:30 p.m. - Ruth Knafo Setton
"Jews in Arab Lands: Crossing Borders — Suleika and the Road to Fez."

The lectures will take place in the Founders Assembly Hall, 152 Founders College, Steeles Campus.

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Coast to Coast

Supreme Court won't hear appeal by alleged Nazi war criminal

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Supreme Court of Canada has refused to hear a case involving an alleged Nazi war criminal.

Walter Obodzinski of Montreal, who once served as a member of a Nazi police unit in Ukraine, claimed he was too sick to face charges that he lied to get into Canada.

The Feb. 14 Supreme Court ruling clears the way for the pre-trial process in Obodzinski's case to go forward in Federal Court, said Terry Beitner, director and general counsel for the War Crimes Unit in Ottawa.

"The trial can get back on track," he said. "The parties [involved] and the [Federal] Court will establish a new schedule to complete the pre-trial steps," he told *The CJN* in a telephone interview. "It's reasonable to assume that the trial could get under way by the summer."

The ruling closed the last avenue for Obodzinski's appeals to delay or stop his trial on grounds of poor health, which date back to June 2000. At that time, Obodzinski's lawyers sought a permanent stay in the proceedings, contending that their client, now 83, suffered from heart problems and was too ill to withstand the rigours of a trial.

That bid was rejected by Federal Court Judge Marc Nadon, but Obodzinski's lawyers were granted a temporary stay while Nadon's ruling went before the Federal Court of Appeal.

In May 2001, the Federal Court of Appeal also dismissed the argument of poor health.

But in July 2001, Obodzinski's defence team was granted another temporary stay, this time in the Federal Court of Appeal pending the Supreme Court's decision on whether to hear a final appeal on grounds of health. That stay is now lifted in light of the Supreme Court's Feb. 14 ruling.

Beitner said before an actual trial date can be set for the Obodzinski trial, the parties involved in the case, in consultation with the Federal Court, will still have to establish a new time line for "discovery" examinations of evidentiary materials and compilation of witness lists.

Obodzinski is charged with concealing from Canadian immigration officials his wartime membership in a Nazi police unit in Ukraine, when he applied to come to Canada after World War II. The unit has been held responsible for murdering 4,000 Jews and partisans, and shipping 20,000 others to slave labour camps.

Accused war criminal turned back by U.S. at Dorval

MONTREAL — Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) is repeating its call for the government to take action against Joseph (Juozas) Kisielaitis after the accused Nazi war criminal and current Montreal resident was blocked from entering the United States this month.

Last September, CJC and New York-based private investigator Steven Rambam made public a 130-page report about Kisielaitis, which they said provides "a powerful case" showing that he was a rifleman in a Nazi-sponsored battalion that killed thousands of Jews in Lithuania and Byelorussia (now Belarus) during World War II.

The U.S. Justice Department announced that on Feb. 15, its immigration inspectors at Dorval International Airport prevented Kisielaitis from boarding an Air Canada flight to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., because he has admitted to being a member of that battalion. He was not arrested.

At 6:42 a.m. that day, a U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service inspector who was performing routine pre-flight screening of travellers to the United States, stopped Kisielaitis, 81, when his name was found in the U.S. government's inter-agency border control "watchlist" database, the U.S. Justice Department said in a press release from Washington.

Kisielaitis' name was placed on that watchlist in 1984 at the request of the Office of Special Investigations (OSI), which had previously instituted deportation proceedings against Kisielaitis, charging that he took part in "Nazi crimes of persecution."

Kisielaitis has said under oath in the United States that he served in the battalion in a non-combative role as a tailor and did not accompany it on its killing sprees.

– J.A.

N.Y. Times: Israel would respond to Arab sincerity

In an article entitled "Dear Arab League" published earlier this month in the *New York Times*, Thomas Friedman suggested that if the Arab countries were really as interested in the well-being of the Palestinians as they claim, they would undertake a peace plan of their own, instead of complaining about U.S. "favouritism" toward Israel.

According to Reports

Couching his column in the form of a memo from U.S. President George Bush to the Arab League, Friedman writes, "I believe your problems with us grow from a misreading of Arab-Israeli history. You think somehow that if we just squeezed the Israelis they would roll over and do whatever the Palestinians demanded. You're wrong.

"The relevant balance of power is not between us and Israel, but between you and Israel. All the peace breakthroughs happened not when we threatened Israelis but when you enticed them. That is, when Arab leaders… made clear to the Israeli silent majority that they were interested in real peace in return for real Israeli withdrawal, they got exactly what they wanted from Israel."

Friedman is absolutely right. In June 1967, Israel fought a war of self-defence in response to Arab threats of destruction, following which it came into possession of territory. Israel has always proved magnanimous when it has received genuine indications that Arab leaders seek peace. Anwar Sadat's historic visit to the Knesset in 1977 led to the return of the Sinai to Egypt. The warmth of King Hussein led to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty of 1994 and other territorial adjustments.

However, Yasser Arafat is not of that ilk. He betrayed his initial commitments under Oslo (1993) when he rejected the offers of Palestinian statehood at Camp David in 2000. He further abandoned the peace process by resorting to violence and terrorism.

UN Security Council Resolution 242 calling for "land for peace" is the backbone of all Israeli-Arab negotiations. It means precisely that: Israel will yield land acquired 1967 in exchange for peace and security. But Israel is not required to cede territory without these guarantees.

The onus falls on Arafat to comply with Resolution 242 and to rein in the violence. Friedman appropriately calls upon the Arab League to accept Resolution 242 as the basis for a wider Arab-led peace plan.

(At the same time, we should note that Friedman inaccurately accepts the maximal interpretation of Resolution 242 where Israel would return to the indefensible June 4, 1967 lines that defined the cessation of fighting in 1949. Those who drafted the resolution foresaw important territorial adjustments.)

Israel was accepted into the United Nations in May 1949 as a Jewish state. The Arab-Israeli conflict would have faded away long ago if the Arab world had accepted the right of the Jewish people to possess their own state in their midst.

Unfortunately, as Danny Rubenstein, the highly respected *Ha'aretz* correspondent on Palestinian affairs, wrote (Feb. 18), although he speaks of a "two-state solution," Arafat, along with "Palestinians and Arabs in general," refuses "to recognize the Jews as a nation and thus to recognize Israel as the Jewish state."

Prepared by Paul Michaels of the Canada-Israel Committee.

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McMaster student centre may pose problems

By AARON ORKIN
Special to The CJN

McMaster University students with special religious needs are discovering that the plans and policies surrounding the university's new student centre may make it more difficult for them to live and practise their religion on campus.

The Jewish Students Association (JSA) is among the groups that will be most affected by the move to the new student centre.

With the university expecting an increase in population of nearly 50 per cent in the next five years, more students means new special interest groups and clubs, as well as a renewed need for space and funding for student services.

Designed to house all student services under one roof, the McMaster student centre is nearing completion, as a part of McMaster's development plan.

The university has classified religious associations such as the JSA merely as clubs, without recognizing the specific needs of the students they represent. The misclassification of the JSA and other religious associations means that these organizations will have to share office space with all other campus clubs.

The Jewish, Islamic, Hindu, Christian and a number of other religious associations on campus are more than social, political, educational, or special-interest clubs.

These organizations create a space, both physical and spiritual, that make it possible for distinct religious and cultural groups to survive on campus.

Religious laws mean that many of these clubs will be unable to function properly or provide necessary religious services, thus alienating students with special religious needs. Under new regulations, all clubs, including religious associations, will have to maintain minimum membership numbers to keep their office space, thereby further undermining smaller religious minorities.

Policies like these will make it particularly difficult for Aboriginal students and very small religious or cultural minorities to maintain a space for their needs.

Numerous campus student groups, religious or not, have discovered they will have to move into the new student centre but can get no further information.

"I provide students with information, comfort, socialization — we even do chaplaincy," explains Judy Schwartz, director of the JSA. "I deal with both social and religious issues."

Schwartz says the JSA provides these services, as well as kosher food, and a place to talk to a rabbi or to meet other young Jews. She says she regularly receives phone calls from the concerned parents of prospective Jewish students to inquire whether their children will be able to find a place to exercise their religious rights, find Jewish friends, and be a part of a Jewish community.

The JSA has been on campus for 25 years, and makes it possible for many young Jews to attend McMaster.

Schwartz and the JSA have only been informally told that their office will have to be vacated, but can find no more information.

The JSA has not been told why they have to move, or for what purpose their current space will be used. The JSA basement office space, while it is perfect for the JSA, would not make suitable residence or classroom space.

Nobody has received a phone call or a letter to explain the situation. Schwartz has sent letters to senior administrators to inquire into the JSA's future, but she received no response and has had difficulty in opening dialogue with McMaster administration.

It would appear that administration is both neglecting students with special religious needs and creating a more serious long-term problem.

Administration must meet with student groups to openly discuss the problem before the moves occur, and it needs to find suitable spaces to meet the needs of religious associations.

Placing all student services under one roof might make it easier for most clubs to function and more convenient for students to access these services. But religious organizations cannot be conveniently lumped into a communal space with other clubs.

Islamic students have faced an uphill battle just to find a room where they can say their daily prayers. The JSA will be unable to provide kosher food in a shared space in the new student centre.

Some Ontario universities already offer kosher and halal food on campus and special scheduling options for students to work around specific religious holidays.

McMaster must realize that providing equal religious opportunity and building student diversity is not a passive process, but requires affirmative treatment.

We need to learn that being non-discriminatory in a religiously pluralistic society is not simply a matter of treating every group in exactly the same way, but actually requires us to attend to the specific needs of religious minorities.

On the new student centre Web page, McMaster president Peter George is quoted as saying that the centre would be an "investment in a stronger and happier student body...[that] will substantially enhance the academic and non-academic quality of life."

By downsizing the services that cater to students merely to make room for more residence spaces and classes, McMaster will increase its student population only to compromise the quality of life of its new students and religious minorities.

Fortunately, the problem McMaster has created here can be easily solved. All that is needed is to recognize that religious groups have special needs either by allowing them to keep their space outside the new student centre or by offering them special space in the centre.

The McMaster University Campus Plan, the document at the heart of all campus development, contains no reference to maintaining an environment conducive to religious equal opportunity or student diversity.

McMaster must be sure not to forget the principles of diversity, equal opportunity, and innovation when planning for expansion.

Aaron Orkin is a student at McMaster University.

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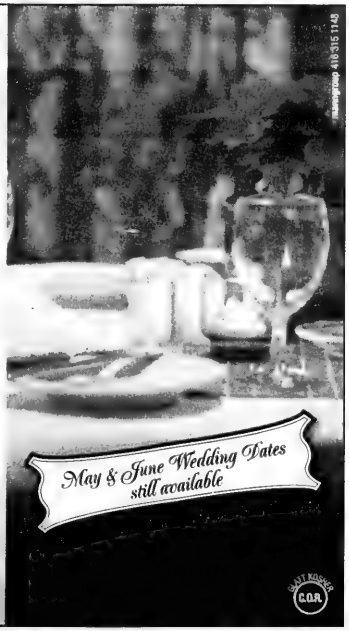

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CHAT beats Israeli juniors

Continued from page 1

The game, which the Tigers won 4-2, was one of several played in the Toronto area between the Israeli juniors and teams from the Avenue Road Hockey Association, City of Vaughan Hockey Association, Forest Hill Hockey Association and CHAT.

"All the games were competitive and evenly matched," said Eli Rubenstein, one of the organizers of the games.

"And in what other game will the announcer call a penalty by saying, 'and you won't do that again will you'"?

Rubenstein said the games, also organized by Jeff Budd, Moshe Eizenman, Alon Eizenman, Danny Fine and Marty Goldberg, and sponsored by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Israel Now and UIA Federations Canada, have been a dream since the Israeli team was formed about seven years ago.

"We always thought it would be great for the Israeli players to come here and see how the Toronto community supports them.

"They don't have much of a chance to compete in Israel, so this was a real opportunity for them," he said.

The team visited a number of Hebrew day schools, said Rubenstein, "and they were treated like stars. Kids mobbed them and asked for their autographs. In the kids' eyes, they were heroes.

"The whole visit exceeded our expectations. The Toronto community embraced the team, and the games were great."

Businessman Edward Bronfman, whose family charity is donating $25,000 to support hockey in Israel, dropped the ceremonial puck to start the game. He was joined on the ice by Israeli Consul General Meir Romem; Israeli Consul Zahavi ben Hillel; Sergei Matin, president of the Israeli Ice Hockey Federation; Paul Shaviv, headmaster of CHAT; and Moshe Eizenman and Marty Goldberg, chairs of the event.

Hatikvah was sung by CHAT student Tamara Tal, and *O Canada* by Jacob Gelcer, a student at Upper Canada College.

From the beginning, the teams were evenly matched, many fans agreed. Although there was not much body contact, the game was played at a fast tempo and featured excellent goaltending at both ends.

With a lot of passing, superb skating and playmaking flourishes up and down the ice, both teams displayed good hockey skills.

The end result of the game, though, was secondary to the fact that it was played with goodwill and good feeling, making it an enjoyable evening for the spectators.

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Senior Sharon aide says Saudi peace plan 'positive trend'

Continued from page 1

Calling it a "fascinating, interesting new opportunity," Peres said Israel should immediately respond favourably to the initiative, while reserving the right to negotiate over the plan's provisions.

"The body of the Saudi position is more or less known to us, but what is important that for the first time Saudi Arabia, which had turned its back on Israel, didn't want to speak with it, didn't want to hear about Israel, is proposing to the Arab world normalizing relations with us and recognizing Israel," he said.

Asked if Israel should accept the initiative, Peres said: "On the initiative, yes. On its content, we certainly have the right to insist on bargaining."

Peres said the Saudis could not dictate the terms of a possible deal, but added: "The very fact of the willingness of Saudi Arabia to come out and try to bring the Arab world with it to reconciliation is a very great thing."

Sharon told cabinet Sunday that he has "taken several steps" on the Saudi initiative and is waiting for the United States to provide details of the plan.

Though King Abdullah of Jordan recently made a similar peace proposal, the idea is attracting more attention now that it has been raised by Saudi Arabia.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Marwan Muasher said there are "seven or eight" Arab states that have accepted it, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Egypt, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates, Lebanon, Tunisia and the Palestinian Authority.

A senior Jordanian government source said if Israel allows Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to attend next month's Arab summit in Beirut, the plan will be the main issue on the agenda. The source added Syria is likely to back it as well. He said his country is working to win support for it, and that only Iraq, Libya, and Sudan may try to foil it.

Sources in Israel's foreign ministry believe the prince's remarks were prompted by three factors, the first being his desire to repair his country's relations with Washington that were badly strained by Sept. 11.

The second factor is that Saudi Arabia – like Egypt and Jordan – fears the violence in the territories could undermine the Saudi regime. Finally, Saudi Arabia seeks to regain its centrality in the region, after years in which its refusal to offer its own initiative has left it somewhat on the sidelines.

Prince Abdullah has been seeking publicity for the proposal. In Saudi Arabia, his statements received wide, and largely positive, coverage: The official Saudi news agency published Friedman's article in full, while the pro-government daily *Al-Watan* ran a favourable editorial last week saying Abdullah's "logical" proposal had been directed at western – particularly U.S. and Israeli – public opinion.

The United States is taking the Saudi proposal seriously, and last Friday Secretary of State Colin Powell called it a positive development. U.S. sources said it is significant because it comes from a powerful and influential Arab figure.

But a high-ranking U.S. official sent Israel a message last weekend, saying the importance of the Saudi initiative should not be overestimated and while it contained some positive elements, efforts should be focused on ending violence and terrorism, rather than an all-inclusive political proposal.

Israeli Finance Minister Silvan Shalom of Sharon's Likud was cautious about the plan. He said it bore further inspection, but that after 54 years of statehood, Israel could hardly view a willingness to recognize it as "a major revolution."

Saudi foreign policy adviser Adel al-Jubeir said last Sunday the basic tenet of Abdullah's proposal is that the sides should not wait for a ceasefire to start talks. "This notion of a three-day or seven-day or 10-day of total calm is simply not practical." He also said international observers should separate the sides and allow leaders to talk.

"[The proposal] sends a signal to the Israeli public by telling them that peace with the broader Arab world is possible. It also sends a message to the peace camps in Israel and the United States not to lose hope," al-Jubeir said.

Meanwhile, a Saudi newspaper quoted a "western source" that the United States and Saudi Arabia were working together to promote the plan. The source also said the Americans decided to back it due to the support it was winning in the Arab world.

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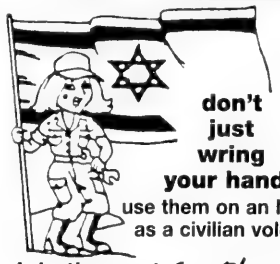

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Israel & the Jewish World

Murdered journalist Daniel Pearl was gentle soul – and son of Israelis

By TOM TUGEND
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

LOS ANGELES — Until the very last moment, the family of murdered journalist Daniel Pearl never lost hope that he would be released by his Pakistani kidnappers and returned to safety.

Prof. Yehuda Pearl and his wife Ruth said in a statement that they simply could not believe that anyone could harm a son they described as "such a gentle soul" and as "the musician, the writer, the storyteller, the bridge-builder."

Elsewhere in their statement, Pearl's parents and his sisters, Tamara and Michelle, remembered their son and brother as a "walking sunshine of truth, humour, friendship and compassion."

The family's unflagging hope was best illustrated in an e-mail message the father sent to members of a local Israeli choir on Feb. 21, only a few hours before the U.S. State Department confirmed the brutal slaying of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter.

After nearly a month of torturous waiting, Yehuda Pearl told fellow musicians of the L.A.-Shir choir, which he had founded, "We have learned to cope with the ups and downs of the situation... We are confident that he will return to us and fairly soon. When that happens, we will all celebrate his homecoming event with Handel's *Hallelujah*."

He spent sabbatical year at Weizmann Institute

A San Fernando Valley rabbi who is also a practising psychologist has been counselling the Pearl family during the past few weeks. A private memorial service at the family home in Encino was planned for the latter part of this week.

The family's grief has been shared by a circle of Daniel Pearl's close friends, many of whom date their friendship back to school days in the Los Angeles area.

Some of his closest friends were fellow backpackers between 1978 and 1981 in the Explorer Post, a co-ed affiliate of the Boy Scouts of America.

One was Rachel Knopoff, now a Manhattan Beach, Calif., physician, who remembers Pearl as "the greatest guy I have ever known. I had a huge crush on him, and so probably did most of the girls in the troop. He was the funniest, smartest, nicest guy I ever met."

Attorney John Liebman served as adviser to the Explorer Post.

"They were an extraordinary, highly motivated group of kids," says Liebman, who recalls Pearl as "obviously highly intelligent, with a fine sense of humour and easy to get along with."

Liebman's son, Scott, a lifelong friend of Pearl's, added a few more descriptive adjectives in a phone call from San Francisco – including "brilliant, funny, wry and sensitive."

At Birmingham High in Van Nuys, Calif., whose current student body observed a minute of silence in honour of their slain alumnus, Pearl "was the teenager everyone wanted to be," observed the *Los Angeles Daily News*.

"He was the smart, funny kid who was a cultural counterpoint to the mall-hopping, materialistic 'valley girl' world of the 1970s and early 1980s."

Pearl grew up in a family that nourished the intellectual and musical talents he was to display later on.

After graduating from the Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in Haifa, Yehuda Pearl and his wife Ruth, an electrical engineer, moved to Princeton, N.J., for graduate studies and to work at a local research centre. Their son was born there in 1963.

In 1970, Yehuda Pearl joined the computer science faculty at UCLA, earning a reputation as a leading researcher in the field of artificial intelligence.

He spent a sabbatical year at the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel and was elected to the elite National Academy of Engineering in 1995 "for developing the foundation for reasoning under uncertainty."

One old friend recalls participating in a Passover seder at the Pearl home, though the family was not religiously observant.

"The Pearls are not affiliated with a synagogue, but they are deeply attached to their heritage and very cognizant of who they are," said Gary Foster, the family spokesperson.

Israeli newspapers reported that Daniel Pearl had celebrated his bar mitzvah at the Western Wall.

During the month following Pearl's kidnapping, there was deep concern that publication of his family's Israeli roots would further endanger his life.

Foster and other representatives of Dow Jones, the *Wall Street Journal*'s parent company, worked intensively behind the scenes in New York, Los Angeles and overseas to alert news organizations to the danger inherent in publishing the names of Pearl's parents or their background.

"We were particularly anxious that networks reaching large international audiences, such as CNN and BBC, would not break the news," Foster says.

In a remarkable display of professional restraint and solidarity, all media complied with the strictures.

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The Week in Israel

Feb. 18

• According to *Ha'aretz*, defence officials say terrorist networks affiliated with Al Qaeda already exist in Israel as well as in the West Bank and Gaza.

Feb. 19

• Six IDF soldiers were killed at a roadblock near Ramallah: Moshe Eini, 21, of Petach Tikvah; Beni Kikis, 20, of Carmiel; Mark Podolsky, 20, of Tel Aviv; Michael Hoksman, 21, of Haifa; Erez Turjeman, 20, of Jerusalem; and Tamir Atzami, 21, of Kiryat Ono.

Feb. 20

• Israel's High Court ordered the Interior Ministry to formally recognize non-Orthodox conversions. In a 9-2 decision, the court ruled the ministry must recognize Reform and Conservative conversions for the purpose of registering converts as Jewish on Israeli identity cards. The ruling applies to such conversions performed in Israel and abroad.

• The High Court also upheld a draft deferral arrangement for yeshiva students. The panel of 11 judges unanimously rejected a challenge to the provisional law that extends such exemptions to March 2003.

Feb. 21

• The Jewish Agency approved a $140 million (US) budget for Argentine Jews who immigrate to Israel. *(See related stories on Perspectives page in this issue.)*

Feb. 22

• The Palestinian Authority (PA) said it arrested three suspects in the assassination of Tourism Minister Rechavam Ze'evi last October. Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said that if the suspects have indeed been arrested by the PA, Israel should favourably consider releasing PA Chairman Yasser Arafat from his confinement in Ramallah.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Sharon calls on Israel to 'stand united'

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — After much debate among politicians, military officials and pundits, Israel has decided to create buffer zones to defend Israelis from Palestinian terrorists.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon made the announcement last Thursday in a televised speech – mostly a pep talk to a nation that has faced nearly 17 months of Palestinian violence and sees no end to the conflict.

Sharon gave virtually no details about the buffer zones, which he said would be created "in order to increase the security of Israeli subjects."

After discussions "held at the Security Cabinet a few days ago," he said, "we decided to establish buffer zones and to set up obstacles along those border zones."

Though pressed by reporters during the question-and-answer period following his speech, Sharon did not indicate how the zones would be demarcated nor what might happen to those who might find themselves on the wrong side of the boundary.

Addressing a visiting delegation of U.S. Jewish leaders the day before, he said there is a "war going on here." But in his televised remarks Thursday, Sharon made less pointed references to the ongoing crisis as a war.

Israelis have to be "calm and have to preserve coolness in times of war and peace," he said. "We must not act hastily. Everything in good time, neither too late nor too early. That is the only way we can be victorious in war, and that is the only way to achieve a stable peace.

"We are a people that has accumulated a great deal of experience in dealing with troubles," he added.

His speech came amid calls from some quarters in Israel – including from a group of reservists refusing to serve in the West Bank and Gaza Strip – for Israel to halt its military reprisals.

Referring to these dissenting voices, Sharon said Israel's enemies "have misinterpreted our internal debates, which are the very essence of a democracy and which are actually one of the sources of our strength.

"They have misunderstood this situation. They think that there are cracks in our people," he added. "And of course they are encouraged to think that from the expressions of people calling for refusal to serve in the territories, but they are wrong. This people is stronger and more united than they could possibly imagine."

Sharon repeatedly spoke of Israel's yearning for peace with its Arab neighbours.

But he also reiterated that negotiations with the Palestinians can only begin after there is a complete halt to hostilities.

"First, terror must stop. There must be calm, and only then will we talk about peace," he said.

Sharon voiced his willingness to meet with Palestinian "personalities" in an effort "to prevent any escalation and to prevent a slide into overall total war," but added that there would be no compromises where Israel's security is concerned.

Ariel Sharon delivering the speech

"I said in the past, and I say it again today, for the sake of true peace, there must be painful concessions, but there will be no concessions with regard to the security of Israel and its citizens," he said.

Sharon spoke during a week marked by some of the worst violence since the intifadah erupted in September 2000.

Also last Thursday, Israel launched a land and air assault on Gaza City and on several cities in the West Bank in retaliation for the point-blank slaying of six Israeli soldiers earlier in the week.

About 20 Palestinians have been killed in a series of Israeli reprisals launched last week after the six were killed by Palestinian gunmen at a Ramallah-area roadblock.

In his speech, Sharon addressed some of his remarks to those "Palestinians who do not want war and who are not engaged in terror.

"Do you intend to go on sending your children to commit suicide as bombers?" he asked. "Or do you intend to follow those who suggest prosperity and advancement?"

Drawing a picture of a hopeful future, he said: "I suggest to all, Jews and Arabs like, that there must be calm. Stop educating towards hatred.

"What we all see here today is prosperity and advancement. And I know that in the end, with God's help, this is what will happen."

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Jerusalem's Neighbourhood Network

It's a cherished city. One of the world's jewels. The capital of Israel. But Jerusalem isn't so much a city as a jigsaw puzzle of unique neighbourhoods, reflecting rich histories and distinct personalities. The next time you visit Jerusalem, try these tourist treats.

Nachalat Shiva – Bordered by Rivlin and Yoel Salomon Streets near Ben Yehuda, this craft-filled district originated in the 19th century. If you're looking for alleys lined with ceramics, hand-designed jewelry and small, specialized restaurants, you'll love Nachalat Shiva.

Agrippas Street – Forget about modern malls, Agrippas, which starts at downtown King George Street features discount outlets selling everything imaginable. If you're afraid of bargaining, beware. This is not the neighbourhood for you.

The Cardo – For the Jewish Quarter of Jerusalem's Old City, this is Main Street, where purchasing Judaica preoccupies visitors. Just ascend the steep staircase from the Western Wall plaza and you're there. Take a look around and you can see why the Cardo was the bustling central thoroughfare during ancient Byzantine times.

Baka – You're now in southern Jerusalem, but it looks like a village of its own. Mini-markets, bakeries and bookstores adorn Beit Lechem Road, from which most of Baka's streets branch out.

Next week, we'll explore the artistic solitude of Jerusalem's Yemin Moshe.

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Hezbollah may hand over kidnap video

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Beirut newspaper *A-Nahar* reported Sunday that the militant Lebanese-based Hezbollah organization may hand over to Israel a videotape showing Colonel (res.) Elhanan Tannenbaum, who was kidnapped by Hezbollah in October 2000.

The paper reported progress in contacts between Israel and Hezbollah, and said the tape will show Israel that Tannenbaum is in good condition. In return for the tape, Israel will give Lebanon a map showing the location of landmines in southern Lebanon.

Tannenbaum, a reserve artillery officer and Tel Aviv businessman, flew from Israel to Brussels on Oct. 3, 2000. On Oct. 15, Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah announced in Beirut that his organization was holding a "Mossad officer," a claim Israel vigorously denied.

Israel has recently transferred several landmine maps to Lebanon, and according to the newspaper, this signifies a near breakthrough in relations with Hezbollah. Israel will agree to hand over the rest of the maps to Lebanon only in exchange for information on the three IDF soldiers, Benny Avraham, Omar Suad and Adi Avitan, who were kidnapped in October 2000. The paper added that a German mediator has had 17 meetings with senior Hezbollah officials.

Hezbollah is demanding that Israel release Lebanese prisoners held in Israel, including Abd al Karim Obeid and Mustafa Dirani, a request Israel has rejected. The organization also demands Israel release some 2,000 Palestinian detainees, 70 Syrian prisoners who are residents of the Golan Heights (probably Druze residents), five Iranian prisoners and four Jordanians.

The *A-Nahar* article is the latest in a number of signals from Lebanon regarding a possible prisoner exchange. Nasrallah said recently that Israel has agreed in principle to free Palestinian prisoners in a future deal, and an article printed last week in the Lebanese, Hezbollah-associated paper *As-Safir* claimed that Israel has agreed to release 150 prisoners in return for the release of the captured Israelis, a proposal rejected by Hezbollah.

Last week, Nasrallah met with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, and it is possible that this unusual meeting dealt with promoting negotiations for a prisoner exchange. *A-Nahar* has reported that the two agreed that Hezbollah would end its activities in the disputed Shaaba Farms area, which lies at the junction of the Lebanese border and the Golan Heights in Israel.

Silver as good as it gets for two athletes in 2002

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Silver was as good as it got for two female Jewish athletes at the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Russian skater Irina Slutskaya came second to teenage phenom Sarah Hughes in women's skating while goaltender Sara DaCosta backstopped the U.S. women's hockey team in a 3-2 loss to Canada, the gold medal winners.

DaCosta shone early and kept the Americans in the game as Canada mounted a strong first-period challenge. DaCosta stopped 26 of 29 shots and finished the tournament with a 2-1 record.

Slutskaya skated tentatively – some analysts said she played it too safe – after favoured American Michelle Kwan's disappointing performance, leaving the door open for Hughes to vault from fourth place after the short program to first overall.

American Sasha Cohen, who was third after the short program, finished out of the medals in fourth.

In ice dancing, the Israeli couple of Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovsky finished sixth while fellow Israelis Alexei Beletski and Natalia Gudina were 19th.

In short track speed skating, Olga Danilov of Israel competed in the 500-metre and 1,500-metre races, but could advance no farther than the quarter-finals in the 500-metres and the semi-finals in the 1,500-metres, finishing last in both heats.

American Dan Weinstein and his team came in fourth place in the 5,000-metre relay.

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Israelis don't fear Iraqi attack

By GIL SEDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — Despite some recent sabre-rattling in Washington, Israel's gas mask distribution centres have not been overly busy.

In the past, Israelis would rush to the distribution centres whenever tensions between Washington and Baghdad escalated, fearing that Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein would attack Israel if the United States attacked Baghdad.

These days, however, Israelis seem quite calm – as if they know something that U.S. President George W. Bush does not.

The Israeli public's apparent indifference to the possibility of an Iraqi attack can be traced to three main reasons:

• Virtually every Israeli citizen, regardless of age, already has a gas mask at home;

• An American attack against Iraq is not perceived here as imminent; and

• When you already think twice before leaving home for fear of a Palestinian terror attack, you don't worry so much about Saddam.

In a recent poll conducted by the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv*, Iraq ranked third on the list of "gravest dangers."

Only nine per cent of the Israeli respondents cited Iraq as the gravest danger currently facing the nation, far less than the 30 per cent who cited the Palestinians and the 27 per cent who worried most about Iran.

The apparent apathy about Iraq comes amid frequent hints from Washington that Baghdad could be the next target in the U.S.-led campaign against terrorism. It also comes despite frequent warnings that Iraq is likely to attack Israel if Washington targets Iraq.

The U.S. ambassador to Israel, Daniel Kurtzer, issued just such a warning in a recent interview with *Ma'ariv*. Kurtzer refused to state whether the United States would demand that Israel refrain from joining a U.S.-led coalition against Iraq, as happened during the 1991 Gulf War.

At the time, Israel bowed to U.S. pressure and did not respond to a series of deadly Scud missile attacks that Iraq launched at Israel.

Kurtzer did say that if the United States attacks Iraq, or becomes involved "in any other anti-terror operations," then U.S. officials would make a point of consulting with their Israeli counterparts beforehand.

Like Kurtzer, Israeli military officials consider an Iraqi strike against Israel highly likely should the United States target Saddam's regime.

"Iraq will launch missiles against Israel only if Saddam Hussein feels that his life or his rule are threatened," Maj. Gen. Aharon Ze'evi-Farkash, the head of military intelligence, said last week.

However, considering that a U.S. attack on Iraq probably would aim to bring down Saddam's regime, there is much reason to expect an Iraqi attack on Israel, he said.

Just the same, officials such as Ze'evi-Farkash are optimistic that Israel can repel an Iraqi attack.

"Iraqi is capable of sending combat aircraft to bomb targets in Israel with conventional and nonconventional weapons," he said. "But we are confident that the air force can cope with that danger."

As part of its defences, Israel is relying on its Patriot anti-missile system. During Operation Desert Storm in January 1991, Patriot missile batteries were deployed in strategic positions across Israel.

The only defence against ground-to-ground missiles at the time, Patriots were launched at the 39 Scuds that Iraq fired on Israel in the course of the war. Many missed their targets, but the Patriot system has been upgraded considerably since then.

Last August, Israel successfully tested the latest version of another anti-missile system, the Arrow. In what was the ninth such test, the Arrow last week destroyed a simulated Scud over the Mediterranean Sea.

The Arrow missile system is part of a $2.2 billion (US) project known as Choma – Hebrew for "wall" – designed to counter missile attacks.

Israeli intelligence officials say Iraq has "several dozen" long-range missiles.

According to Ze'evi-Farkash, there is no information available about Iraq's capability for biological warfare. This may explain why Israeli authorities have refrained from immunizing the Israeli public against a possible anthrax attack, although Israel reportedly possesses sufficient stock of vaccines.

According to some critics of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, the Iraqi issue has affected his handling of the Palestinian intifadah.

Sharon said last week that he does not intend to bring down the Palestinian Authority, despite the deteriorating security situation. He made the comment last Tuesday in response to calls from members of his Likud Party to adopt a tougher stance toward the Palestinians.

"I don't intend to sit in Gaza," he said sharply to a Likud legislator who had called for a more aggressive Israeli response to the latest wave of Palestinian terror.

Sharon's critics are charging that diplomatic constraints are preventing him from ordering a broader military response.

Sharon is hamstrung by U.S. pressure, they say, because the United States is concerned that an escalation in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict could interfere with U.S. attempts to get Arab states into a broad anti-Saddam coalition.

As the political and diplomatic wrangling continues, some Israelis are confident that a military confrontation with Iraq is just a matter of time.

Nofar High-Tech, an Israeli firm, recently developed a portable shelter designed to provide protection against biological and chemical warfare.

The "safe room," which can be placed in any backyard, comes equipped with water and air filters. Each unit costs $40,000 (US).

HARRIS PAYS TRIBUTE AT DACHAU:
Ontario Premier Mike Harris stands in front of a memorial sculpture at the site of the Dachau concentration camp near Munich. Harris paid homage last week to Holocaust victims and survivors with a tour of the site, which is now a memorial. The premier, who was in Germany as part of the recent Team Canada trade mission, said the visit was meant "to honour the victims, who suffered so greatly, and the survivors who came to our province."

Panel rejects reservists' sedition

By GIDEON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee last week unanimously approved a motion condemning the refusal of Israel Defence Forces reservists to serve in the West Bank and Gaza. The committee also called on any officers or reservists thinking of joining the refuseniks to reconsider the matter.

The committee's decision states that serving in the IDF and carrying out the difficult tasks the army is forced to execute, as part of the defence of Israel and its citizens, is a duty, as well as a democratic, moral and legal value. According to the committee, these are preconditions of Israel's existence as a democratic and peace-loving nation.

The chairman of the committee, MK David Magen (Center Party), said that refusing to serve could have a severely negative affect on the national morale, adding that Israel must not hand the Palestinians any moral victories in a war the country has been coerced into.

According to Magen, the Palestinians would recognize divisions in the nation's collective morale, and this recognition would, in turn, increase their attacks against Israel.

Only three members of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee participated in last week's meeting, with MKs Ran Cohen (Meretz) and Colette Avital (Labor) both backing the motion.

But opposition leader MK Yossi Sarid (Meretz) came out against the motion, saying that while his party rejected the phenomenon, the committee had no right passing motions on a subject that was purely a matter for each individual soldier's conscience.

ARTS & SCIENCE

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Arts & Travel

Collection of Jewish short stories offers many surprises and delights

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

A new collection of 17 short stories by Canadian Jewish writers, published by the Red Deer Press of Calgary, demonstrates both the diversity and literary acumen that we have come to expect from our writing community, past and present.

Not Quite Mainstream: Canadian Jewish Short Stories is edited by Norman Ravvin, the gifted short-story writer who is presently chair of Canadian Jewish Studies at Concordia University in Montreal.

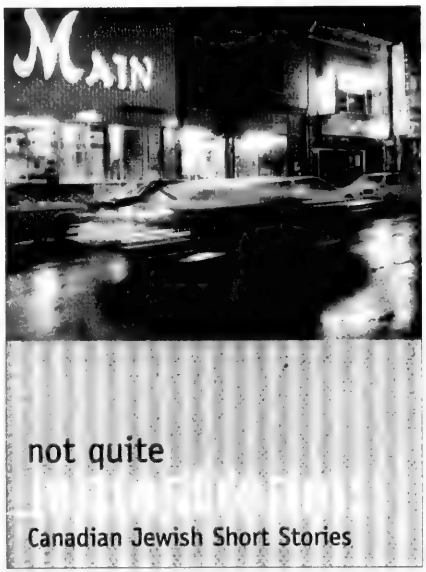
Ravvin has assembled a rich historical cross-section that offers many surprises and delights.

Since it's both desirable and compulsory to include our most celebrated scribe in such a project, the editor has made the obvious choice in presenting *The Street*, Mordecai Richler's wry and ribald comic sketch of life in Montreal's Jewish ghetto. (For whatever reason, perhaps because it was too ribald or too ripe with shtick, *The Street* was omitted from *Canadian Jewish Short Stories*, the notable collection that Miriam Waddington edited for Oxford University Press a dozen years ago.)

The contents page of *Not Quite Mainstream* lists several stories by familiar authors that I had long been meaning to read: Norman Levine's *Thin Ice*, for example, a comic treat that bears comparison to I. B. Singer's *The Briefcase*. Another was Matt Cohen's *Lives of the Mind Slaves*, which is hip, poetic, agile and – surprise, surprise – Jewish to its very core.

Irving Layton's *Piety* and Cary Fagan's *Nora By the Sea* are also logical and welcome contributions by well-established writers. (A.M. Klein was omitted because his stories fall "below the quality of his other work," the editor explains; other no-shows include Leonard Cohen and Adele Wiseman, neither of whom focused on the short story.)

Commendably, *Not Quite Mainstream* seemingly rescues some gems from obscurity, for instance *That First Morning*, translated from the original Yiddish of Yaacov Zipper. This highly deserving piece opens the collection and presents a fresh tableau of a European immigrant's first moments in Canada. I read it as if discovering pages from a diary that might have belonged to my own grandfather.



Numerous pieces by Chava Rosenfarb, Rochl Korn, Elaine Kalman Naves and others reflect the inescapable monolith of the Holocaust. Some are set entirely in Europe and the past. Those set at least partly in Canada are obviously better at fulfilling our expectation that they provide some insight into our experience in Canada.

Stories involving the eternal theme of persecution, although not Holocaust-related, include Tom Wayman's *The Murder*, a riveting piece about an old-world murder with new-world consequences; and Robyn Sarah's *A Minor Incident*, in which a girl's rising awareness of the possibility of anti-Semitism seems to precipitate her fall from childhood innocence.

Jews, these stories show, cannot help but be Jewish. That is why, despite record levels of cultural assimilation, we remain *Not Quite Mainstream*.

Ravvin observes, as Waddington did before him, that short stories by Canadian Jews defy categorization. He suggests they are best characterized by "the variety, the unpredictability, and the ongoing transformation" inherent in them.

This collection demonstrates the truth of this: it is a garden strewn with diverse flowering plants, including many exotics.

Consider *Fuller Brush* by Kenneth Sherman, which leaves us wanting more stories from this prolific poet. Or *August*, by Claire Rothman – a unique and sensational tale that made me wonder why I had never heard of either Rothman or this story before now.

Ravvin's contribution, *A Story with Sex, Skyscrapers, and Standard Yiddish*, is equally a tour-de-force as it humourously presents the writer's existential landscape – a man, a plan, a mirror, a window, a girl, an apartment, a typewriter – in language that easily dazzles.

Not Quite Mainstream deserves a wide readership. It is available in softcover in bookstores for $18.95.

Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

FROM CAESAREA TO AKKO: TOURING ISRAEL'S NORTHERN COAST

"The Romans arrived here in 63 BCE," says our guide, Mike Rogoff. "They came for the weekend and stayed 400 years."

He stops the minivan beside Caesarea's famed aqueduct, which runs elegantly, arch after arch, along a stretch of Mediterranean seacoast south of Haifa. Meticulously engineered to carry fresh water from Mount Carmel some six kilometres away, the aqueduct is the town's most recognizable emblem. It seems to end here abruptly, Rogoff explains, because the encroaching bay forced a section to collapse.

The famed aqueduct in Caesarea is the town's most recognizable item. [IGTO photo]

Transforming a Phoenician fishing village into this major Roman port city was a pet project of Herod the Great, the ancient king who named the place in honour of Emperor Augustus Caesar. For centuries Caesarea prospered as a vital nexus in the lucrative spice trade between Europe and the Far East. It was a thriving metropolis whose population, according to some historians, was between 50,000 and 60,000; others put the figure as high as 100,000.

Local Roman remains also include a spectacular theatre that has been renovated and holds thousands for concerts and operas each summer. Remnants of palaces, markets, wide roads, baths, mosaics, temples and luxurious public buildings have also been unearthed.

The tradition of luxurious living still continues in the area, expressed in many fine modern homes and hotels, and Israel's only 18-hole golf course.

Next, our guide shows us the port area, which has been the focus of intense underwater excavations. Many scholars had doubted the historical accounts of Herod's huge port, which had sunk several metres beneath the waves, until this ancient facility was rediscovered in the 1960s.

Like much in Israel, Caesarea is overlaid by many millennia of history. To the Byzantine Christians it was a centre of learning; its former 30,000-volume library was considered one of the best in the world. In the 12th century, the Crusaders fortified the town with massive walls, portions of which still stand, accompanied by moats, balustrades and towers.

Local Jewish history? Tragically, Caesarea's Jewish minority was butchered in the time of the First Jewish Revolt (66 CE). According to the Roman Jewish historian Josephus: "The people of Caesarea had massacred the Jewish colony, in less than an hour, slaughtering more than 20,000 and emptying Caesarea of the last Jew."

The collapse of Jerusalem in 70 CE was celebrated by special games here, in which some 2,500 Jews were torn apart by wild beasts, Josephus reports.

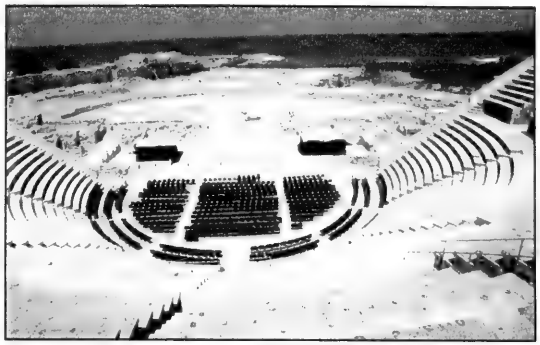
Our guide, usually a walking encyclopedia, only hints at these horrors, and doesn't say a word about Herod's penchant for slaughtering Jewish sages and members of the Sanhedrin.

"The Roman emperor made Herod the king of the Jews, but the Jews hated him," he says. "He may have influenced people, but he certainly didn't win any friends." That's as close as he comes to these dark unmentionables of history.

* * *

We're on the road again, riding along an old highway that takes us through Or Akiva, then Zichron Yaakov, named for the father of the village's patron, Baron Edmund de Rothschild. This is an important wine-growing region. It is also, as Rogoff points out, "the northern limit of the orange groves. You'll still find them for another few miles, and that's it."

Bypassing Haifa, we enter the Jezreel Valley, scene of biblical battles involving Deborah, Gideon, Saul, Ahab and others. We pass over the Kishon, a brook that recent rain has swollen into a river, and we cross the Zebulon Valley. The terrain likewise seems swollen with midrashic tales, haggadic stories, historic legends and modern lore.



Remains in Caesarea include a spectacular theatre. [IGTO photo]

We reach Akko (Acre), the last bastion of the Crusaders in the Holy Land, whose inner city is a spectacular labyrinth of subterranean Crusader remains built by the Templars, Teutonic Knights and Hospitaliers of medieval times.

It's almost too much to believe that all these extraordinary things we're seeing can exist side by side in one land.

We tour the massive Crusader halls and the new visitor centre, then sit down for lunch in a local restaurant. As we order our meal, we're still discussing various aspects of local history, from the Crusades to Napoleon's more recent incursions two centuries ago.

"The perennial problem of the Crusaders was the problem of manpower," Rogoff comments. "They emptied the jails of Europe to go on the Crusades. People's motivation was not always one of high spirituality. Some people were merely trying to get away from bad family situations."

Akko is enormously impressive; so it's not surprising that UNESCO recently designated it as one of 690 "world heritage" sites. Other designated sites include Stonehenge, the Taj Mahal, the Pyramids, the Great Wall of China, and in Israel, Jerusalem and Masada.

Within minutes the waiter brings us an array of delicious Middle Eastern specialties: hummus, tabouli, techinah, falafel balls, finely chopped salad, pita bread and "nana" or fresh mint tea. We dig in heartily. Only in Israel, it seems, can visitors enjoy such an enriching smorgasbord of history, culture and cuisine

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Documentary on survivors of Mengele's experiments

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Josef Mengele, the so-called Angel of Death, performed gruesome medical experiments in Auschwitz in the hallowed name of science.

Virtually all his subjects were Jewish twins.

He regarded these experiments as an unsurpassed opportunity to further his knowledge of eugenics and genetics.

Leo Lowy and his sister, Miriam, were two such twins. From their home in Beregove, Hungary, they were deported to Auschwitz in 1944.

Leo's Journey: The Story of the Mengele Twins is billed as the ordeal of a man who survived the war in spite of Mengele.

In fact, this documentary, which will be broadcast by Vision TV on Wednesday, March 6 at 10 p.m. and again on Tuesday, March 12 at 1 a.m., is the story of several survivors.

Shortly after it starts, Lowy, now a resident of Vancouver, is seen packing his bags. He plans to return to Beregove, whose Jewish population was decimated by the Nazis, and from there to Auschwitz, where he was incarcerated.

He will be accompanied by his two grown sons, Richard and Gary.

Once in Beregove, now part of Ukraine, Lowy visits his childhood home as well as the local synagogue.

Thanks to their presence, a minyan is raised. Only four out of 8,000 Jews went back to the town after the Holocaust.

Strangely enough, Lowy all but avoids the topic at hand – Mengele's experiments. And his sister remains a cipher.

Indeed, we're left to wonder whether he and Miriam were subjected to Mengele's special treatment.

In point of fact, first-hand accounts are provided by Miriam and Yona Laks and Eva and Miriam Moses, twins about whom precious little is revealed.

Leo's Journey, which is narrated by Christopher Plummer, discloses that some 3,000 twins were made available to Mengele, a member of the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin. There were only 250 survivors.

Mengele, we're told, had a proprietary interest in twins. He kept them in segregated barracks and out of harm's way until he was ready to deal with them.

The twins lived in constant fear of being "selected" by Mengele, who left Auschwitz in November 1944 after the last transport pulled into the camp.

Mengele's experiments were utterly demeaning: the twins he examined were mere objects.

"Every part of my body was measured, every movement noted," recalls one of the women whose testimony condemns Mengele as a wanton killer.

Leo's Journey, which is almost one hour in length, is supplemented by erudite comments from, among others, American and German historians Christopher Browning and Benno Muller-Hill.

They impart important background information about the Holocaust and Nazi Germany's euthanasia program, which had its deadly roots in the pseudo science of eugenics.

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Play inspired by Baranovski case

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — *Misha*, a one-act play about the schoolyard murder in Toronto of a young Jew by another young Jew, is part of the Buncha Young Artists Festival at Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace.

Running for approximately 50 minutes, the play will be performed along with *A Martian Summer* from March 6 to 23, as part of the festival of works by young playwrights organized by Theatre Direct Canada.

Although he was "inspired" by the Matti Baranovski murder, "which saddened and depressed me," playwright Adam Pettle said *Misha* is not about that case.

But there are parallels between the two stories. Baranovski, who was 15 years old, was kicked to death in G. Ross Lord Park by three young men in December 1999. Misha, 16, a Canadian immigrant from Israel (played by Daniel Stemer), is murdered by Aaron (Jacob Barker), a 19-year-old former Israeli soldier, over a pack of cigarettes, as was the case with Baranovski.

In the play, Max, 16, (Miklos Perlus), a Canadian and Misha's close friend, runs away from the scene and is plagued by guilt. He thinks about suicide, but ultimately puts that thought aside and survives.

"A central concept of Judaism is that we care about one another, and that explains Max's great grief," said Perlus, 24, who plays Max, adding that he thinks the play will have a real message for young people about the futility of violence.

A former student at Leo Baeck day school and York Mills Collegiate, Perlus is a graduate of McGill University, and has been acting since he was 10.

Director Richard Greenblatt said *Misha* delivers an important lesson for the whole community, showing how arguments over small things can escalate into tragic events.

Adam Pettle

"It could happen just as easily to non-Jews," he said. "There is nothing that makes it a Jewish event."

An experienced actor, Greenblatt is playing producer Sam Goldwyn in *Adam Baum, the Jew Movie*, at Canadian Stage, beginning March 11.

"Lately, about half the work I do has a Jewish theme," Greenblatt said. That includes *Sibs* and the Passover-based *Theory of Relatives*, in both of which he had leading parts.

Two other festival productions, *Roundabout* and *The Phoenix Rides a Skateboard*, run in repertory with *Misha* and *A Martian Summer* during the same period.

For tickets, call the Theatre Passe Muraille box office at 416 504-7529. Theatre Direct Canada offers Monday to Friday matinees and provides students with a post-show meeting with the actors.

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

TRANSLATION WITH A TWIST: BOOK STARTS IN ENGLISH AND TURNS TO YIDDISH

Martin Green has just published a new translation of *On Foreign Soil*, a Yiddish novel by **Falik Zolf**, with a twist – this version starts in English and gradually turns to Yiddish while you read. He reads from his innovative translation this weekend in Toronto.

Originally published in 1945, Zolf's novel is a Yiddish classic, Green says. He describes it as "a heart-warming coming-of-age story set in Imperial Russia." The story begins at the outbreak of World War I, when the protagonist, a 16-year-old yeshiva bocher (rabbinical student) is thrust into the bubbling cauldron of 20th-century politics: war, revolution, nationalism, Zionism and the rise of modern anti-Semitism.

Green's two-volume translation begins by introducing isolated words in Yiddish, then eventually offers phrases and whole sentences. By the end of the first volume, the book is half Yiddish. The second volume starts in English again, but progresses rapidly into thicker Yiddish. The last chapter is entirely in Yiddish.

The publication provides copious footnotes on vocabulary, grammatical and cultural issues, and detailed summaries of each chapter in English. The translator insists it is fully accessible to readers with no previous knowledge of Yiddish. For the faint of heart, an all-English "cheaters' edition" is available at the Web site, www.onforeignsoil.com.

"If you had to choose just one book that best deals with the Jewish experience in the 20th century, then you should probably read *Exodus* by **Leon Uris**," Green comments. "But my book would definitely be a close second."

He reads at Israel's Judaica Centre, 897 Eglinton Ave. W., Sunday, March 3, 7:30 p.m. Admission free; refreshments provided. The evening begins with a musical reception.

* * *

Miller's Vichy Drama: Stage Centre Productions presents *Incident At Vichy*, the **Arthur Miller** play that illustrates the anti-Semitic ideas that fed the Holocaust. Set in Vichy France in 1942, the action focuses on a group of detainees waiting to be interrogated by the Nazis, who are searching for Jews to deport to the death camps.

Fairview Library Theatre, 35 Fairview Mall Dr.,(behind Fairview Mall). Adults $20. March 7 to 23. 416-299-5557, www.stagecentreproductions.com.

* * *

A Prizewinner's New Play: From director **Daniel Brooks** comes *The Good Life*, a provocative new play that explores the essence of love. This is Brooks's first solo effort as a playwright; he previously co-authored *Insomnia*, *The Noam Chomsky Lectures* and *The Theory of Relatives*. Last October, he was awarded the first Siminovitch prize in Theatre, and a press release describes him as "one of Canada's boldest and most influential directors."

Tarragon Theatre, 30 Bridgman Ave. $15-$30. Previews begin Feb. 26, play runs March 5 to April 7. 416-531-1827.

Arthur Miller

* * *

Arts Briefs

• The Toronto Reference Library hosts Freedom of Expression – Post 9/11, a panel discussion as part of Freedom to Read Week. 789 Yonge St. Feb. 27, 6:30 p.m.

• The Winchevsky Centre presents a Fairytale Puppet Production of The Story of Purim, featuring carnival games, purim songs, costume contest and hamantaschen. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Admission $8, members $6, Winchevsky students free. Sunday, March 3, 10:30 a.m.

• Mamm-O-Rama, a benefit night for breast cancer, features host **Mag Ruffman** and entertainers **Elizabeth Baird**, **B-Girlz**, **Daughter of the Rock**, **Marcia Johnson** and more. Theatre Passe Muraille's Mainspace, 16 Ryerson Ave. $12 in advance, $15 at the door. Monday, March 4, 8 p.m. (doors open 7:30). 416-504-7529.

• Theatre Columbus artistic directors **Leah Cherniak** and **Martha Ross** present *Gynty*, a reinvention of Ibsen's *Peer Gynt*. Factory Studio Theatre, 125 Bathurst St. $18-$25. Previews from March 9; play runs March 13 to 31. 416-504-9971.

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Diabetes needs life-long commitment to management

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Once contracting diabetes, patients must undergo a life-long battle of management, says Dr. Nina Wine, a local endocrinologist and diabetes consultant.

"Patients need to become masters of their own health and become involved in their disease," she said at the recent Toronto Hadassah-WIZO Women for Women Breakfast.

The breakfast is part of the organization's Women for Women campaign to raise money for services that improve the lives of women and children in Israel and Toronto. Projects in Israel include youth villages and schools, legal advice bureaus, shelters for battered women and a rape crisis centre.

In Toronto, Women for Women helps support ASTEH-Alternative Short Term Emergency Housing; the North York Women's Shelter; Yellow Brick House, which provides transitional housing, legal support and referral services; and Microskills, an organization that helps clients achieve economic self-sufficiency.

The good news about diabetes, Wine said, is that we know more about it today than ever before. "When treated properly, we can help prevent the complications that are inevitable if the disease goes untreated. We also know a lot about prevention. Lifestyle change, diet and exercise are the cornerstones in preventing the illness before it manifests into a disease."

On the down side, however, Wine said that although statistics cite that one in 20 Canadians are diabetic, those figures are likely underestimated. "For each person diagnosed, there might be someone who is undiagnosed. Mortality rates from the disease are still rising."

Of the three types of diabetes – type one, type two and gestational diabetes – 90 per cent of patients have type two, said Wine.

In type one diabetes , the pancreas does not produce the insulin necessary to ensure body energy, and unused sugar remains in the blood or is passed through the urine.

In type two, the body does not produce enough insulin or does not effectively use the insulin it produces.

"This type typically occurs in adults, but with the current epidemic of obesity, we are seeing more and more type two diabetes in adolescents."

Gestational diabetes occurs in about two to four per cent of pregnant women, she said. Of those women, about 40 per cent will develop the disease within five to 10 years, she said.

Those at greatest risk for developing diabetes, she said, are adults over age 45 who are obese as measured by a body mass index. Certain ethnic groups and those who have a family history of the disease are also at risk, said Wine.

Symptoms of the disease include excessive urination, unexpected weight loss, blurred vision, recurrent infection or numbness in the feet or lower extremities.

"There is no such thing as having a little sugar problem. Either you have diabetes or you don't," said Wine.

Before people develop type two diabetes, she said, there tends to be a period when the level of insulin in the body rises because the pancreas is starting to become overworked. "After some years of this, the production of insulin falls and the sugar level rises.

"Associated with this state are such conditions as high blood pressure and a predisposition to stroke and heart disease.

"Diabetes is leading cause in North America of blindness, kidney failure and below-the- knee amputation," she said.

Treatment for diabetes is by a step by step approach, said Wine. "Always start with diet and exercise. Thirty minutes of exercise, four times a week, helps lower blood sugar.

"There are five classes of medication, and as one fails another type can be used, but these medications are always reinforced by diet and exercise."

Patients must become educated about their disease, she said. "They must learn about it and they must learn to live with it. It is not going away."

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Survey finds U.S. Jews identifying themselves by culture

By PABLO FUCHS
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Jews are increasingly identifying themselves with their culture instead of their religion, a survey has found.

The results of the American Jewish Identity Survey 2001 revealed that the number of American Jews identifying themselves as Jewish by religion has gone down, while those identifying themselves as Jewish but not religious, has dramatically increased.

Presented recently by Secular Humanistic Jewish spiritual leader Eva Goldfinger, the findings are based on questions analyzing Jews' connections to their religion, people, institutions, values, and culture.

Although the survey has helped to show how Jews feel about their religion, it still has a lot of faults, Goldfinger said.

"The weakness of this study is that we really don't know how the people identify themselves," she explained.

"Plus, Jews can be so different, that when measuring something like Jewishness, we're measuring our own idiosyncrasies."

But at the same time, the survey does serve an important purpose: it helps figure out how American Jews are living and where the Jewish people in the United States are heading.

According to the survey, the rate of intermarriage is at 52 per cent. Of those people, only one-third are raising their children Jewish. The result is that the number of households that identify themselves as Jewish by religion has decreased dramatically while the number of households where there is at least one Jew has increased.

Intermarriage is a big issue in North America, and it should be because "on one side, people teach liberalism and respect and love for others while on the other hand, they're saying don't intermarry," she said.

"In the end, people are forced to choose between one set of values and another that's totally different."

However, people shouldn't become too hung up on intermarriage because the more pressing issue is that of Jews who no longer attend synagogue because it doesn't meet their needs, and in the process lose part of their culture, Goldfinger said.

"So much focus has been placed on intermarriage that secularization is being ignored," she noted. "So much money has been put into intermarriage outreach programs that secular Jews are being left with no voice."

So what exactly should be done? "Jews are saying they don't want to become more religious," she said. "And we have to listen."

The first thing that has to be done, according to Goldfinger, is to educate adults about Jewish culture, which she says, can be "fascinating" if one learns the right things.

In five years time, Goldfinger plans to do this on a more consistent basis with opening a centre for Humanistic Judaism in Toronto where Jews can go and learn at an intellectual level all aspects of Jewish life.

But that's not all, she said. Jews have to become more open minded and accept their differences. Since society is fluid, Judaism, too, must become more fluid and accepting of more than one way to live a Jewish life, or Jewish continuance will suffer a diminishing blow, Goldfinger explained.

"When we ask ourselves, 'Will there be Jews in the year 2100?' I must say that there will definitely be Jewish people, but it all depends on how you define Jewish."

Haggadot available for the blind

For over 70 years, the Jewish Braille Institute Library in New York City has enabled visually impaired and blind people all over the world to participate in the most treasured of Jewish rituals, the Passover seder, by providing large print or Braille Haggadot free of charge.

Free Haggadot are available in either the traditional version, used by most Orthodox and Conservative Jewish households, or in the New Union version, used by the Reform movement. The Haggadot are available on audio cassette as well.

JBI, an affiliated library of the Library of Congress, has the largest library of Jewish interest for the visually impaired in the world with over 8,000 audio titles.

Today, there are more than 250,000 visually impaired Jews in the United States alone, many of whom are unable to read standard print because of macular degeneration, glaucoma, cataracts, diabetes or physical impairments caused by Parkinson's and stroke.

JBI Books on tape available free of charge, are a valuable resource to them.

To obtain Passover materials or to learn more about he JBI Library, call 1-800-433-1531 or visit the Web site at www.jbilibrary.org.

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women seeking men

VEGAS MOMMA
Las Vegas momma, roll the dice and give my mom a call! A kind, caring, compassionate and vivacious woman widow. Early 60's, looks 50's. Enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining, Caesar's Palace. Who knows, you may have dealt a royal flush. Seeking a non smoking male, similar qualities and interests **AD#1259**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun. Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature **AD#1285**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher. Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest. Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

INTELLIGENT FEMALE
Attractive Jewish female, intelligent, kind easy going, enjoys outdoors, seeks honest man, non smoker, secure for possible long term relationship **AD#1145**

DANCING, DINING
65 yrs old, divorced female, enjoys dancing, dining, plays, seeks male with similar interests **AD#1078**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining **AD#1590**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining **AD#1590**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher. Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest. Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

DINING ART
Young female, pretty, Jewish, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys dining, art, solid outings. Desires man, 43-53 yrs, professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker, for mature relationship **AD#1301**

MONTREAL LOVIN'
Single female, 58 yrs, in Montreal, slim, fun loving, classy, enjoys aerobics, travel, art, music, dancing. Seeks male, sincere, stable, traditional kind and affectionate. Let's share travel between Toronto & Montreal **AD#1338**

FULLY LOADED
Blonde bombshell with brains. No surprises, seeks same type of guy who is secure. Submit photo. Must be a professional. Time is limited, so hurry! **AD#1025**

SEEKS YOUNG AT HEART
Sexy, classy, attractive, slim, talented, intelligent, secular, non-smoking, multi-faceted lady who is fun, easy to be with and highly evolved seeks a man between 51-60 yrs who is young at heart and loves life. She likes the arts and working out **AD#1408**

HONEST PROFESSIONAL
Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, honest, professional, easy going, down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, travelling. Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship **AD#1112**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Friendly, down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady, seeks a sincere, attractive, hard working man for a committed future. She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant. Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

SEXY SIREN
Sexy siren (LOL) Busy single mom, looking for a man, for fun times she is free to share some time together. Dancing, dining, etc **AD#1355**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-76 yrs old **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
"The key is compatibility." Looking for someone who mutually clicks. Our personalities have to mesh. Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs. See if our voiced blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo. She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

L'CHAIM
Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female,36 yrs old, 5'2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music. Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, ambitious, but likes to have fun, also She is looking for an honest relationship **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions. Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker for social outings, friendship **AD#1026**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me. I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids. I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired. I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1136**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature. She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family. Please reply **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed. If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1106**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life **AD#1041**

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile. Together we will make for an award winning performance **AD#1446**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family **AD#1067**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs Please call, will meet for coffee **AD#1433**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5' 3", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun, kids with, trustworthy, considerate, passionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities. Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games. **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated, has been told love finds the wrong places. Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years Would like a photo **AD#1577**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes. Loves music, dancing, movies. Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1514**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is petite, slim, classy, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5'10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors. A traditional male, works a a financial consultant. Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1373**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 36 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention **AD#1427**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc ; seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1329**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday. **AD#1399**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5'6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me. **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking. **AD#1267**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 58 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1206**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim, blonde, blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive and emotionally available, seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times. She likes quiet times, playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories **AD#1045**

REACH FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big" Single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important. Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, caring and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoys walks, travel, dancing, dining, conversation Seeks male, 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship **AD#1432**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 40 yrs, enjoys a glass of wine, dinner, movies, travel, theatre, and skiing, seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring. Share laughter, fun and friendship **AD#1021**

DINING AND SPORTS
Attractive, professional Jewish female, enjoys sports, dining and movies, seeks a cute man, who is handsome, honest and trustworthy **AD#1353**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive female, seeks friendship first with a wonderful man, preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and secure. If you are tall and dark it's a bonus, you'll be happy you made the connection **AD#1073**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis, skiing, movies, restaurants, going for walks. Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere **AD#1134**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks a attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5'9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer, things in life, emotionally and financially stable, seeks female, with similar qualities **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children **AD#1502**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1342**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs, 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see **AD#1546**

CALL ME
Male, 48 yrs, humourous, good natured, friendly, enjoys stock markets, dancing, many other things, if interested, please leave me a message. **AD#1004**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Attractive, professional female, sexy with class, enjoys hiking, biking, tennis, water skiing, long walks, with dog, seeks male, with similar interests **AD#1425**

SINGLE FEMALE
43 yrs, 5' 9", brown eyes, attractive, honest, sincere, likes sports, dancing, dining, movies, seeks active, romantic, honest, established male, 40-50 yrs of age **AD#1062**

LOOKING LONG TERM
Single, 47 yr old female, who positive, giving, outgoing, very attractive, and has a good sense of humour, seeks life partner for long term relationship. She likes music, dining and dancing **AD#1229**

55, DIVORCED
Many interests, dining, sports, dancing, 5' 1", easy to be with seeks interesting male, to celebrate, birthday in December **AD#1430**

DANCE WITH ME
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 4", a non smoker, thoughtful, caring, enjoys theatre, walks, dancing, seeks male, 48-63 yrs, who enjoys life to the fullest, and is financially stable for a long term relationship Must be loving, a kind hearted, warm and honest **AD#1015**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Very attractive, intelligent, 51 year old modern orthodox lady, who likes cooking, nature, travel, and the theatre, seeks possible long term relationship with a warm caring, healthy, sincere, 60 plus man **AD#1040**

ART LOVER
Attractive female, single, early 60's, enjoys sports, arts, good music, travel, and dining. Seeks independent, caring, and affectionate male, who is single **AD#1120**

NICE TO SEE YOU DO
Very attractive, Jewish female, 5' 7", almond hair, blue-green eyes, medium build seeks a Jewish male, above average looks, tall or over, a full head of dark hair, a good personality, upbeat and fun to be with. Someone who can make me laugh and be a mensch overall if this sounds like you, and you wish to meet me, call. We can do a wide variety of things. **AD#1148**

PRICELESS
"Attention bargain shoppers!" Male, reduced for quick sale. Makes an extraordinary gift item - half off for 44 yrs. Contents include: Kindness, passion, sincerity, romance, adventure, sense of humour, communication. Product use. Weekend getaways, dancing cheek to cheek, long walks, dinner and movies. Any buyers? **AD#1083**

SHY ONE
Shy male, 6' 3", 220 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeks 30-40 yrs, who enjoys dancing, playing sports, surfing, the internet, and spending, time with family if this interest you, get back to me **AD#1108**

DOWN TO EARTH
Single male, 53 yrs, enjoys sports, dining and dancing, long walks, flea markets, antique shows, rides in the country, loves animals, seeks female, 43-45 yrs, weight not important, must enjoy the same interests. **AD#1421**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Grouchy male, 75 yrs, enjoys Florida sunsets, movies, fine food, classical music, social activities, seeks female, attractive, loves to hold hands for companionship **AD#1359**

EASY TO LOOK AT
31 yrs, 5' 5", associate producer, lives in central Toronto, brown hair and eyes, down to earth, affectionate, handsome, enjoys dining, movies, outdoors, long drives in the country, flying, gliders, seeks female, 25-33 yrs, down to earth, affectionate, not too hard to look at **AD#1012**

QUALITY TIME
Single white male, 59 yrs, romantic, warm,caring, self employed, enjoys movies, music, travel, romantic, evenings, seeks female, easy to talk to, good sense of humour, with similar interests **AD#1354**

CHARMING AND FUN
Single Jewish male, 36 yrs, 5' 11", gray green eyes, brownish hair, enjoys travel, music, movies, coffee houses, sports, seeks female, 25-40 yrs, warm compassionate, caring, good sense of humour, non materialistic **AD#1245**

men seeking women

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale. Attention car buffs '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique, interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty. interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance. Let's have a wonderful life together **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female **AD#1651**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and safety, seeks, caring, sharing, single. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969 Waiting for you call **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to breath my pure delight She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue" **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto Must not possess and baggage, and emotional kids Casual to long lasting relationship **AD#1286**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile **AD#1195**

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WEINSTEIN, Allen – on Feb. 3, 2002, late of 23 Observatory Lane.
PILC, Mayer – on Feb. 4, 2002, late of 1101 Steeles Ave. W.
WEST, David Solomon – on Feb. 5, 2002.
WEISZ, Isaac – on Feb. 5, 2002.
STARR, Gussie – on Feb. 5, 2002.
KRAWCEWITZ, Moniek – on Feb. 6, 2002.
RAPOPORT, Sally – on Feb. 6, 2002, late of 71 Collinson Blvd.
WESOLY, Yehuda – on Feb. 8, 2002, late of 2900 Bathurst St.
SHINER, Jack – on Feb. 8, 2002, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
HAGIN, Mina Faigamina – on Feb. 9, 2002, late of 12 Rockford Rd.
SAMSON, Elizabeth – on Feb. 9, 2002.
NAFTOLIN, Morris Melech – on Feb. 9, 2002, late of 1325 Finch Ave. W.
—BERGSTEIN, Saul – on Feb. 10, 2002, late of 6200 Bathurst St.
IGRA, Pnina – on Feb. 10, 2002, late of 115 Antibes Dr.
POBEREZHSKY, Sofya – on Feb. 11, 2002.
KRYSTAL, Pauline – on Feb. 12, 2002, late of 12 Sandale Gardens.
LEIZERONOK, Sofia – on Feb. 12, 2002.
WENNER, Saul Soloman – on Feb. 12, 2002, late of 7 Townsgate Dr.
LAMASZ, Abraham – on Feb. 13, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
GLASSMAN, Marianna – on Feb. 12, 2002, late of 18 Cedarcroft Blvd.
TENNEN, Esther – on Feb. 14, 2002, late of 34 Carscadden Dr.
TAYLOR, Julia – on Feb. 15, 2002, late of 33 Wilmington Ave.
HALPERIN, Betty – on Feb. 16, 2002, late of 57 Gloucester Grove.
BRESLOW, Miriam – on Feb. 16, 2002, late of 216 Castlerock Dr.

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SILVER, Harvey – on Jan. 31, 2002, late of 36 Lower Village Gate.
ROSA, Kathalin – on Feb. 1, 2002, late of 261 Hidden Trail.
ZELLER, Sandy – on Feb. 2, 2002, late of 75 Eunice Rd.
LEBI, Christine – on Feb. 2, 2002, late of 30 Wellington St. E., #1406.
SYLVER, Rose – on Feb. 1, 2002, late of 2 Berryton Ave.
SMOLARS, Sol – on Feb. 2, 2002, late of 7 Sunnycrest Ave.
ROSE, Carol – on Feb. 2, 2002, late of 38 Avenue Rd., #2100.
PALMER, Sharon – on Jan. 30, 2002, late of 221 Cherryhill Rd.
ELLIS, Mac – on Feb. 2, 2002, late of 21 Mayfair Ave., #507.
GOTKIND, Sylvia – on Feb. 2, 2002, late of 23 Markdale Ave.
SPITZEN, Chaim – on Feb. 4, 2002, late of 37 Alexis Blvd.
DORFMAN, Steven – on Jan. 31, 2002, late of 1250 Comox St., #303.
BLUM, Hans – on Feb. 5, 2002, late of 8909 Bathurst St., #10.
WHITE, Shirley – on Feb. 6, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
KORMAN, Bernice – on Feb. 6, 2002, late of 100 Canyon Rd., #1001.
GRAD, Bertha – on Feb. 7, 2002, late of 10 Flaming Roseway.
MARK, Rachel – on Feb. 7, 2002, late of 55 Ameer, #413.
RISEN, Eve – on Feb. 8, 2002, late of 37 Rockford Rd.
FRIEDMAN, Susanne – on Feb. 7, 2002, late of 850 Steeles Ave. W., PH #3.
COLLIS, Saul – on Feb. 8, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave., #610.
SATOK, Rose – on Feb. 9, 2002, late of 100 Canyon Ave., #406.
CLAIRMAN, Aaron – on Feb. 10, 2002, late of 4266 Bathurst St., #917.
ALLISON, Roslyn – on Feb. 11, 2002, late of 365 Lonsdale Rd.
COHEN, Mike – on Feb. 12, 2002, late of 1 Northwestern Ave.
SEGAL, Anna – on Feb. 9, 2002, late of 33 Wilmington Ave.

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PAJAK, Asia – on Feb. 12, 2002, late of 1441 Walkers Line, #302.
DAVIS, Helen – on Feb. 13, 2002, late of 1555 Finch Ave. E., #2107.
CASH, Ray – on Feb. 13, 2002, late of 416 Glengrove Ave. W.
KNECHT, Morton – on Feb. 13, 2002, late of 125 Banbury Rd.
ROTHSCHILD, Herbert – on Feb. 13, 2002, late of 17 Farmstead, #405.
MILLER, Goldie – on Feb. 13, 2002, late of 31 Yates Rd.
SAND, Shirley – on Feb. 14, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SANDLER, Sara – on Feb. 14, 2002, late of 282 St. Clair Ave. W.

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BUTLER, John – on Feb. 10, 2002, late of 9 Woburn Way.

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Panel ponders pleasure in Jewish thought

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Can one conscientiously follow the Torah and still enjoy a soccer game, an exquisite piece of pottery or a Shakespeare play?

This conundrum was the basis of a recent Saturday evening panel discussion sponsored by Nishma, an organization that promotes Jewish adult education. It was part of a program series on the theme Religiously Incorrect.

Moderator Rabbi Benjamin Hecht, Nishma executive director, explained that, theoretically, the Torah ideal is to either study or make money so that others can study.

Nothing is said about someone with artistic aspirations, such as a painter, Rabbi Hecht said.

A further question is: if one does "follow the muse, is the only valuable expression religious art, music or writing?" he asked. "Is there any value in culture or in gaining secular knowledge?"

Artist Chashi Skobac suggested that since God created the world, "everything in it is a manifestation of His work."

For instance, she said, sports are "an expression of the beauty of life," and one should appreciate the "teamwork, beauty and aesthetics involved, which reflects a higher beauty even if no one is aware of it."

Paul Appleby, a graphic artist and photographer, said the purpose of the mitzvot is "to civilize us, not to stifle us." Noting that even "great scholars go to the beach, and Rabbi Akiva [a major scholar of the first century CE] went to the steam bath," he said the Torah does not condemn the notion of pleasure.

However, he said, pleasure must be controlled and the issue is whether pleasure enhances one's life or degrades it.

Rabbi Hecht noted the Torah does not denigrate secular experience. "There are blessings for both the religious and the secular scholar."

Dvorah Hoffman, a potter as well as a teacher of children with learning disabilities, told the story of a yeshiva student who hid under the bed when his rosh yeshiva was having sex with his wife. When caught by the indignant rabbi, the student said that just as he learned other aspects of Torah from him, so too he wanted to learn about sex.

The point of the story, Hoffman said, is that while there is holiness in everything, including arts, sports and sex, one must be conscious of not bringing the Torah into disrepute, as did the student, while engaging in secular pursuits.

Gittel Rosensweig-Weinberger, formerly a rebbitzen in Kitchener, said that she considers enjoying sports "part of my love of Yiddishkeit."

God made all the wonderful things in the world for non-Jews and Jews alike, she said, and loving sports such as swimming, mountain climbing and snorkeling, all of which she takes part in, is a way to appreciate His goodness.

It is all a question of balancing religious obligations with an enjoyment of the secular world, Rabbi Hecht said.

Audience members distinguished between pleasures of the body, such as eating or having a massage, and pleasures of the soul, such as music – or even acid rock as opposed to Vivaldi – as well as between pleasures in which one is a participant or a spectator.

Rabbi Hecht said the question of the place of the secular world in Jewish thought does not have an absolute answer, but is a matter for ongoing questioning and debate.

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Adventure travelers visit exotic locations

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There is a time in one's life, before the kids arrive or a career grabs all your attention, when a person can be footloose and free to travel the world.

Exotic destinations beckon, and instead of a week on a beach, each location can be given as much time as is needed to really get to know the place.

Brian Levy, 33, knows all about spending lots of time savouring the mysteries of distant lands. Several years ago, he put a law practice on the shelf, hoisted his rucksack on his back, and headed to Japan, where he spent three years living and working.

"It was different. It was interesting, being both special and nice to experience a different culture and not take anything for granted," he said.

To support himself, Levy taught English and some business courses at Kokusai University. He also did "dub-over work" for Japanese television.

And he didn't let his Far Eastern base go to waste. With the rest of Asia at his doorstep, Levy spent seven or eight months of his three years visiting mainland Asia and venturing as far as Australia.

Levy is back in Toronto now, working as a teacher at Centennial College, lecturing young people in law and business. But, he admits, "I never got the love of travel and adventure out of my system."

He and his wife, Rachel, who shared his Far Eastern experience, believe there are plenty of others who are game to try something different, to take a road less travelled. For the last two years, they have run The Undiscovered World, a mom-and-pop sized company that takes small groups of young adults to Australia for 30 days of unique – and physically demanding – vacationing.

Aimed at 18-25 year-olds, their product is geared for those who are looking for an active, get-out-of-the-bus vacation, and who aren't expecting a Hilton hotel every night.

Jungle treks, kayaking, camping (if you're lucky, kangaroos might visit your campsite), sleeping in hammocks on tropical islands, off-road touring in sport utility vehicles, swimming in waterfall channels – that's what the Undiscovered World has in store for participants, Levy said.

The program also offers a five-day scuba certification course, crocodile "hunting," (with a camera, not a gun), a visit to Uluru (also known as Ayer's Rock, which at two miles wide is the world's largest monolith), and even a visit to Sydney to experience its trendy beach life.

An optional side trip to Japan, is also available at the end of the trip.

Working with contacts in Australia, who book the local events, Levy said they have put together an itinerary that challenges participants and rewards them like no other foreign vacation.

"People see it as a more satisfying way to travel," he said. "At the end of the day, you sit around a fire, cook up a steak and enjoy a beer. You feel you've accomplished something."

Recognizing that 30 days is out of reach for most working people, Levy is considering adding a shortened trip for an older age cohort of 30- to 50-year-olds.

One thing he guarantees, however: Whatever its duration, he will take travellers to undiscovered areas where they will trek that less travelled road.

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Bridge with Gitelman

Early this month a miracle took place. The unheralded Canadian Bridge Team (of which I was a member) shocked the world by winning the Gold Medal at the IOC Grand Prix tournament in Salt Lake City. This event was held just before the Winter Olympic Games and was intended to show the members of the International Olympic Committee that bridge is a sport that is worthy of inclusion in the Olympics. Ten Nations were invited to this event and Canada, to put it charitably, was not exactly one of the betting favorites.

When Canada faced the heavily favoured American team in the first match of the round robin phase of this event, there was electricity in the air. There were plenty of spectators and reporters on hand, confident that the Americans would use this easy first round encounter as a springboard to the gold medal. It was not to be. Early in the match I found myself on play in a vulnerable grand slam that turned out to be the pivotal deal of this match. My partner was Joey Silver from Montreal and my opponents were David Berkowitz and Larry Cohen, one of the most successful partnerships in the world during the last 10 years or so.

Joey	Fred
♠ AQJ	♠ 98
♥ 86	♥ AKQ97
♦ 93	♦ AKQ65
♣ AKJ1042	♣ Q

This is how the bidding went:

Fred	Joey
2♣	3♣
3♥	4♣
4♦	4♠
5♣	5♠
5NT	7NT

Joey and I did not know exactly what we were doing, but we did manage to get to the best correct contract (although 7NT would have been even better if we had been able to make Joey the declarer). The opening lead was a spade. Think about how you would play as declarer before reading on.

My first decision was easy. I won the ♠A, refusing the finesse. I knew I would be able to win all 13 tricks unless suits broke very badly and the spade finesse seemed like a needless risk. My next move was to test the hearts and diamonds. Hearts divided 4-2, but the diamonds were 3-3 so 13 tricks were easy (the ♠A, three heart tricks, five diamond tricks, and four club tricks).

Notice the problem that I would have created for myself if I had played on clubs before the red suits. It turned out that Larry, on my right, had been dealt five clubs headed by the 9 – good enough to stop the suit given the blockage that existed and the lack of an outside dummy entry.

If I had played clubs from the top at trick two I would have had to guess whether to discard from hearts or from diamonds. If I had guessed wrong I would have gone down in my grand slam. It seemed somewhat just that the correct line of playing the red suits before clubs was rewarded on the actual lie of the cards!

When the Americans at the other table held our cards they played in 7♣ instead of 7NT and my hand ended up as declarer (after an strong artificial 2♣ opening bid). Nick Gartaganis, West for Canada, also led a spade. The American declarer correctly chose to win the ♠A and play clubs from the top. He thus failed in his contract when clubs split 5-1. Canada won 20 IMPs (International Match Points) on this deal and went on to easily defeat the powerful American Team.

Perhaps this was a sign of big things to come for Team Canada. I will continue my coverage of Canada's performance of the 2002 IOC Grand Prix next month.

Fred Gitelman is one of Canada's most successful tournament bridge players. His Toronto-based company, Bridge Base Inc, is a world leader in the development of educational software for bridge. You can find out more about Fred and his company through www.bridgebase.com. Fred's columns will appear once a month in The Canadian Jewish News. Questions and comments from readers are welcome, but we cannot guarantee a personal response.

'We are all Jews'

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Ask someone outside of the Jewish pale to define the Toronto Jewish community. Many responses will include the belief that our community is very tight knit and supportive of our own.

But is that correct? Are we indeed a unified community – as together as we appear?

In some ways. One only has to look at the community's response during Operation Exodus. At that time, the majority of Jews, from all denominations, contributed to that UJA campaign to rescue Soviet Jews. Operations Moses, Solomon (rescues of Ethiopian Jews) and the current campaign to help the Jews of Argentina, are other examples of a unified Jewish community working together to rescue our brothers and sisters in need.

Generally, issues dealing with *pidyon shvuyim* (rescuing a prisoner) or security at home and/or in Israel, encourage fraternization between denominations. Threats from without seem to lower the walls of differences which normally keep us apart. This is likely because of the cross-denominational acceptance of the Jewish value that saving a life stands above all else.

Are we tight-knit, however, from within?

Once a colleague told me that she had never actually talked to a haredi Jew. She said, "I see them walking to shul on Shabbat, with an enthusiastic gait, but I couldn't tell you where they're going or what the significance is of their dress."

Through my own experiences as an Orthodox Jew and my years in yeshiva, I would often hear comments about other denominations fraught with misunderstanding, such as the belief that Conservative and Reform Jews have little understanding of Judaism and a marginal commitment to its continuity.

It is likely that the various denominations within Judaism will never rub religious elbows in the forum of Jewish law, as the schism separating them is as wide as the Grand Canyon, particularly in areas such as "Who is a Jew." (It is worth mentioning that the Israeli government is currently struggling to make the process of conversion the responsibility of all denominations).

It is imperative, however, that all Toronto Jews begin to strengthen their ranks from within by breaking down many of the stereotypes and suspicions found on both sides of the divide.

We need to meet. We need to talk. We need to learn Torah together.

If we do this, Orthodox Jews might catch a glimpse of the magnificent deeds – mitzvot – accomplished by a plethora of Conservative, Reform and Reconstructionist Jews, and the vast investment they have made in tikkun olam – repairing our world.

Reform, Conservative and other Jews might uncover the fierce passion for Torah study found in Orthodox shuls, yeshivot and nightly shiurim (classes). They might also unearth the sophisticated network of care and compassion that is revealed through committees, shul groups and social services in places like the Agudah, Bobov, Sha'arei Shomayim and B'nai Torah.

From a pragmatic point of view, greater harmony within our neighbourhood will serve to buttress a stronger defence in times of peril. From a biblical standpoint, it is urgent that such intercourse takes place so that we are in sync with the Jewish imperative to love your neighbour.

At a time when Israel and Jews are taking some unyielding body checks from without, it's crucial that we get to know one another and ultimately toughen ourselves from within. To achieve this, we must first recognize we are all Jews, that we are all here to stay and that a glaring blackout of understanding between our denominations is fodder for our enemies, peculiar to our friends and anathema to our teachings as Jews.

Next time you pass a Jew of another denomination on Shabbat, say Shabbat Shalom. After all, we are all Jews. Our enemies know that. It is time we did as well.

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4-6 garlic cloves, minced
1 tsp. fresh ginger, minced
3/4 cup frozen peas
1 cup snow peas (steamed)
2-3 whole eggs
+ 3-4 egg whites, beaten
1 cup mushrooms, sliced
2-3 tblsp. lite soy sauce
1 tsp. sesame oil (optional)
oil for frying (just a bit)

Heat oil in large pan on med./high heat. Sauté garlic, ginger, onion whites for 1 min. Add mushrooms for 1 min. Add grated cauliflower Stir for 5 mins. Add soy sauce and sesame oil. Stir for another few minutes. Add frozen peas, steamed snow peas, and onion greens. Mix everything together. Push entire mixture to one side of pan. In empty side add beaten eggs and scramble until eggs are just set. Mix eggs into the "rice". Remove from heat. Add already cooked chicken breast, beef strips or vegetables to make a whole meal.

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About Life

Dear Ella,

I've heard of this happening to other mothers, but now it's happened to me.

When I was cleaning out my 13-year-old daughter's room, I came across her diary. It is not locked and I was dying to read it. I didn't. I put it right back where I found it and can't get it out of my mind.

She has changed dramatically the last year. She has been getting phone calls from boys, she wears some make-up, her grades have slipped slightly and we fight all the time over curfews and friends.

I'd love to know what's going on in her head right now, but she won't share any information that gives me the answers I am looking for.

Do you think I should sneak a peak into that book? I know it holds all the answers.

Sneak a Peak

Dear Sneak a Peak

Good for you. I'm proud of you for putting that diary back where it was without opening it. I know it must have taken much will power.

You daughter is entitled to her privacy. At 13, her hormones are raging and her life as a child is beginning to evolve into the next stage – a teenager. Buckle up for the ride of your life.

She doesn't sound as if she is doing anything out of the ordinary for a girl her age. Unless her life is in danger, I wouldn't try to find out about her life deceptively.

If you want to know what's going on in her life, talk to her. Maybe not head on at the kitchen table, but sort of casually, like when you are driving her somewhere. Try to stay involved and know what her extra-curricular activities are in school. Make sure she stays busy with healthy things like a sports club or a Jewish organization for teens.

It's a tough time for parents. Teens are pushing their limits to learn how far they can go. You want to trust them and let go a little, but you need to stay involved. Now more than ever.

If you keep the lines of communication open between you, the need to read her diary will not be an issue.

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN *or e-mail at eb@cjnews.com But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

The Canadian Jewish news — Crossword Puzzle

(Answers to the crossword are on page 36.)

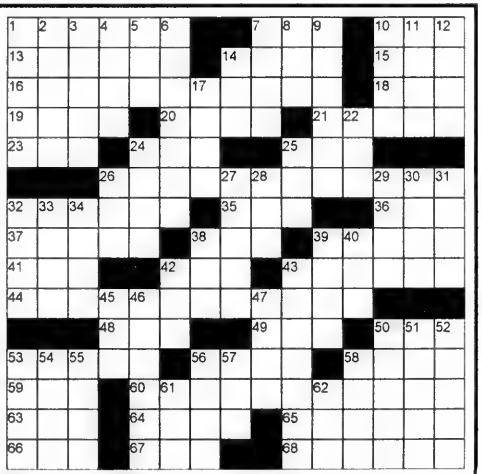
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Passover events
7 Biologist Stephen ___ Gould
10 Steinem cause
13 Jewish Newton-John
14 "Beverly Hills, 90210" name
15 Bagel topper
16 With 26-across, multi-volume literary masterpiece written by a French Jew
18 Samuel's teacher
19 Scott Turow book
20 Colleague of Klein and Karan
21 Shoe accessories
23 Sephardic yeses
24 ___ in "Adam"
25 Asner and Norton
26 See 16-across
32 Woody Allen title role
35 Harass in a wifely way
36 Disappointed reaction from a fan
37 Lend ___ (listen)
38 Pig's place
39 "The ___ Game" (Jonathan Winer's show on MTV)
41 Gasteyer of "Saturday Night Live"
42 "American ___" (1999 comedy)
43 Fodor's offering
44 Author of 16-across
48 Havana gold
49 Pop up to Koufax
50 Stomach muscles
53 Billy Joel's instrument
56 Off the ___
58 Prefix with space
59 Not Pac.
60 Actress who once served in the Israeli army
63 Take advantage of
64 Neither in the red nor the black
65 Participating frequently in, as a temple
66 Laid-back
67 Einstein's the
68 *Couplehood* author

Down

1 Jewish-Hungarian-American zillionaire
2 1985 movie set in Greece
3 They're worth ten cents
4 Stuntman Knievel
5 Hoopster's hoop
6 "___ Prayer" (*Fiddler* song)
7 Stewart and Turteltaub
8 Semicircle
9 Bond outputs
10 Part of GE
11 Part for Hoffman
12 Hitler's side
14 Brandeis figures: abbr.
17 Holiday start
22 Egyptian trouble
24 In the distance
25 Kugel component
26 ___ dare
27 Part of ICBM
28 Vote for Schumer
29 Ending for Islam
30 Not the whole schmear
31 Ten below?
32 Ahad ___
33 Tolstoy heroine
34 In the vicinity
38 Have some wine
39 Involved
40 Used a menorah
42 Peace process org.
43 Coalition-led conflict
45 Bad thing
46 Crumbled, as political support
47 Coming ___ slump (recovering form)
50 Protection
51 Musical note
52 More hurt
53 Singing Simon
54 "___ boy!"
55 Mallory's bro, on "Family Ties"
56 Radio user, for short
57 Coffee holder
58 Prefix with Semite
61 Adam's madam
62 Diamonds, to Siegel



The Canadian Jewish news

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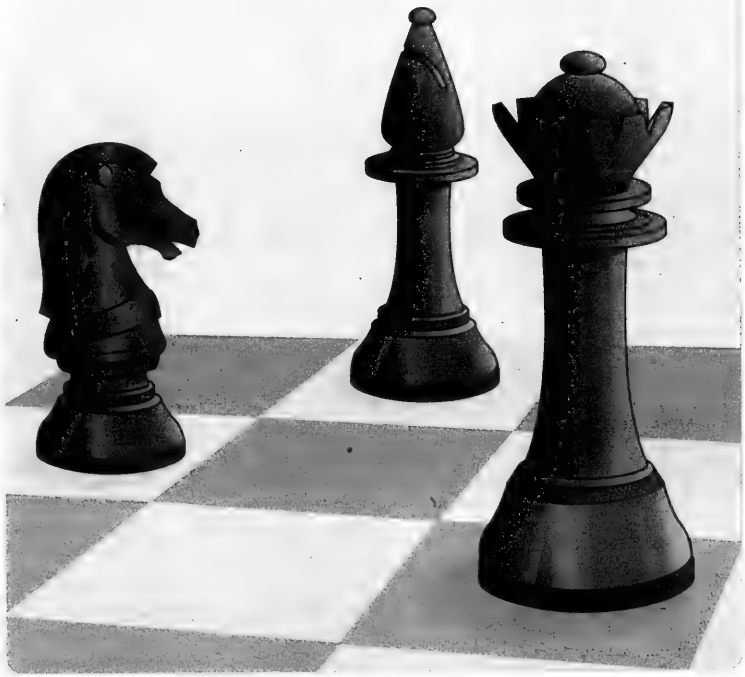

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This Week

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[Israel photos]

SUICIDE BOMBER STRIKES: A mother tries to comfort her children near the entrance of a synagogue in downtown Jerusalem, the scene of a suicide blast Saturday night that killed nine people. Inset, forensic experts search the street for human remains. *Please see related story on page 37.*

Canada abstains

Israel and U.S. vote no

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canada has abstained on an important United Nations vote that begins the implementation of resolutions passed at last September's tumultuous World Conference Against Racism (WCAR) in Durban, South Africa.

The conference was widely denounced by Western nations as an exercise in Israel-bashing, anti-Zionist vitriol and overt anti-Semitism. The United States and Israel left the gathering midway. Despite pressure to boycott or quit the WCAR, Canada stayed until the end and issued a pointed "statement of reservation," saying it wished to disassociate itself from those sections of the final declaration dealing with the Middle East, and adding it was inappropriate of the conference to have focused so much attention on Israel and the Palestinians.

UN anti-racism vote
Please see related articles on pages 4 and 8

Canada also lamented that the conference attempted to delegitimize Israel and "dishonour the history and suffering of the Jewish people."

But last week, the United Nation's General Assembly overwhelmingly passed the resolution, termed a "comprehensive implementation of, and follow-up to, the World Conference Against Racism,

Continued on page 36

Arens skeptical of Saudi plan

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Moshe Arens, Israel's former foreign minister, gave Saudi Arabia's new peace proposal a cool reception last week.

"I don't see much coming out of it, and I can't take it seriously," he said in an interview.

The Saudi plan, yet to be formally presented, broadly calls for an Israeli withdrawal back to its pre-1967 lines in exchange for the recognition of Israel and normalization of relations with the Arab world.

Arens, a Likud member of the Knesset, said he is skeptical about the plan because Saudi Arabia – which he called an "autocratic regime" – did not contact Israel directly to gauge its reaction.

Moshe Arens *[Big Dipper photo]*

"Israel has never been approached," said Arens, who was here under the auspices of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and Israel Now and Forever.

The Saudi plan, in fact, was outlined by Crown Prince Abdullah – the de facto ruler of Saudi Arabia – to *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman several weeks ago.

In any case, Arens said, Israel should not agree to relinquish the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights as a precondition for talks and normalized relations with the Arabs. And he had another qualm. "Who Saudi Arabia is representing is hard to say. Iraq? Syria?"

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Israel will continue military pressure on PA — please see page 37

The News in Brief

CANADA

Letters to Hindus

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish Congress has sent a letter to a Hindu temple that was vandalized last month. Ontario region chair Ed Morgan said CJC was "deeply shocked" to learn of the attack on the Gayatri Mandir, in which six Hindu deities were desecrated. "The desecration of a holy temple is a despicable act of hatred and cowardice. Our thoughts are with you during this difficult hour," stated CJC's letter to the temple's spiritual leader, Pandit Ganesh Persaud. In a statement headed "Jewish Canada Responds," B'nai Brith Canada noted that it also sent a letter to the temple, in which it condemned the attack.

Jail for Vandal

EDMONTON — A local man who firebombed a synagogue was sentenced last week to one year in jail. Yousef Sandouga, 21, pleaded guilty last year to one count of arson for throwing a Molotov cocktail through a window of Beth Shalom Synagogue the night of Oct. 31, 2000. Sandouga severely burned his hands when he tried to light a second fire.

ISRAEL

New Fund

JERUSALEM — The Jewish Agency for Israel has created a fund for victims of terror in Israel, established in partnership with Diaspora communities. The fund will assist Israeli citizens, especially new immigrants, who fall victim to terror. Also last month, the Jewish Agency approved a $140 million (US) budget to help Argentine Jews who immigrate to Israel.

Clinton Blames Arafat

JERUSALEM — U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton, on a solidarity visit to Israel, blamed Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat for failing to stop violence. Speaking in Jerusalem last week, Clinton declared that Arafat "has failed as a leader, and his inability or unwillingness to rein in forces of violence and terrorism demonstrates he is not ready or willing to be a leader."

El Al Head Quits

JERUSALEM — The president of El Al airlines has resigned. After 15 months on the job, David Hermesh quit Feb. 20, citing "substantial professional differences" with the airline's chairman, Michael Levy. Among the points of dispute between the two was a strategy for rehabilitating the airline, which has suffered substantial losses because of sagging tourism in Israel.

WORLD

Victims Memorialized

NEW YORK — A group of Yeshiva University students has launched a project called Kol Haneshama (Every Soul) to memorialize Israeli terror victims. The project will feature a full page of short, personal biographies and photographs of Israeli victims beginning this week in Jewish newspapers across North America. Dozens of newspapers have agreed to allocate a free monthly page to the project. High school students will research and compose the material. For details, call (917) 226-0861 or (646) 734-1144.

Catholics Join Jews

NEW YORK — A U.S. Catholic group has joined a proposed boycott of an upcoming show at New York's Jewish Museum. "Usually, it's Catholics the 'creative types' in the artistic community like to offend. Now it's Jews," William Donohue, president of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights, said. The museum says the exhibit, slated to open March 17, seeks to present Nazi horrors in a "thought-provoking" manner. Critics say the exhibit is offensive to Jews, especially Holocaust survivors.

New Chief Rabbi

ROME — An inauguration ceremony was held here Feb. 24 for Rome's new chief rabbi. Thousands of the city's Jews crowded into Rome's ornate main synagogue for the installation of Dr. Riccardo Di Segni, 52. He replaces Rabbi Elio Toaff, who retired in October after 50 years in the post.

UJA Song Windfall

NEW YORK — The rights to the lyrics of one of America's great songwriters will pass to New York's Jewish federation. As a result of Lorenz Hart's bequest, the UJA-Federation of New York could receive as much as $1 million (US) a year, according to a federation official. Hart, who collaborated with composer Richard Rogers, wrote hundreds of songs, including *My Funny Valentine* and *Lady Is a Tramp*. The money will go to the federation after the death of Hart's sister-in-law. Hart died in 1943.

Some Prize...

BERLIN — A man who wore an Adolf Hitler mask at a carnival in eastern Germany was arrested last month. The man faces charges of violating the nation's laws against glorification of the Nazi era. Before his arrest, he won the carnival's prize for most original costume.

Peres Downplays Fears, Amid Attacks

PARIS — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres has downplayed French Jews' fears that their government is not doing enough to combat anti-Semitism. "I am certain that France is not anti-Semitic, neither historically nor currently," Peres told reporters after a meeting last week with French President Jacques Chirac. "I am convinced the French leadership is staging a serious and determined battle against anti-Semitism in France," Peres said.

Confronted with an epidemic of anti-Jewish attacks, French Jewish groups for months have been calling for a strong response from the government. Observers have pointed out that this is an election year in France, where Muslims outnumber Jews by about 10 to 1.

Just after Peres' visit, vandals painted large yellow Stars of David on the windows of a Jewish-owned toy store and a kosher butcher shop in Paris. It was the third such incident in France in February.

As well, two French extremists were convicted of inciting racial hatred. The Feb. 21 convictions of the men, who are members of the far-right National Front, came for their participation in a neo-Nazi march at which "Death to the Jews" was chanted.

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UJA Campaign 2002 results are 'unprecedented'

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Toronto has "done good," pronounced Michael Bregman at the closing celebration for UJA Federation's Campaign 2002, held last Thursday evening at the Toronto Centre for the Arts.

"Our Toronto community rose to the challenge presented by the crisis in Israel, and as a result a lot of needy people in Israel and here will benefit," Bregman said.

This year's campaign has raised more than $47 million in donations and pledges, and David Koschitzky, Bregman's Campaign 2002 co-chair, said he believed the final total will hit $50 million.

The campaign received more than 23,000 individual donations, and raised $6.5 million more than last year. Over the past five years, the final campaign tally has increased by approximately $15 million.

A "challenge fund" that was created to match individual donation increases reached $4.4 million. It was set up in response to a request by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for Diaspora communities to help reduce the impact of Israel's spending transfers from social services to security.

The Toronto campaign results are unprecedented, said David Feldberg, who co-chaired the closing event with Richard Venn. "Campaign 2002, Israel Now and Forever, was a collective expression of unconditional solidarity with Israel," he said.

Bregman reminded the audience of 700 that the campaign had totally shifted focus just prior to its official launch last August in response to the special request by Sharon.

Among the many thanks to staff and volunteers, Bregman said he was lucky to have been paired with Koschitzky. He noted that each of them came from "different streams of Jewish observance" and expressed his hope that they were "one of so many examples of Jewish unity."

Koschitzky, among others, lauded the Toronto Jewish community for its monthly missions to Israel.

Former Israeli foreign minister Moshe Arens, who was the keynote speaker at UJA Federation's Campaign 2002 closing celebration, is flanked by campaign co-chairs Michael Bregman, left, and David Koschitzky. [Big Dipper Communications photo]

Keynote speaker Moshe Arens – a former Israeli defence minister, foreign minister and Israeli ambassador to the United States who is now a senior adviser to Sharon – also expressed his appreciation to the Jewish community here for its solidarity. Israel is at

Continued on page 20

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'We have no place else to go'

From the editor's desk

He was working in his Jerusalem office Saturday night at around 7 p.m. when the suicide bomber struck, killing nine Israelis and wounding dozens more. He could hear the sirens' wail from his window.

Less than 12 hours later, I met with this senior Israeli foreign ministry official – a veteran of more than 20 years in the service – in a downtown Toronto hotel. Between the time he boarded the plane in Tel Aviv and alighted at Pearson International Airport, 10 more Israelis would be killed by Palestinians.

My mood was as sombre as the bleak, grey Sunday sky. The blustering western winds penetrated my overcoat and sharpened the icy, emotional chill blowing hard from the east.

The ministry official touched down in Toronto on his way to Ottawa where he will be part of the visiting Israeli delegation accompanying Israeli President Moshe Katsav later in the week.

We spoke for almost an hour. The visitor spoke earnestly, emphatically and at length. He never needed prodding to answer; he never backed away from full answers. An Arabist by training, the man sitting across the table from me was an experienced foreign ministry diplomat and counsellor whose duties had taken him to three continents and a number of varied assignments.

What follows are brief excerpts from a conversation that canvassed a wide range of subjects.

* * *

Morale of Israel:

"It's very difficult to speak about the morale of Israel on a day when there will be 20 funerals," the diplomat said. "But let me tell you as one born in Israel to parents one of whom came from the Shoah and the other from the Muslim lands... we simply do not have any alternative. We have no place else to go... In the last 18 months, Israelis have shown how resistant we are to the suffering and the violence... We know we are not living in normal times. We are not blind to the situation around us.

"By and large, the country is doing better than expected under the circumstances even though we have suffered severe security and economic shocks."

Palestinian society:

"Despite all the bloodshed and the atrocities... once there is an agreement that will be acceptable to both peoples and not only to the leadership, it will be a matter of time, a relatively short time, until there will be cooperative and friendly relations with the Israelis. We are doomed to live together."

The diplomat would not elaborate how the sides would get to an agreement except to say that the [George] Tenet and [George] Mitchell [plans] are the "corridors."

Seeing I was somewhat taken aback by his optimism, he added, "The younger generation of Palestinians are not all radical Islamists. Generally speaking we should fear the influence of the current situation more than the influence of Iran or other extremists. Once the situation changes, the influence will change."

The next Palestinian leaders:

"People like Mohammed Dahlan, Jibril Rajoub and Marwan Barghouti stand in a better position to play a central in future Palestinian leadership. They are the local militia leaders. They have the gun and the voice... People like Abu Mazen and Abed Rabbo have no power base at all, no support in the territories.

"But we will deal with whoever is empowered to speak for the Palestinians, even if it is Hamas. Even now, we speak with the local militia leaders on a daily basis. Of course we would prefer to see moderate Palestinian leadership. But it is not for Israel to choose; it is for the Palestinians to do so."

Canada-Israel relations:

"The role that Canada is playing in the multilateral framework on refugees is of historical dimension because of former [Canadian] Foreign Minister [John] Manley's publicly expressed readiness more than a year ago, to accept Palestinian refugees in the context of an Israeli-Palestinian agreement. The fact that the recent so-called Saudi initiative excluded any reference to refugees may be the first positive Arab response to that brave Canadian position... I see that as an indirect Saudi reaction to the Canadian position. Saudi Arabia is practically telling Canada that the right of return is not part of an overall peace settlement. Even two weeks since the initiative became public, they have not added the refugee element.

"The visit to Israel by [Canadian] Prime Minister [Jean] Chrétien in April 2000 was extremely important because it exposed him to Israeli realities... He proved to us during that visit how much he understands the situation in the Middle East... We realize the friendship cannot always be translated into favourable policies; we cannot support every statement or action of the Canadian government. But Israel can trust that we have a friend in Ottawa.

"We test that friendship not only by the way Canada votes in the UN, though we would like to see Canada voting more often against anti-Israel resolutions...

"Prime Minister Chrétien and John Manley exerted very real and essential pressure on [Palestinian Authority Chairman] Yasser Arafat last year to do more to stop terrorism. Ultimately, the pressure was not successful but it was essential because it showed Arafat that he cannot look to Canada to rescue him from Israeli and American pressure. We thanked the prime minister and Mr. Manley for their efforts.

"Canada therefore understands why Israel undertakes its actions against Palestinian terror.

"All in all, Canada is a good friend of Israel... We know that [Israeli Foreign Minister] Mr. [Shimon] Peres can call Prime Minister Chrétien without any notice and put forward a request."

—MBD

SeeJN

THE IDF IN BALATA: **IDF soldiers sweep through the narrow alleyways of the Balata refugee camp last week in search of terrorists and munitions factories. The raid followed the suicide bombing outside an IDF military checkpoint near Modi'in. Two days later, a suicide bomber struck Jerusalem, killing 9 people, and a Palestinian sniper killed 10 Israelis at a checkpoint near Ofra.**

[Israel Sun photo]

Hate crimes soar in 2001, Toronto Police reports

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Hate crimes that targeted Muslims shot up in the aftermath of Sept. 11, but Jews remained the single largest victim group in 2001, according to a report prepared by the hate crimes unit of Toronto Police Service.

The number of incidents in Toronto reported to police rose dramatically in 2001, jumping to a record 338 occurrences compared to 204 the year before.

"The 66 per cent increase in reported hate crimes was largely a result of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attack in the United States," the report states. "Throughout history, crimes of hate have generated imitation, repetition and retaliation... The Toronto Police Service received 121 hate occurrences directly related to the terrorist attacks. This figure represents 90 per cent of the total increase in hate crimes from the year 2000."

Despite the record number of incidents reported to police, only 23 led to criminal charges. Det. James Hogan of the hate crimes unit noted that "the majority of hate occurrences are anonymous offences. They're mischief, spraying paints, anonymous letters, graffiti on buildings. They're cowardly actions... and few brazen events where people stand up and say, 'I'm a racist'."

Breaking down the incidents by victim type, the report says religious groups were the largest population segment targeted in 2001. Jews remained the single largest victim group overall, with 58 incidents reported, while Muslims reported 57 occurrences, up from only one incident the year before.

Det. James Hogan

In a second category described as "multi-bias," (where occurrences involve more than one group), the most frequently affected were Jews, followed by immigrants, visible minorities and the gay community.

In previous years, the black community was the one most targeted, the report stated.

Bernie Farber, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region, suggested that without the jump in incidents in September and October, 2001 would have been a relatively "normal" year with "no appreciable rise" in incidents.

"Sept. 11 brought out from the rocks and cracks those people with ill feeling towards Muslims and Jews."

Farber noted the number of incidents dropped precipitously in mid-October, when perpetrators saw they weren't generating a fearful response from the rest of Canada.

"In fact, they got the opposite response. Canadians were angry that Jews and Muslims were targeted and these people ran for cover," he said.

Hogan said the rise in incidents is likely attributable to events overseas. "We do notice that when there are negative political developments elsewhere in the world, those developments are reflected here."

At the same time bio-terrorists were sending anthrax-laced letters through the mail in the United States, Canadian copycats sent letters containing a non-lethal white powder to at least seven Jewish agencies in Toronto and Montreal. Buildings were evacuated and some people who came in contact with the powder were prescribed antibiotics as a precaution.

"In the weeks that followed Sept. 11, our community was victimized by a series of anthrax hoaxes and threats directed against communal institutions and leadership," said Nanette Rosen, vice-chair of community relations for Congress.

Some of the threatening letters purported to originate with a radical Islamic group.

"The great Jihad is beginning and in its end we will destroy the Jewish satan and all his servants throughout the world," one letter stated.

In a relatively bright note, the hate crimes unit reported that the activities of organized hate groups seemed "relatively limited" in 2001.

"The majority of these groups have gone underground and group meetings are reserved for select, invited individuals," the report states.

The majority of reported hate occurrences took place in apartment buildings, educational facilities and public locations. The report suggests the data probably underestimates the true number of hate incidents, because of "the historical reluctance of some members of the public to report their hate victimization to police."

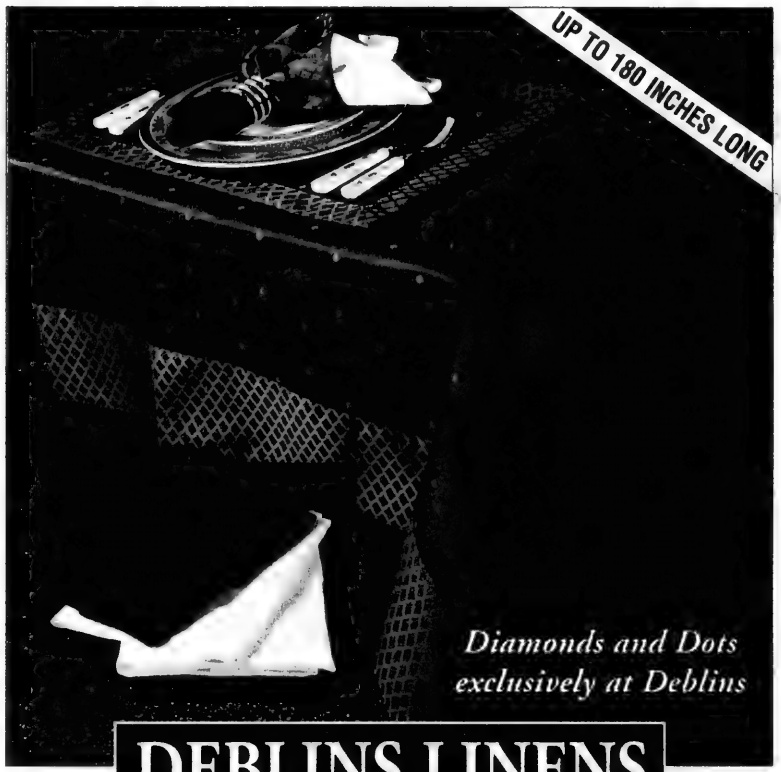
* * *

Meanwhile in Edmonton, 20-year-old Yousef Sandouga was recently sentenced to one year in jail and three years probation in connection with a firebombing attack on a synagogue that caused minor damage. Sandouga was sentenced after co-operating with police and making voluntary restitution of $1,150 for the damage he caused.

The incident occurred in early November 2000, about a month after the Palestinian intifadah erupted.

"We're very pleased [with the sentence]," said Alvin Goldsman, president of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton. "It sends a strong message that crimes of this nature will not be tolerated."

A seder to remember . . .



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Weiz, two others, ordered to stand trial

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An Ontario judge last week ordered Daniel Weiz and two youths to stand trial on charges of second degree murder in connection with the beating death of Toronto teenager Matti Baranovski.

Judge Cathy Mocha ruled the Crown produced sufficient evidence at a preliminary hearing for the three men to be ordered to stand trial.

Lawyers are scheduled to meet later this month to set a start date for the trial. However, counsel representing the two youths are also asking the Ontario Court of Appeal to overturn a lower court decision that transferrred them to adult court. Ralph Steinberg, who along with Steven Fishbayn is representing one of the young people, said the Appeal Court has yet to hear argument on that issue.

Steinberg would not speculate on a time frame for the case.

Marie Henein, who is acting for Weiz, said she is considering appealing the judge's ruling allowing a trial. Weiz has maintained his innocence throughout.

The incident that sparked the case took place on Nov. 14, 1999, in G. Ross Lord Park in North York. Baranovski was beaten to death by a gang of masked youths demanding cigarettes and money.

Weiz, a native of Israel, was living with his father at the time. He returned to Israel a week after Baranovski's death and subsequently fought Canada's extradition request, taking his case to the Israeli Supreme Court. Israel's High Court allowed the extradition and Weiz was brought to Toronto in October 2000. The preliminary inquiry began in July 2001.

Matti Baranovski

Meanwhile, inside the courtroom Olga Baranovski, Matti's mother, wept openly as the decision to try the three men was announced. Later, surrounded by friends, she told *The CJN* that the period since the death of her son has been extremely difficult for her.

Matti was her only child, and since his loss, "I don't have anybody... I was killed too, but my body is still alive."

She copes, she said, "with help from friends, but first, God, my best friend. When I feel I'm falling, I ask the Lord to hold me a little bit, because I'm falling.

"And of course, my friends they always support me."

"We put our lives on hold to support Olga," said Gigi Davidson, one of the friends who accompanied her to court.

Linda Buaron-Dray is another friend helping Baranovski get through trying times. Like Baranovski, she too has suffered the loss of a child. They have been in touch for 11 months, ever since her son, Danny, was killed while serving in an elite Israeli commando unit.

She identifies with Baranovski's loss and shares her pain, she said.

Lozanne Wamback is yet another friend who has drawn close to Baranovski.

"She's [like] my sister," Baranovski said.

Almost three years ago, only a few months before Matti was killed, her son, Jonathan, was beaten by a group of young offenders and severely injured.

Their shared experiences drew them close and now she considers Baranovski "part of the family."

"God sent me perfect people, and I'm so glad," Baranovski said.

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THE JEWISH LINK: Gavin Ebedes, seated at left, and Omer Dagan discuss the Jewish fraternity AEPi with Dori Borshiov at the Jewish Link. About 50 Jewish organizations had tables at the recent event, held at York University. [Frances Kraft photo]

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Arafat's down, but not out: Israeli ambassador

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — It may look like Yasser Arafat is washed up, but he's not finished, warned Haim Divon, Israel's ambassador to Canada.

Speaking at a meeting of the lawyers and accountants division of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, Divon called the Palestinian Authority (PA) chair a very problematic and dangerous opponent. Historically, Arafat has resurrected himself over and over, Divon said.

"He supported the Iraqis during the Gulf War. What could be worse from the point of view of the Western hemisphere? And yet, not only was he resurrected, he's still a hero," Divon told the gathering, held at the home of division co-chair Ariella Rohringer.

Arafat would probably be happy at the prospect of being killed or injured by Israeli bullets, Divon suggested. "He would leave the arena as a martyr."

The PA leader is in a catch-22 situation, the ambassador said. Arafat prefers the clashes of the intifadah and additional misery for his people rather than a return to the negotiating table because he "knows he will have to explain a lot to his people," Divon said.

The most he would get, said Divon, is what was offered before the intifadah at Camp David. Arafat would then have to explain to hundreds of thousands of people who have stayed in refugee camps for decades because of him why most of them would not be returning to their former homes, Divon said.

He said the debate in Israel about the best way to handle the ongoing conflict is "tearing us apart."

Despite the pain, said Divon, "I'm proud that we have this tough debate. It shows we're not afraid to look in the mirror. Every commander knows that he will be accountable for everything he's doing the next morning in the newspaper."

The shooting of eight young soldiers at a roadside checkpoint two weeks ago explains the dilemma well, said Divon. "Now we'll have to be a little tougher, maybe a little more careful. Then of course the international community will criticize us for abusing human rights... The minute [the soldiers] tried to be a little more relaxed... they paid with their lives. So what are we going to do now? These are dilemmas I don't wish on anyone."

Divon said Arafat will not crush the intifadah until he feels international pressure.

In 1981, Israel incurred the wrath of the international community for attacking Iraq's nuclear reactor. "It took less than 10 years for everyone to thank us," said Divon.

The ambassador spoke of a pervasive despair in Israel. "Yes, these are difficult days, but we've had difficult days in the past. We just have to [grit] our teeth and overcome it. For that purpose, we need strong ties between the [Diaspora] Jewish community and Israel." Doing business in Israel or visiting Israel now will bring a sense of fulfillment and achievement unlike any other, he said.

BAR/BAT MITZVAH STUDENTS: Associated Hebrew Schools Grade 7 students recently celebrated their bar and bat mitzvahs at an all-day program where they learned about the importance of community service. Standing (from left) are Ruth Portnoy, middle school vice-principal, Adira Winegust, Rebecca Barmherzig, Michelle Bitran, Ariella Karp, Valentina Rzeznikiewiz, Julia Koschitsky, and Jerry Rosenfield, middle school principal.

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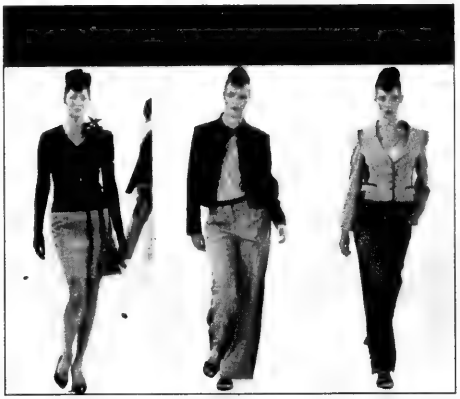

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What we should expect from Canada

The president of the State of Israel will be received this week with flourish, fanfare and full honours by the government of Canada and by his Canadian counterpart, Canada's head of state, the governor general. Tonight, President Moshe Katsav shares the spotlight and the dais with Prime Minister Jean Chretien at the 17th CIC Parliamentary Dinner. Tomorrow, he will be honoured at a state dinner hosted by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson.

There is no doubt, therefore, that bilateral relations between the two countries are strong. Indeed, official Israeli spokesmen in Canada and elsewhere, frequently, publicly laud those relations, singling out for praise the burgeoning free trade, commercial, scientific exchange and other aspects of those bilateral relations.

But the strength of the relationship in bilateral terms serves also to highlight how puzzling, disappointing and infuriating are the multilateral aspects of Canada's foreign policy toward Israel.

Once again, Canada abstained, along with Australia, in a vote of 137 in favour and two opposed – Israel and the United States – on a resolution at the United Nations General Assembly that further entrenches and institutionalizes hostility and hatred toward Israel. Last week in New York, the United Nations began the follow-up process of implementing the documents that arose from the scandalous anti-racism conference in Durban last September. The resolution that passed last week will eventually be incorporated into other anti-Israel resolutions and procedures in a variety of UN forums.

Canada "explained" its vote with a severe condemnation of the Durban fiasco. But that explanation is less than a footnote on the pages of history. History will pay it no deference; it will recall only the abstention. Nor will the peoples and the governments around the world, for whom these votes matter, stop to reflect upon and admire its language.

It is simply shocking – after Durban, after Sept. 11, after the alarming revival in Europe and elsewhere of an ugly anti-Semitism in all its sinister, medieval forms and after the virtual declaration of war against Israel by the Palestinian Authority and its allies – that our government appears to have learned nothing from the ominous events currently swirling around Israel and other democracies like a dark, monstrous storm threatening the horizon.

As Prof. Gil Troy wrote last week in *The CJN*, we must not recoil from speaking "truth to power." The truth about Canada's voting record at the United Nations is that it is unjustifiably, inexcusably, irredeemably shameful. It supports the despots and tyrants of the world against the sole democracy in the Middle East. It supports the blatant, undisguised campaign to dismantle the Jewish State. It also violates fundamental Canadian values. As Canadian citizens, we expect and deserve better from our government.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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No moral equivalence

I've got a question for the "moral equivalency" people: when was the last time Jewish terrorists kidnapped a completely innocent journalist who was Muslim by birth and slit his throat?

Henry Srebrnik
Charlottetown, P.E.I.

* * *

Upset with *CJN* columnists

In the past two issues of *The CJN*, I have found the tone of a number of your columnists to be somewhat arrogant. First, Sheldon Kirshner and his simply dumbfounding suggestion that arch-terrorist Yasser "kill-the-Jews" Arafat is facing his "moment of truth" (for real this time).

Then, with staggering chutzpah, Shira Herzog reveals to readers her own personal "ambivalence" regarding Israeli reservists' refusal to serve in the territories, "ruing the day" that citizens fail to overlook morality and humanity even when there are existential security concerns (!).

Lastly, I believe that Elliot Malamet's column would do best to address practical issues for parents and grandparents and others on how to educate children (and others) Jewishly, with love and wisdom. I'm less interested in quotations from various educational gurus and more interested in what he wants to do to change the state of Jewish education – or who's doing what and making a difference.

I humbly request less pontification on the pages of your fine newspaper.

Laura Rosen
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Good time to visit Israel

We are aware, of course, that Israel has been going through one of the most difficult periods of its history. The violence of the intifadah is designed to be primarily a psychological weapon, to undermine Israel's morale and make the country feel isolated.

In the Diaspora, Jewish people often feel that what they have to offer in the way of support doesn't make any real difference. But there is something we can do that will make every difference: go and visit.

Just by being there, even lying on the beach, we will be doing a world of good. Israeli economists calculate that every holiday-maker saves a job. And there are very powerful, intangible benefits that go beyond this vital economic contribution.

It's the truest expression of solidarity to be alongside Israelis in their hour of need. To Israelis, assailed on all sides, it means a great deal.

Although it is understandable to be hesitant about visiting Israel at the moment, a recent poll of tourists in Israel found that 70 per cent admitted to having had "concerns" before booking their trip. But that same poll found that having had their holiday, an overwhelming 94 per cent planned to encourage friends and family back home to visit Israel now.

From a financial point of view, there's never been a better time to go on holiday to Israel. Contact your travel agent soon for reservations. You will not be sorry. Israel will welcome you.

David Freudmann
Toronto

* * *

Mideast insane asylum

What we now have in the Middle East is an insane asylum. And the lunatics in charge – the Israeli hawks and the Palestinian terrorists – set the agenda and control the flow of events.

There will not be peace until new leadership emerges on both sides. Both Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon must go. Their ideas and strategies are equally bankrupt. Both are men with nightmare visions at a time when inspiration is required.

At least for the time being, this conflict cannot be left exclusively in the hands of the Israelis and Palestinians – whatever may be the implications of interfering in other people's affairs. Surely we have learned since Sept. 11 that conflicts of this kind now affect us all: nations can no longer sequester themselves from the rest of the world. We have become Marshall McLuhan's global village!

What we need is a way for responsible people of goodwill from all sides of the conflict to come together: Israelis, Palestinians, Arabs, Jews, Muslims, Christians, Europeans, Asians, Africans, Americans... to say "enough" and to initiate an honest and meaningful peace dialogue.

Dialogue is what mostly has been missing since the assassination of former Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin: truly, we should now understand the immensity of that calamity. And if the recent Saudi Arabian initiative is a prologue to such dialogue, then let us give it a heartfelt welcome.

Boris G Freesman
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

'Second echelon' Palestinians on the right of return

By LISA ARMONY

Palestinian Authority representative in Jerusalem Sari Nusseibeh is no stranger to controversy on both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian divide. He has been charged several times by Israeli authorities with engaging in subversive activities and even spent time in Israeli jails in the 1980s. He has also been assaulted by fellow Palestinians for expressing moderate views of the conflict. It is not surprising then that he is in the midst of an ideological maelstrom that has drawn the wrath of those who advocate for the so-called Palestinian "right of return."

Over the past few months, Nusseibeh has stated publicly that in the interest of fulfilling their nationalist goals of self-determination and statehood, Palestinians should abandon their insistence on what they claim to be the right of several million refugees and their descendants, displaced in wars imposed on Israel by the Arab states, to return to their homes in pre-1948 Israel. In a September 2001 article published in the Israeli and Palestinian press, Nusseibeh pointed to three fundamental obstacles that have impeded the realization of peace, including the incompatibility of a two-state solution with the Palestinian demand to resettle in Israel. "The Palestinians' insistence that Israel allow these refugees to return to their original homes and lands will...lead to failure," he wrote.

Abu Mazen

Nusseibeh's comments sparked outrage among grassroots "right of return" advocates. Al-Awda, a coalition whose name translates to "the return," launched a campaign calling on Palestinian Authority (PA) President Yasser Arafat to dismiss Nusseibeh from his appointment as political representative in East Jerusalem (to which Arafat has not responded). Some have even suggested that Nusseibeh has betrayed his people by abusing his office and his connection to western media in order to deal a blow to international support for "basic Palestinian rights."

Abed Rabbo

Nusseibeh clarified his position in an open letter to Al-Awda following its appeal to Arafat. The Palestinians could have adopted one of two mutually exclusive strategies to resolve their conflict with Israel, he explained. A strategy based on individual rights could have advocated for Palestinian resettlement and equality in Israel. However, according to Nusseibeh, by accepting the Oslo accords, the Palestinians adopted de facto a collective, national strategy based on the struggle for self-determination and statehood. That strategy necessarily implies Palestinian consent to address the problem of refugee resettlement within the borders of the future Palestinian state. Nusseibeh is saying, in essence, that the Palestinians cannot have it both ways, and as long as they continue to operate under the Oslo framework, their intransigence on refugee resettlement in Israel will be the ultimate deal breaker. Indeed, reports indicate that this issue was one of the main reasons the Camp David talks of July 2000 failed.

For Israel, the influx of large numbers of Palestinians constitutes, according to Oslo architect Yossi Beilin, "the reddest of the red lines." This sentiment is echoed across the political spectrum because a collective Palestinian movement to Israel would alter the country's demographic balance. Some Palestinians have sought to assuage Israel's concern by claiming that most refugees would not settle in Israel because they do not wish to live under Israeli sovereignty, because their property no longer exists, or because they have already resettled elsewhere. They claim that the symbolic "right" is more important than the actual "return," and that an Israeli acknowledgment of its alleged role in creating the refugee problem – which leading historians have found to be without basis – would suffice to heal the deep wound that displacement has left on the Palestinian national psyche. But responses by some refugee advocates to Nusseibeh's proposition indicate that there is nothing at all symbolic in their demand.

Salman Abu-Sitta, who has written extensively on this issue, stated in an open response to Nusseibeh that establishing a Palestinian state "has nothing to do with the exercise of the 'right of return.'" The force behind disingenuous studies on the feasibility of Palestinian resettlement in Israel, Abu Sitta claims that such resettlement would not alter the country's demographic balance since "78 per cent of the country's Jewish population lives on 14 per cent of its territory." Land previously owned by Palestinians, his studies state, is largely empty save for "religious Jews" and "154,000 [sic] kibbutzim and moshavim." One study concludes: "If we return [the Lebanon and Gaza refugees], the Jewish areas will not be affected at all. Theoretically, the Jews will not even feel their presence."

This thinly veiled argument, put forth by the PLO's refugee department, considers Israel's demography in only a narrow sense and applies it to arbitrarily defined "Jewish" and "Palestinian" areas, purposely ignoring the overall effect that a flood of Palestinian refugees would have on Israel's national Jewish character.

Other organizations condemn Nusseibeh for what they call his indifference to Palestinian popular will, and even more troubling, for his acceptance of a two-state solution that would preserve each state's Jewish and Arab characters. Badil, a Bethlehem-based Palestinian refugee advocacy group, responding to Nusseibeh, affirmed its rejection of Israel in its current composition because, the organization claims, a national character defined as Jewish is inherently discriminatory against the state's non-Jewish citizens.

Israel, Badil suggests, should not be accepted by the international community until it casts off its Jewish identity and becomes a state of all its citizens. This would allow for the resettlement of Palestinians in Israel's pre-1948 borders. Badil has even gone so far as to reinterpret the Partition Plan formulated in UN Resolution 181, holding that the United Nations never intended to create two states based on Jewish and Arab ethno-national-religious characters, but rather to establish two states governed by equality and non-discrimination – again suggesting that Israel as a Jewish state is inherently discriminatory and therefore illegitimate.

In seeking to bring about an agreeable settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Nusseibeh has revealed a dangerous element within Palestinian society that confirms Israel's worst fears concerning the alleged "right of return." To those who promote this view, the campaign for return is an effort to undermine Israel's existence as a Jewish homeland and to render it no more than the 23rd Arab state.

Sari Nusseibeh

Fortunately, Palestinians do not speak with uniformity of voice when it comes to this matter. While Nusseibeh's statements may reflect his personal view and not official Palestinian policy, others within the PA have likewise expressed a more pragmatic approach to resolving this dilemma than that articulated by the grassroots community.

Significantly, the Beilin-Abu Mazen plan of 1995, which was to have served as the blueprint for a permanent agreement to the conflict, proposed that the refugee problem be solved through a combination of rehabilitation in the refugees' current place of residence, relocation to the Palestinian state that would be created or to countries that would absorb them, and compensation. An understanding was reached that only a small number of refugees would be permitted to enter Israel under a family reunification plan and in special humanitarian circumstances.

This formula was the foundation of the refugee component of former U.S. president Bill Clinton's plan and the Taba talks of late 2000. In fact, according to Beilin, a number of important agreements were reached at Taba on the nature of compensation and options for rehabilitation. Equally as important, if not more so, the two sides came very close to a mutually agreeable narrative that would explain how the refugee situation was created. The progress made at Taba, says Beilin, substantially narrowed the distance under dispute between the parties.

More recently, senior Palestinian negotiator Yasser Abed Rabbo stated during a U.S. speaking tour that the implementation of the "'right of return'... must be done in such a way as to not adversely affect the Jewish nature of the State of Israel." He implied that while he could never forget his personal attachment to Jaffa, his birthplace, he would be willing to make painful concessions on this matter as a serious politician responsible for the future of his people.

Regrettably, the flexibility articulated by this second echelon of Palestinian statesmen does not emanate from the top. In his Feb. 3 *New York Times* op-ed, Arafat, attempting to create a semblance of moderation for his North American audience, suggested that the Palestinians "understand Israel's demographic concerns" regarding the "right of return." Yet Arafat did not propose a solution that would take these concerns into account. Rather, his obduracy was revealed only a few sentences later when he wrote, "Israelis too must be realistic in understanding that there can be no solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict if the legitimate rights of these innocent civilians continue to be ignored... How is a Palestinian refugee to understand that his or her right of return will not be honoured but those of Kosovar Albanians, Afghans and East Timorese have been?"

Among Palestinians, the debate over the resolution of the refugee problem will likely continue, particularly as many refugees and their descendants feel it is they, and not the PA, who are entitled to determine their fate. Nonetheless, by challenging entrenched positions on this divisive issue, individuals such as Nusseibeh, Abu Mazen and Abed Rabbo give cause for the hope that one of the main obstacles hindering a permanent peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians may someday be overcome.

Lisa Armony is director of communications and public affairs, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region.

When judges cheat

The judges I refer to in the headline are not a part of our judicial system; they are the men and women who judge sporting events and, particularly, the Olympics. The cognoscenti agreed that Canadian skaters Jamie Salé and David Pelletier were deserving of receiving the gold medal in the pair skating competition. There had been pressures on one judge to vote a certain way, for arrangements had already been made in advance who was to win and who was not. When this became public knowledge, the protest was loud and vigorous, forcing the Olympic bigwigs to award the Canadian skaters a gold medal after all.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Honesty is, or should be, a fundamental aspect of sporting competition. Anyone who has played social tennis knows that the game relies on the honesty of the participants. Mistakes will creep into this process from time to time but, generally, sportsmanship prevails and assures that the better competitor gets the palm.

But for some years it has appeared that in certain international competitions the rules of honesty are occasionally suspended. Some judges are pressured to vote a certain way and the fix is in. This has moved some observers to suggest that any competition that requires judges rather than clocks and tapes should be omitted from international competitions.

During the recent games, my son and I had long discussions about these matters – something that no doubt went on in many households. He came up with an interesting suggestion: with the enormous advance of computerized technology, it should be possible to determine what is a perfect performance in a sport like skating, and if that is possible, it will decide which performance was closest to the standard of perfection.

In any case, the search for solutions has become an urgent enterprise and, in the end, it will likely be an objective instrument like a computer that will have the final word.

Unfortunately, this problem is another piece of evidence that we are slowly losing more and more respect for the integrity of people and instead believing that only machines will ultimately come up with something reliable.

Too bad – it appears that our belief in the perfection of the human race has run up against too many contrary experiences. What lies at the end of this downward spiral is this: we do not trust anyone, and not even ourselves. Therefore, let the machines take over.

Despite all this, I have not yet lost faith that we can do better, and I hope we will.

Who will be a Jew?

Here we go again. With the recent Israeli High Court decision that converts who undergo a non-Orthodox conversion in Israel must be registered on their identity cards as Jewish, the debate rekindles as to who has the authority to perform conversions. Make no mistake about it: it is not the process of conversion that is at issue. At issue is not only the authority of the rabbi performing that conversion but, more ominous for the future of Judaism, the right of Israel's religious power structure to dictate Jewish identity. (The idea of a "J" on one's identity card conjures up unhappy memories, but that is another issue.)

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Today in North America alone it is estimated that 4,000 Reform conversions and 2,000 Conservative conversions, as well as an unknown number of Orthodox conversions, are performed each year. These Jews by choice, of whatever denomination, bring amazing commitment to their communities and families, and are a growing source of great potential for Judaism.

Reactions to the court decision range from outrage on the part of the Orthodox establishment and the secular right-wing to glee on the secular left. According to a press release I read, Israel's Orthodox-controlled Interior Ministry is considering instructing its clerks to indicate "Reform" or "Conservative" Jews on Israeli identity cards.

So what is really going on here?

In biblical times, a woman who married an Israelite man became a member of his tribe (no pun intended). Her children were Israelites by virtue of their father's identity. Conversion, for which there was no real word before 586 BCE, meant marrying an Israelite spouse, as Ruth did.

Once Jews were exiled to Babylon they had to re-think identity. By the time of the Maccabees, whole nations, like the Idumeans (from whom Herod the Builder and Butcher descended), were being forcibly "converted." Joining the Jewish nation had a lot to do with fighting and demographic expansion. We look in vain for a tidy description of the process which reversed the parental determination of "Jewish." By the time of the Mishnah, it is the mother who determined the Jewishness of the child.

The Mishnah is occupied with order, classification and outcome: in this instance, a Jewish household and continuity of the faith. Today, I fear the leaders involved in this debate are preoccupied with power, exclusivity and control. But the world has changed since the year 200 CE.

If the Orthodox in Israel want to involve the state in religion – exemptions for yeshiva students, money for their separate schools, enforced Shabbat closures, exclusive control of marriage and divorce, just to name a few – then they will have to accept the state's jurisdiction elsewhere, as in the matter of identity.

Sadly it looks to me like the arguments are not "for the sake of heaven," as they should be, but for the sake of political control. The refusal to accept that Judaism is able to embrace denominationalism and plural approaches to Jewish life, lore and practice, will only further erode civil discourse in Israel and in the Diaspora.

The rebirth of a Jewish state after 2,000 years of statelessness has challenged us to reinvent what part religion plays in that state. There is little precedent in our history for the kind of governance Israel is now called upon to create. There are few models for her to emulate. Where Jews over the centuries lived in countries where state-mandated religions existed, their experiences were not happy. Until the Enlightenment, Jews fared best, for a number of reasons, in Muslim countries and worst in Christian ones.

Jewish communities in North America have evolved in societies where church and state are separate entities. For Jews, pluralism and this separation have worked wonderfully well. In fact, today we look to the Muslim world to see where state and church intertwine. Pluralism denotes a richness in debate that the early rabbinic tradition celebrated and included in its final texts.

I don't usually quote U.S. President George W. Bush's speechwriters, but his recent words bear repetition. "In a free society," the president said, "diversity is not disorder. Debate is not strife. And dissent is not revolution." He was talking to the Chinese, but his admonition fits Israel's situation. And what does that tell us?

Happy birthday Mozart

I never knew (or cared, for that matter) when Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart was born. But I learned a couple of weeks ago that the great composer's birthday was January 27, 1756. I would have remained blissfully ignorant had I not stopped to read the handmade poster on the wall at our neighbourhood Montessori school.

Stuart Slayen in Winnipeg

As parents attending an open house were herded through the facility, I glanced at Mozart's stern visage and wondered out loud if the fact that it was his birthday meant that his mom had to bring snack. Inside, I wondered why my two-turning-three-year-old daughter Cari would need to know when Mozart was born. Next she'd want to know when Vivaldi or, God forbid, Wagner entered the world. All this from a kid whose greatest entertainment is colouring on her feet.

We're looking for 2½ days a week of care and learning for Cari beginning next September. She's currently at Aleph Bet, a Jewish day care. Keeping her there next year is one option; Montessori is another. A third option is junior kindergarten at the local Jewish school. (There's probably some expert at some university who believes that sending a child to one year instead of two years of junior kindergarten diminishes intellectual capacity, reduces the chance of getting into a good university and is symptomatic of bad parenting.)

Aleph Bet is what a Jewish day care should be. It smells like a day care—that smell every parent knows but can't quite describe. The Hebrew alphabet is on the wall. Wearing oversized, black nylon kippot, the kids start the day with a short, fidgety version of Shacharit on the floor. I know almost every kid there. My wife actually does know every kid there. You shmooze with other parents at drop-off and pickup times. There's child-made Jewish art in our kitchen. Cari came home a few weeks ago singing a Tu b'Shvat song I had never heard before. It feels right.

Still, the Montessori option is compelling. The program takes children in directions a day care simply can't. At Montessori, they're exploring the basics of geometry, cartography and science with kids who still think Barney is a real dinosaur. The environment is serene and pristine. The tiny students, I'm told, are well-mannered, orderly and eerily respectful. They take turns at the snack table and gently choose their daily activities. They're calm. There's no screaming.

So, we're stuck. Will it be Montessori or Aleph Bet?

Part of the preschool decision is always about logistics—getting everyone to where they have to be and back.

A typical morning conversation at our house:

"I'll feed Noah. You pack Cari's lunch and knapsack. Don't forget her blanket in the dryer."

"I have to leave early for work. You take Cari to Aleph Bet; I'll take Noah to the sitter."

"Can't. You have to take Cari. I have a meeting downtown before I go to my office."

"Fine. You pack Cari's lunch. I'll take Noah to the sitter now and come back for Cari."

"No time for that. Cari will close her eyes, tap her heels together and magically arrive at the day care. Noah is too little to tap his heels together. I'll just call a courier."

"Perfect."

As you can imagine, we're not looking for any further clock-related challenges. That's a real knock against junior kindergarten and Montessori. It starts when it starts and it ends when it ends. Score one for the flexible day-care arrangement.

Still, there's something more going on here. While we haven't decided for sure where Cari will go this fall, I can't help but think that the decision we make today is about more than next year. Part of me believes the decision we make today about our two-year-old is a statement about what we want for her entire formal education.

Keeping Cari at Aleph Bet—despite the curricular challenges of a day care setting—sends a message to her and to our community that we value a Jewish environment. It's a message to our daughter that we want her to sing Hebrew songs, bring home Chanukah art and celebrate her community.

If we end up keeping Cari at Aleph Bet, I'll take personal responsibility for teaching her about Mozart's birthday.

Stuart Slayen in a Winnipeg-based writer and editor. This is his second monthly column for The CJN.

The Kirshner File

After a year, Sharon offers more of the same

Calling it "the year of terror," Israel's police inspector-general recently reported that Palestinian terrorist attacks increased by 337 per cent in 2001, even though 80 per cent of them had been foiled. In 1,794 incidents, including 31 suicide bombings, 208 Israelis were killed and 1,523 wounded.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

"We have been through a year of violence and terror the likes of which we have not seen in the history of the state," he observed, referring to the Palestinian uprising, now in its 17th month. And in a bleak warning, he said he expected an escalation of shootings, bombings and shellings.

It's clear beyond any reasonable doubt that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, who succeeded Ehud Barak a year ago on March 7, 2001 with a promise to bring Israel peace and security, has abysmally failed to fulfill his election campaign pledge. It has proven to be empty rhetoric.

Amid mounting despair and helplessness, and signs that his popularity is slipping, a consensus is emerging that Sharon has no definitive plan to end the spiralling bloodshed and that he has virtually lost control of the deteriorating security situation.

In the past few weeks, the intifadah has grown still more menacing, devouring an unprecedented number of Israeli and Palestinian lives in tit-for-tat strikes. By last week, the uprising – the second one in about a decade and the third since the 1936-1939 Arab Revolt – had claimed more than 300 Israelis and more than 1,000 Palestinians. It is a fearsome death toll that scathingly mocks the promise of the expired Oslo peace process, brings back memories of Israel's disastrous entanglement in Lebanon, discourages aliyah (immigration dropped by 28 per cent in 2001) and weakens the economy (Israel has slipped into a recession).

Since the breakdown of the latest ceasefire – the ninth since September 2000 – Palestinian gunmen have dramatically improved their tactics and capabilities, raising fears that the intifadah has yet to peak and giving rise to commentaries that there is no military answer to terrorism.

Consider the most recent events.

• The Palestinians, for the first time ever, destroyed the pride of Israel's armoured corps, a 65-ton Merkava III battle tank, killing three soldiers.

• The Palestinians, having unsheathed homemade mortars last April, introduced the locally-produced Kassam-2 rocket in February. The short-range Kassam, though crude, has the potential to terrorize Israel's population, denials by Israel's chief of military intelligence notwithstanding.

• The Palestinians, after murdering a mother and a daughter in a kibbutz, dispatched a suicide bomber into Kamei Shomron, a Jewish settlement in the heart of the West Bank, and killed two teenagers. The assault, the first of its kind, suggested that the intifadah may have shifted focus, to Jewish settlers and soldiers in the territories rather than against civilians in Israel itself.

• The Palestinians gunned down six Israeli soldiers at a checkpoint near Ramallah and escaped with impunity, sending an unmistakable signal that their resistance to Israel's occupation will be met with fire. Last week, after another suicide bombing in Jerusaelm which claimed nine lives, a Palestinian sniper killed a further 10 Israelis – seven soldiers and three civilians – at another checkpoint in the West Bank.

Retaliating ferociously, Israel pounded Palestinian Authority buildings and bases by air, land and sea, and announced plans to intensify operations, including more raids into Palestinian refugee camps. Sharon, who rode to power on a wave of Palestinian violence after the failure of the Camp David summit in July 2000, essentially offers war-weary Israelis more of the same: more retaliatory bombings, more incursions into Area A (territory under full Palestinian control), more targeted killings and arrests of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Fatah militants, more blockades of Palestinian towns such as Nablus and Jenin, more internal closures, more roadblocks and more home demolitions – all of which cripple the Palestinian Authority's already shaky economy and feed Palestinian rage and rejection of coexistence.

On Feb. 21, in a televised speech to the nation, Sharon unveiled a fairly new wrinkle: buffer zones to protect Israel's borders. He did not spell out the details, but the Palestinians condemned the idea.

After a year on the job, Sharon has been thrust into a conflict-management, rather than a conflict-resolution, mode, and his attempts to crush the intifadah and marginalize Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat have impressed neither Israel's right nor left.

Hawks to the right of Sharon, from former premier Benjamin Netanyahu on down, think they have a solution: Israel should reoccupy the West Bank, dismantle the Palestinian Authority and send Arafat packing. Some even advocate the expulsion of Palestinians from the territories. The far-right, which may yet pose the greatest threat to Sharon's political viability, is also incensed by Sharon's acceptance of Palestinian statehood, circumscribed though it may be. Last December, two ministers in the national unity government, Avigdor Lieberman and Benny Elon, tabled a motion forbidding Israel " to negotiate directly or indirectly on the establishment of a Palestinian state without the cabinet's approval."

In the interest of achieving an armistice, Sharon would tolerate a demilitarized, discontiguous Palestinian state in about 42 per cent of the West Bank and in parts of Gaza. It is a far cry from the days when he championed the Jordan-is-Palestine option, and sought to retain every inch of the territories.

In his heart of hearts, one suspects, Sharon wants to unseat Arafat, with whom he severed ties last December. But in deference to the United States and the Labor party, a key coalition partner, he has resisted entreaties to topple the Palestinian Authority and, with it, Arafat, his perennial nemesis.

Ariel Sharon

Sharon, however, has not hesitated to call for an "alternative" Palestinian leadership, made no secret of his loathing for Arafat and his wish for Arafat's disappearance and voiced regret he did not assassinate him in 1982, when Israel had Beirut under siege.

Nor did Sharon endear himself to the right when, on Jan. 31, he met with three of Arafat's closest associates, Mahmoud Abbas (Abu Mazen), Ahmed Qureia (Abu Ala) and Mohammed Rashid. Sharon's adversaries need not worry. Abu Ala has said he will not meet with Sharon again until Israel stops its "aggressive policy."

Sharon's critics on the left are just as vocal. They argue that the current situation is untenable and that Israel's occupation, in addition to corrupting and coarsening Israeli society, will eventually transform Israel into a de facto binational state and thus endanger its fundamental Jewish character and purpose.

They believe that Sharon's vow not to negotiate under fire, and his concomitant insistence on seven days of complete calm before the Mitchell recommendations can be implemented, are not only shortsighted but foolhardy.

As Shlomo Gazit, former head of Israeli military intelligence, put it: "Anyone who makes the resumption of negotiations conditional upon the absolute cessation of violence is giving any mad terrorist (veto power) to determine whether an agreement will be reached... Yitzhak Rabin understood and famously said: 'We shall fight terror as if there were no negotiations, and we shall negotiate as if there were no terror.'"

Gazit and like-minded Israelis are demanding that Sharon activate the Mitchell plan, which Israel and the Palestinians have embraced, as soon as possible. Under its provisions, Israel and the Palestinians would agree to an unconditional ceasefire. A truce would be followed by cooling-off and confidence-building periods and political talks aimed at settling Israel's historic dispute with the Palestinians.

In addition, Sharon's critics, on the left and right, have proposed a unilateral withdrawal from Gaza and much of the West Bank, most of which is still administered by Israel. One thousand reserve generals, colonels and Shin Bet and Mossad officials, all of them members of the Council for Peace and Security, have published a manifesto promoting this idea. Sharon is less than keen about it.

Nor is Sharon enthusiastic about Foreign Minister Shimon Peres' four-point peace plan, which he developed in concert with Qureia. The first phase calls for a ceasefire and implementation of the Mitchell report, including a freeze on Israeli settlement construction beyond the Green Line. Israel and the Palestinians would then recognize each other's sovereignty, based on United Nations resolutions 242 and 338. Final peace talks would be concluded within 12 months, and an international peacekeeping force would guarantee the sanctity of the agreement.

Sharon, who claims he is ready to make "painful concessions" to advance the cause of peace, prefers interim accords, but the Palestinians have adamantly rejected this approach. Although they scoffed at Barak's sweeping concessions, the Palestinians are now, once again, demanding final status talks.

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All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Wed., Mar. 27/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., April 1/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: Mayumana Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: Mayumana Contest, 416-391-0949.

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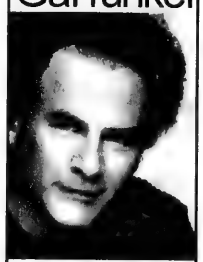

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In every generation...

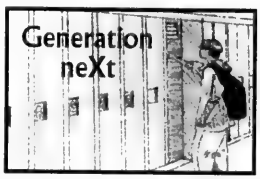
By MARK DANIELS and JASON ROTSTEIN

The warning signs were clear. We grew up too fast. Simply put, we were too content in our younger, more impressionable years to notice that the world was not going to stop for us.

But why wouldn't we be? The unspoken ideal of all of our parents is to raise us behind a protective barrier, that we should never need to know first hand the horrors of war. It is not surprising, therefore, that we, too, were assimilated into this shelter. Like all those around us, we grew up believing that our home, our country, our world was secure. How unfortunate that the world often admits a level of optimism unsubstantiated by reality. We were not prepared for what was to come.

Our great grandparents fought in World War I, and then promised it would be the "war to end all wars." Not 25 years later, their children fought a different battle, and we remember the Holocaust so that it will never happen again. Our parents experienced Vietnam, the Six Day War, the Yom Kippur War and the Gulf War. They all had the same hope that the world would improve following their efforts to restore peace, and they shielded their children from it.

Never again, they said, and never again, we repeated, robotically. Yet Santayana warned, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." Every generation in our history has faced its own Amalek, so why should we be any different? It should have been inevitable that someone like Osama Bin Laden would invade our sanctuary. But then why were we so unprepared for the events of Sept. 11?



As Jews living in the post-Sept. 11 era, we try to distance ourselves from the prevailing pessimistic outlook that has arisen in modern western civilization, that only by expecting the worst can we free ourselves from subsequent torture. Accepting any disaster as a "normal" occurence would remove morality and conscience from our way of life. The entire philosophy of Amalek is founded on this basic principle: everything is happenstance, dictated by chance, or by fate.

However, being children of the afflicted ourselves, we have adopted a more constructive response, as expressed by Rabbi Nachman of Braslav, who found a remedy for such cynicism – "The whole world is a narrow bridge; the important thing is not to fear." With this in mind, we commit our energy to the productivity of humankind.

If nothing else, the events of Sept. 11 should teach us that we cannot continue a level of such complacency and self-assurance in humankind as we so naïvely have maintained in the last few decades. We must recognize the potential for evil inherent in human nature and, as such, give our decisions a little more weight, and develop a degree of sensitivity in our response to tragedy. It is therefore incumbent upon us, after the scare, to alert future generations and to inculcate not a sense of terror, but of vigilance and awareness. The test of our survival may unfortunately strip us of our innocence, but perhaps, ultimately, it will give rise to a vision of a safer world, one that could avert future tragedies.

Looking back on Sept. 11

The authors are students at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto. They plan to graduate this spring.

Scholarship applications available

TORONTO — Associated Hebrew Schools is accepting applications for scholarships for students to study at institutions of higher Jewish studies in Israel for the 2002/3 academic year.

The scholarships are granted annually to qualifying candidates through the school's scholarship and endowment fund committee.

More than $12,000 has been allocated for the 2001/2 academic year to the following students: Elissa Banach, currently studying at Hebrew University; Jonathan Berger at Yeshivat Reishit Yerushalayim; Amanda Dunec, Talia Shainhouse and Osnat Steinman at Midreshet Lindenbaum; Cary Maister at Yeshivat Har Etzion; Benjamin Noy and Ryan Spodek at Yeshivat Sha'alayim; and Daniela Steinman, who is studying at Bar Ilan University.

Qualifying candidates must have graduated from Associated as well as from a recognized Jewish day high school or yeshiva. Special scholarship awards are made to students preparing for a career in Jewish education.

Awards granted are for a single year of study but students may apply for additional years. Payment is conditional upon the successful completion of the approved program.

Application forms are now available from: Associated Hebrew Schools Scholarship Committee, 6100 Leslie St.., Willowdale, Ont. M2H 3J1, or by calling (416) 494-7666, ext. 334. The deadline for submitting applications is March 31, 2002.

Ethiopian Jews need cultural centre: activist

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Some Ethiopian Jewish mothers look out at their children standing aimlessly in the streets and wonder if their pilgrimage to Israel was worth it.

Parents don't understand why their children have become so alienated from the system and from their heritage, said Baruch Tagegne.

Since its inception, Israel has absorbed different waves of immigrants from widely diverse backgrounds and cultures, at the same time as it has had to cope with all of its other concerns.

Meeting the needs of the Ethiopian Jewish community is one of Israel's current challenges.

Here to raise money and awareness to build a Culture and Heritage Centre for Ethiopian Jews in Rehovot, known as the Tomer Project, the soft-spoken Tagegne discussed the importance of giving the Ethiopian community a place of its own.

Tagegne, who was born in a village outside of Gondar, escaped to Israel in 1974 through several African countries. During those years, over 4,000 Ethiopian Jews perished trying to reach Israel. He believes that the story of their heritage and immigration must be told.

The city of Rehovot has donated the land for the centre which will be dedicated to learning and knowledge and become a repository for Ethiopian historical artifacts and exhibits.

The centre will be used as a museum for tourism as well as a focal point for community events.

"Ethiopian Jewish youth need to be able to identify with something else besides the American Blacks that they see on television," he said.

"We need to show our children that they have a deep-rooted and respected culture so they can develop a pride in their own heritage.

"Right now," Tagegne noted, "some of our children are being taken from their parents and put in religious boarding schools at very young ages."

They are not taught about their own history or traditions and do not understand or relate to their parents, he said, adding that "eventually they drop out of school and wind up on the streets."

Baruch Tagegne

The younger generation of Ethiopian Jews are turning into "second-class citizens in Israel," Tagegne said.

"This generation is disconnected from their heritage and have no identity of their own. They're not Israeli or Ethiopian."

Although an Institute of the Heritage of Ethiopian Jews was promised in 1989, the Israeli government has not yet managed to fulfill its obligations, noted former Israeli absorption minister Yair Tzaban in a statement written in support of the centre.

"I recognize it as both a responsibility and a privilege to lend a hand and become a partner in this significant project," Tzaban stated.

Beta Yisrael, as Ethiopian Jews prefer to be called, are believed to date back to the time of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba.

Over the centuries, they remained isolated from Jews of other communities until they began immigrating to Israel in treks over Africa. Through two dramatic operations, thousands of Ethiopian Jews were spirited into Israel.

The challenges related to the absorption of the Jews from Ethiopia have been on Israel's public agenda to varying degrees since the mid-1980s when the first group began to arrive.

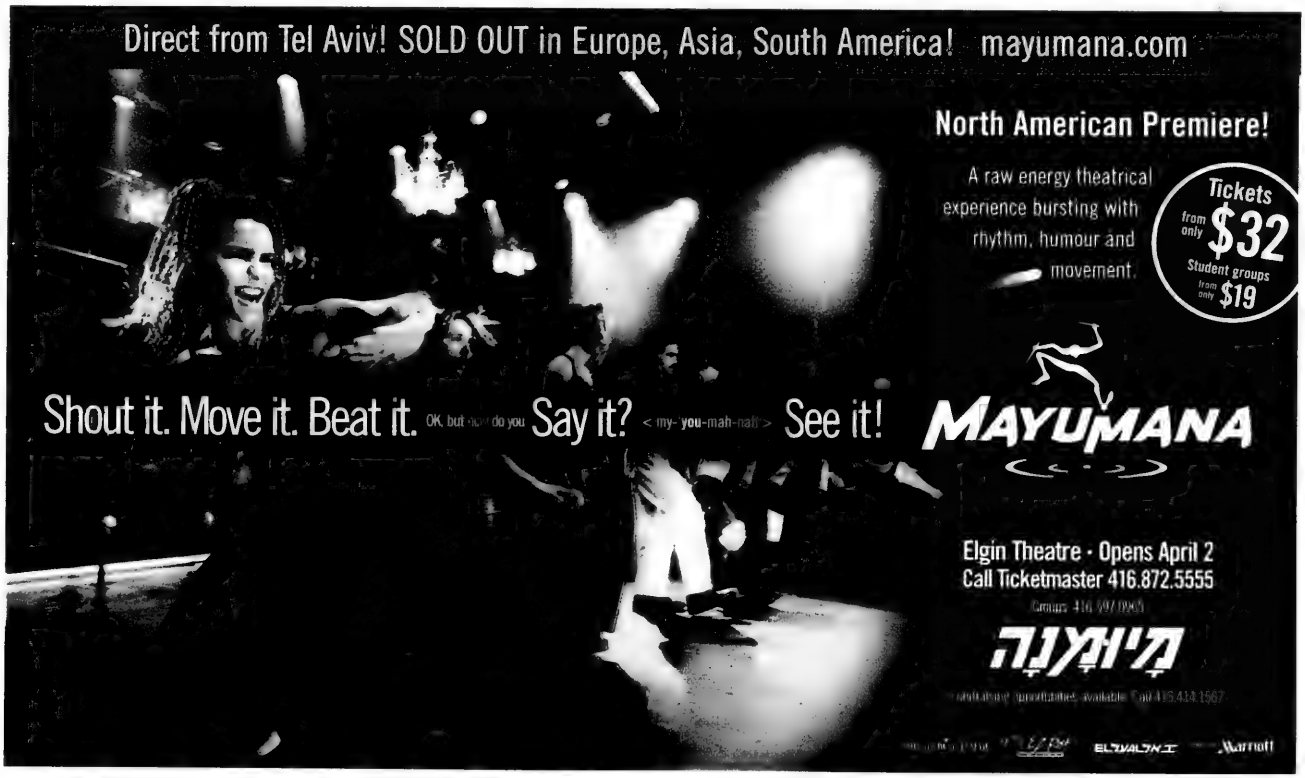
Over the years, one of the key challenges, widely acknowledged among Israeli authorities, is the poverty affecting a large portion of the community. The current Israeli economic downturn has only exacerbated many of the problems related to the successful integration of the Ethiopian Jews.

Diaspora communities, including the Federation of Greater Toronto, have attempted through various projects to ameliorate the absorption-related difficulties of the Ethiopian Jews.

For Tagegne part of the answer lies in the building of a community centre.

"Every community in Israel has their corner – Russian, Yemenite, Moroccan. Our children need to see that they also have a place of their own in order to facilitate their absorption," Tagegne said.

"It is now or never. Ethiopian elders are dying and their oral traditions will go with them if a cultural centre isn't established to house their artifacts and memories."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Jewish Life

Bring in the B'nai Menashe

By MYER SAMRA

Guest Voice

Although we are proud of our religion, we Jews have difficulty accepting people who want to join us. With 2,000 years of persecution behind us, we are naturally suspicious of converts. Surely anyone wanting to become Jewish must be crazy, and thus unacceptable.

As well, now that Israel is well-established and relatively prosperous, we are suspicious of potential converts from poorer countries. Some argue that letting in people such as the B'nai Menashe, a group from northeast India who have Asian racial features, could inspire half the world's poor to try to convert and use the Law of Return to seek entry into Israel, or use it as a gateway to the affluent West. Either way, a would-be convert can't win.

We also seem more willing to accept Russian Christians as converts or as settlers in Israel, even without conversion, than people with the "wrong" racial backgrounds.

These attitudes reveal a failure to appreciate that Judaism is a world religion with a universal message that has attracted admirers and potential converts from many different backgrounds in many different eras. Even the most pious of Jews does not know his or her ancestry well enough to trace a pedigree back to Sinai. Even in the most trying times in Jewish history, we have taken in converts.

We should also not forget that, historically, royal families, and with them a significant number of their subjects, adopted Judaism in places as diverse as Adiabene (northern Iraq), Himyar (Yemen), and Khazaria (the Crimea). Today, their descendants are completely indistinguishable from other Jews.

Last Chanukah, the B'nai Menashe, celebrated 25 years of practising Judaism in an environment where they have risked social ostracism for their faith.

About 600 of them have successfully settled in Israel and have formally converted to Judaism. They have, in the main, continued to practise Judaism, served in the army and worked to support their families.

At the same time, the 3,500 still in India can't complete their conversion to Judaism before a beit din. Most conversions take one or two years to complete. The B'nai Menashe have endured a far longer "apprenticeship."

If they were not genuine in their convictions, one could not imagine people praying as Jews, diligently studying Halachah, and translating siddurim and other holy books into their languages (Mizo and Thadou). They have a strong commitment to the religion they have chosen to follow.

As to aliyah, the B'nai Menashe's numbers are quite small and readily absorbable. Israel has accepted 50 to 100 B'nai Menashe settlers per year since 1989. At this rate, one can imagine a second generation of B'nai Menashe, and perhaps a third, raising families and practising Judaism without being accepted as Jews.

As well, the policy of admitting a small number each year has created a gulf between those who are proud to be able to join a minyan anywhere in the world and those who are conscious they are not accepted as genuine Jews. This gulf is bound to cause friction, as those already in Israel will seek to bring their relatives, at the expense of families not represented among the settlers. The potential for such a division in such a small community, with two equally committed parts, should be scotched immediately.

The time has come to assist all B'nai Menashe who wish to convert to Judaism and permit them to settle in Israel if they choose to do so. The Knesset's immigration committee is set to consider the question of B'nai Menashe aliyah. Let us join together to urge the Knesset to make the right decision.

Myer Samra is an anthropologist living in Australia who has worked with the B'nai Menashe in India and Israel. Learn more at www.bneimenashe.com.

A mission to remember

By ELLEN and MICHAEL SIEGEL

Guest Voice

We just returned from a UJA Federation-Mizrachi solidarity mission to Israel which included Jews of all denominations. What an incredible week-long trip it was!

Everywhere we went, Israelis approached us with thanks that we came to Israel to stand together with them. We were all embarrassed at this attention because we clearly felt we were the ones who should thank them for their strength, determination and courage.

When we arrived in Israel on Feb. 25, we immediately travelled to the Dolphinarium in Tel Aviv for a short memorial service to mourn the loss of 22 young people whose lives were cut short by a suicide bomber. It was a sad beginning to our trip.

However we quickly realized that Israel could and would carry on.

We visited an IDF base in the Golan Heights where we were given a briefing by the base commander. He had been up all night for a military operation in Nablus, but still considered it important to meet us. After talking to us, he returned to Nablus.

That same evening we were heartbroken to hear that six young soldiers were ambushed and killed by terrorists, near Ramallah. In fact, almost every day, we heard of someone killed or injured, but we knew the people of Israel would carry on and win this war.

We visited, among other sites, Canada Centre in Metulla – financed by Canadian federations – with its Olympic skating rink; the hesder yeshiva in Kiryat Shmonah, where young religious men combine army service with Jewish learning; and Massuah, the centre for Holocaust studies. We heard from politicians, journalists and analysts. We met enthusiastic and hopeful olim from Ethiopia and Argentina. We learned the true meaning of courage from rescue workers who put their lives on the line to prevent terrorist attacks and treat their victims when they occur. And we travelled to neighbourhoods at risk – Efrat and Gilo.

Israel is an amazing and beautiful country, which Canadians should not be afraid to visit. Our mission faced no threats or dangers. Our brothers and sisters there need to know that we are with them as they fight for our homeland. They want us to come and are thankful when we do. They cannot carry on alone.

To quote the Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert, "Israel is strong. We need your participation, your solidarity and your visits."

Michael and Ellen Siegel

Jewish Life

Tikkun Olam 2

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we began our look at tikkun olam, the Jewish concept of helping to repair the world. Today, we'll look at how people have fulfilled this mitzvah through acts of kindness.

One note before I start: thankfully, there are far too many wonderful programs and initiatives run by federations, synagogues and individuals to be mentioned in one article. My apologies if I have not mentioned yours.

If you want to find a Web site that will inspire you about people's goodness, you don't have to go much further than the Ziv Tzedakah Fund **[http://www.ziv.org/]**. The fund is basically a clearing house of projects, large and small, that have come to its attention. It distributes money and seeks out new "mitzvah heroes" to support, such as Rabbanit Kapach, the "wedding dress lady" of Jerusalem who provides gowns to brides who are too poor to buy their own. Or John Beltzer, founder of Songs of Love, who along with songwriters and musicians record personalized songs for children who are critically ill. Or Robin Moose and Beth Huber who work at Stanly Manor nursing home in North Carolina. Every year their group travels to the beach and teams up with a local motorbike group and shows that life in a nursing home can be exciting and fun. Ziv also maintains an office in Canada **[http://www.feduja.org/commserv/organize/1129.stm]**.

Ziv Tzedakah Fund founder Danny Siegel is profiled on Philadelphia's Jewish Outreach Partnership Tikkun Olam page. There are also essays by Rabbi Neal Gold, who writes about how rewarding it was to set up a soup kitchen at Hebrew Union College in New York, and Rabbi Amy Eilberg, who writes about bikkur cholim, visiting the sick:

"The visitor's presence in the room communicates the knowledge that illness and pain are part of life, that we will all walk this path, we will all know illness, we will all someday die. Right now, it is the visitor's turn to be whole, vigorous, and strong enough to offer care. Someday this visitor will be ill, vulnerable, in need. The practice of bikkur cholim acts on the deep awareness of our shared vulnerability and leads us to do what we can for others when it is our turn to be strong and well" **[http://www.jopp.org/mc/tikun_olam .html]**.

Many congregations and Jewish federations have noteworthy tikkun olam projects. Toronto's Holy Blossom Temple "Out of the Cold" project provides shelter for the homeless one night a week during the long winter months. Initially, there were safety concerns, but years later, the program is thriving **[http://www.rac.org/social/cold.html]** and is the recipient of the Reform Movement's Irving J. Fain Social Action Award **[http://www.rac.org/social/fain.html]**.

You can watch short videos about three tikkun olam programs that are run in Los Angeles: the Bet Tzedek Legal Services, which offers assistance for a wide spectrum of needs such as Holocaust reparations and nursing home advocacy; Tikkun LA, where Jews volunteer to help at the city's social agencies every Dec. 25; and the Hesed Center, a soup kitchen for Jews living in poverty in Ukraine **[http://www.jewishla.org/caseforgiving/html/tikkunolam.html]**. You can also read up about some New England tikkun olam programs **[http://www.vermont.com/ruraljudaism/tikkun.html]** and some programs run by high school students in Port Washington, New York **[http://www.communitysynagogue.org/noar.html]**.

For Marlene Segelstein, tikkun olam has meant lecturing at a women's prison in Connecticut about her experience as a child of Holocaust survivors **[http://www.baycrest.org/journal/tikkun.pdf]**. And *Tikkun Magazine* also maintains a large Web site devoted to social change **[http://www.tikkun.org]**.

If you want to write someone to tell them about your project or idea, you can e-mail them a tikkun olam postcard complete with its own spinning globe **[http://www.mjoe.org/card.html]**. And kids can print out a tikkun olam checklist and colouring pages **[http://www.jopp.org/mc/tikunolam.pdf]**.

* * * * *

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Do we need a pagan foreign policy?

***Warrior Politics*, Robert D. Kaplan, Random House, 2001.**

How are democratic nations to live and prosper in the post-World Trade Center era? How can they best defend themselves against mindless terror and fanaticism?

Robert D. Kaplan, author of such best-selling books on foreign affairs and travel as *Balkan Ghosts*, *The Ends of the Earth* and *Eastward to Tartary*, advocates a new kind of leadership that is both visionary and ruthlessly strategic. It demands what he calls "pagan ethics."

He maintains that in the past, vast oceans gave Americans the protection necessary to advance universalist principles. "But in an increasingly smaller world, in which the Middle East and sub-Saharan Africa are as close to us in military terms as Prussia was to Ottoman Turkey, the room for miscalculation must diminish."

For the author, the bedrock of a sound foreign policy should be "comprehensive pragmatism" rather than "utopian hopes." The time has come to forsake religious ideals and the Judeo-Christian ethic in dealing with the harsh international problems of today.

What are included in Kaplan's practical approach to stark reality are an old-fashioned sense of national patriotism, an "evolution of religious virtue to secular self-interest, and a frank acknowledgement that international relations are governed by different moral principles than domestic politics."

He points out that in 1988, during the first Palestinian intifadah, Israel's then-defence minister, Yitzhak Rabin, reportedly told Israeli soldiers to "go in and break their bones," referring to Palestinian protesters. Less violent means had failed to quell the demonstrators, while the use of live bullets resulted in Palestinian casualties that ignited further riots. Rabin, assassinated by a right-wing extremist in 1995, is now a hero for liberal humanists the world over, Kaplan writes.

"Rabin's tough tactics gave him the credibility to make peace… He turned his reputation for brutality to the benefit of his fellow citizens." One surmises that the author would approve of the policies of current Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in dealing with Palestinian terrorists.

Americans should realize that despite their anti-imperial traditions, and despite the fact that imperialism is delegitimized in public discourse, an imperial reality already dominates American foreign policy. "What are the NATO missions in Bosnia and Kosovo other than imperial protectorates, with which the Romans and Habsburgs would have been familiar."

Leaders, he insists, must be insulated from the assaults of a powerful multimedia press and should practice a necessary degree of deception, as Franklin D. Roosevelt did in piloting the Lend-Lease Act through a reluctant American Congress.

To bolster his thesis, Kaplan quotes from a variety of sages and philosophers including Thucydides, Thomas Hobbes, and Sun-Tzu. He reminds us that Machiavelli defines a policy not by its excellence, but by its outcome. Livy shows that the vigour to confront adversaries must ultimately come from pride in past achievements.

As America girds itself for a new kind of war, this shrewd and provocative book offers a mode of behaviour that many will find distasteful. Questions abound. In order for the modern state to survive and prosper, must it forsake its democratic foundations? Is a powerful American imperium inevitable in the face of international terror? Are suspiciously convenient maxims from the past appropriate to the modern situation?

If nothing else, this timely and incisive work will stimulate discussion about how to overcome implacable enemies who don't "play fair" as they seek our destruction.

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Olmert favors military option to end uprising

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel is capable of militarily crushing the current Palestinian uprising, claims an Israeli government advisor and former director of Israel's Government Press Office.

"I expect the Israeli military to get a proper order from the government and put an end to it," Yossi Olmert said in an interview. He was here last week to speak to Canadian Jewish Congress and Israel Now, a group of community organizations under the auspices of UJA Federation and the Consulate General of Israel.

"We should take more decisive action. This is a war. (Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon has done a great deal, but he should do even more. He should update and modify his plan."

Olmert, a Likud party member whose brother is mayor of Jerusalem, suggested a military solution is feasible. "Those who say there isn't are wrong, and are prolonging the conflict."

Olmert pointed out that Israel successfully used military means to force PLO head Yasser Arafat out of Beirut during the 1982 war in Lebanon.

Olmert said he is not calling for Arafat's ouster from the Palestinian autonomous areas in the West Bank and Gaza."Right now, I would say no. But it depends on developments."

Nor should the Palestinian Authority be toppled, "unless you know what'll happen a day after."

The situation in the territories could become infinitely worse if Palestinian areas slip into chaos and are seized by opposing warlords.

Olmert does not advocate the reoccupation of Area A, which is under the full control of the Palestinian Authority.

"We don't need to take over the territories. We know where the bases of violence and terror are. We should go after them. We should renegotiate the situation."

Olmert advised Israel to target the leadership of Hamas and Islamic Jihad, which have claimed responsibility for virtually every suicide bombing since 1994. "They're after us, and we should go after them."

Yossi Olmert

Commending Sharon for refusing to negotiate under fire while the intifadah rages, Olmert said, "That's what we did after the 1993 Oslo accord. That is the mistake we should not repeat again."

Olmert said he opposed the Oslo agreement precisely because he feared the Palestinians would resort to violence to extract political concessions from Israel.

Sharon, he declared, should demand more than seven days of absolute calm before Israel honours the Mitchell recommendations.

Released last spring, the Mitchell report calls for an unconditional ceasefire, as well as cooling-off and normalization periods and a resumption of bilateral talks, which were broken off after the Palestinian uprising.

Taking issue with Sharon's recent assertion that Arafat is "irrelevant," Olmert said, "Arafat is relevant. He's the commander of Palestinian terrorism and violence."

Hamas and Islamic Jihad, Olmert said, serve as Arafat's "sub-contractors" of terrorism.

Olmert said he no longer believes Arafat accepts Israel's existence within its 1948 borders.

"Since the (July 2000) Camp David summit, I've come to the conclusion he wants to do away with Israel. He believes time is on his side."

He was asked whether the Israeli government should seriously consider a Saudi proposal, not yet formally unveiled, under which Arab League nations would normalize relations with Israel in exchange for a withdrawal to the pre-1967 armistice lines.

"Once the violence is over, we can discuss it. Peace is desirable and should be pursued, but not at any cost."

Israel, he noted, should not have to pay a territorial price for Arab recognition.

In talks with the Arabs, Israel should be careful not to cross several red lines, Olmert said.

- Israel should not return to the borders that existed before the Six Day War.
- Israel should not even discuss the 1947 United Nations partition scheme, or the Palestinian demand that Arab refugees be allowed back into what is now Israel.
- Israel should not offer the kind of concessions on Jerusalem and the Jordan Valley that Ehud Barak, the former prime minister, offered at Camp David and Taba.

Taking a swipe at Saudi Arabia's peace plan, Olmert said it was inspired by a desire to appease public opinion in the United States in the wake of Sept. 11.

Turning to another topic, he warned that Hezbollah is trying – so far without success due to Israeli, American and Syrian pressure – to open a new front on Israel's northern border. Hezbollah, however, may try to infiltrate Israel through Jordan.

Olmert has no regrets about Israel's unilateral pullout from its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon in May 2000. "I was one of the first Likudniks to call for it."

But the circumstances of the withdrawal were taken by the Arabs as a sign of Israeli weakness, he said.

Olmert does not believe that Israel and Syria will resume bilateral talks any time soon.

"It's not in the cards, and it's not in our interest. The Golan border is quiet, and [Bashar] Assad [Syria's president] is still engaged in consolidating his domestic authority in Syria."

Olmert, born in Binyamina, Israel in 1950, directed Israel's Government Press Office from 1989 to 1992, during Yitzhak Shamir's term as prime minister.

He was also Moshe Arens' advisor when the latter was defence minister.

A graduate of the Hebrew University and the London School of Economics, Olmert currently lectures at Bar-Ilan University, writes for Israeli newspapers and advises Rabbi Michael Melchior, the deputy foreign minister.

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Jewish, Muslim, Christian leaders open dialogue

By PABLO FUCHS
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Jewish, Christian and Muslim leaders came together recently to discuss their respective views of God and to open dialogue between the three communities.

The discussion, organized by the Christian-Jewish Dialogue of Toronto and held at the city's historic St. Anne's Anglican Church, marked the first time the group welcomed a Muslim leader to share Islam's views on topics such as God, terrorism and religious co-operation.

Imam Shabir Ally, president of the Islamic Information and Dawah Centre in Toronto, said people can only reach understanding through dialogue.

"Human beings are so similar that it would be a travesty to concentrate solely on our differences," he said.

The Jewish representative at the discussion, Rabbi Sol Tanenzapf of Beit Rayim Congregation in Richmond Hill, agreed: "There's no guarantee that we'll change the world by doing this," he said. "But we must do our part, and that's through having discussions like this and emphasizing our common humanity and aspirations."

Joined by Rev. Victor Shepherd of the Streetsville United Church and a philosophy and historical theology professor at Tyndale College and Seminary in Toronto, the three men discussed God and how the views reflected within their respective religions are for the good of all humankind.

Rabbi Tanenzapf, who spoke first because Judaism was the first of the three major monotheistic religions to appear on earth, discussed the ethical teachings of his religion and how, through the Jewish people, God provided an ethical, moral ground for living.

"If God cares about the weak in society, as we have learned from the Hebrew bible, so too must people," he said. "God's righteousness is the standard for human justice, and he teaches not to oppress strangers and to treat people lower than us with compassion."

Rev. Shepherd discussed the events of Sept. 11 and God in the context of that day's events. "For me, evil makes God not less, but more believable," he said. "Sept. 11 magnified God's heartbreak over us, his patience, his persistence, and his faithfulness to his covenant with Abraham."

In his discussion about Abraham, Imam Ally emphasized the common link between the three faiths and how each tries to demonstrate a total love and respect for God.

"When God commanded Abraham to sacrifice his son, he wasn't telling us that he wants what we possess, he's the one that has given it to us in the first place," said Imam Ally. "What he did is something that he continues to do today. He asks us if we would be willing to give up something we love to serve him."

In their talks, the clergymen also spoke of the need to respect each other's beliefs and agreed that it's only through dialogue that inroads can be made between the communities.

"There are different paths to God and salvation," said Rabbi Tanenzapf. "And exclusivist claims are hard to defend if one comes to terms with the depth of wisdom of other religions and the depth of character of its followers."

"All human beings have a part to do whatever is within their power to make this planet safe and enjoyable for themselves and everyone else," Imam Ally said.

After the clergymen spoke, a Christian audience member asked Imam Ally what Islam preaches in regard to events such as the Sept. 11 attacks. He responded that the tragic events of that day broke three major laws of Islam: one, don't kill non-combatants (civilians); two, suicide is non-permissible; and three, provocation of war is not allowed.

PURIM AT DJCS: Downtown Jewish Community School junior kindergarten students and their parents celebrate Purim in their classroom during a recent family education program.

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USDS CHUMASH CEREMONY: Grade 3 students at USDS Bayview campus celebrated their Chumash ceremony with drama, song and dance. The ceremony was enjoyed by teachers and parents. [Dominique Grundberger photo]

Passover food drive launched

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — National Council of Jewish Women of Canada, Toronto Section, has kicked off its 19th annual Passover Food Drive.

The drive, supported by Mazon Canada and Canadian Jewish Congress, assists more than 10,000 recipients by supplying essentials necessary for the week of Passover and the seder meal.

Food boxes include juice, wine, chicken, Passover non-perishables, as well as candles and a Haggadah.

The drive was started by women who wanted to help immigrants, said Terry Winston, executive director NCJW, Toronto, but it has grown and evolved to meet the needs of the entire community.

Last year, the organization provided food for the seder run by Ve'ahavta – Canadian Jewish Human and Relief Committee – for the homeless, the hungry and those with nowhere to go.

Avrum Rosensweig, founder and executive vice-president of Ve'ahavta, said about 100 people attended last year's seder and there was "plenty of food."

He said one girl who lived on the street told him it had been her first seder in years. "We helped her share in the holiday.

"Another woman asked us for help in locating an apartment in a Jewish area and we were able to help her."

Rosensweig said about 12 Buddhist monks also attended the seder. "It is a good opportunity to show the community what we are all about. It breaks down the stereotypes and helps cut down anti-Semitism."

Winston said NCJW also provides boxes for seniors, the infirm, some students and anyone in need. "We send out a letter to agencies such as Jewish Family & Child Service, Jewish Immigrant Aid Services, Circle of Care and the Reena Foundation, as well as UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and rabbis across the city. We list our criteria and they send us a list of recipients."

Although the organization is always looking for donations of kosher-for-Passover food, it can also use cash donations because it's able to buy food at wholesale prices.

"The community has always been wonderful in helping us out. Every year as the cost of food goes up, the list of recipients goes up. If we have cash donations we can buy exactly what people need," Winston said.

Donated food is never wasted, she said. Any leftovers go to the North York Harvest food bank or the inter-synagogue food banks.

NCJW is always looking for volunteers, Winston said.

For details, call 416-633-5100.

MEDIEVAL MAN: Leo Baeck Day School grade 4 students enjoyed a presentation by the "Medieval Man" to complement their unit on the Medieval period in social studies. Seen here (from left) Robbi DiMaria, Joseph Schwartz and Rena Etkin-Spigelman had an opportunity to don some of the gear that was worn in the Middle Ages.

2002 International OlympiYeda:

United Synagogue Day School is the Toronto host for the 2002 International OlympiYeda, a science contest sponsored by the Israel National Museum of Science for students in grades 8 and 9 in Canada, Australia, England, the United States and Israel. The contest is a four-stage event with the first two being completed locally via the Internet. Students progressing to stages three and four are invited to a summer science camp in Haifa. This year 14 USDS studenss wrote the first stage examination. Eight of the students who participated were successful in advancing to stage two of the contest. Seen in photo at left: (from left) Brahm Klar, Jeremy Ozier, Sam Chippin and Daniel Ferman. Seen in photo below (from left) Jonathan Goldfarb, Joseph Weissgold, Chaz Firestone and Eric Kaplovitch.

Two-part interactive lecture series returns

TORONTO — The Koffler Centre of the Arts, KOLEL and the Jewish Community Centres (JCC) of Toronto are joining hands once again to bring Toronto its second annual Kallah: The Gathering.

This series of interactive lectures brings together Jewish Community Centres across North America to study and learn in this continent-wide program that emanates live from the 92nd Street Y in New York.

The event includes some of the world's foremost thinkers and scholars such as Rabbi Harold Kushner, Alice Shalvi, Gov. Mario Cuomo and Elie Wiesel.

Each lecture is moderated here by a Canadian expert to facilitate discussion and debate. In turn, each JCC then has the ability to talk with New York and other JCC's simultaneously via satellite and Internet hook-up.

The continent-wide events, simulcast live from the 92nd Street Y are Sunday, March 10 at 7 p.m.

At the UJA Federation/Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street (Rooms 419-421), the topic will be The Ten Commandments with Rabbi Kushner, Shalvi, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin and Rabbi David Woznica in New York City. Toronto moderator will be Seymour Epstein, executive director, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education.

The second program will be held Thursday, April 18 at 8:30 p.m. from Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. The topic will be God: Personal Thoughts with Cuomo, Weisel and Rabbi Woznica from New York City.

Toronto moderator will be Rabbi Elyse Goldstein.

Tickets are $10/session in advance, $14/session at the door.

Special group rates also available.

To order tickets or for more information call (416) 636-1880 ext. 271, 416-924-6211 or 416-485-7007.

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Goldsilver Consulting Inc.

and

Daren, Martenfeld, Carr, Testa and Company LLP
Chartered Accountants

are pleased to announce the formation of

DMCT Capital Inc.

Effective March 1, 2002, Ralph Goldsilver will continue his practice of Corporate Finance and Mergers and Acquisitions as President of DMCT Capital Inc. Ralph brings in excess of 25 years experience as a senior partner in one of the largest single office accounting firms in Canada. Over the last 15 years Ralph has developed an expertise in corporate finance, mergers and acquisitions, turnaround consulting and due diligence assignments. As well as representing numerous Canadian-controlled companies seeking both debt and equity in financing their growth or in the acquisition or divestitures of businesses, he has represented many financial institutions and private investors in their due diligence assessments prior to providing debt or equity funding.

Ralph was a director and committee member of the Canadian Venture Capital Association (CVCA) from 1985 to 1995. He is a director of the Toronto Chapter of the Association for Corporate Growth (1996-present), an international merger and acquisition organization and served as Chapter President from 1999 to 2001.

Daren, Martenfeld, Carr, Testa and Company LLP, Chartered Accountants ("DMCT") is an intensively service oriented provider of quality professional accounting, tax and consulting services.

The addition of Ralph and his expertise increases the ability of DMCT to respond to the needs of the business community.

Ralph can be reached at
DMCT Capital Inc.
20 Eglinton Avenue West, Suite 2100,
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Yiddish speakers angered

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

TORONTO — Jewish Public Library officials say its Yiddish books will return to the shelves after they had been moved to boxes in the basement to make way for a Holocaust collection.

Library president Jerry Klasner, responding to complaints from members of the Bernard Betel Centre's Yiddish cultural club, would not specify a date for the books' return, but called it "a high priority."

In the meantime, Yiddish books are available the day after being requested by title, which Klasner described as a "minor inconvenience."

The library always intended to return the books to the stacks, he said. "I don't want anyone to think that we are getting rid of them."

Rabbi Irwin Witty, director of the Albert and Temmy Latner JPL, said a solution is being worked out, though he would not give details.

Rabbi Witty said the addition of the Holocaust books after the library's recent merger with the Holocaust Centre of Toronto has given the JPL an extensive collection of Holocaust material, perhaps the most complete in Canada.

Yiddish club member Leon Zarek said receiving books a day after they are requested is not good enough.

"This is not what a library is for," said Zarek. "We should be able to browse among Yiddish books on the shelves. It's a shame that a city with a large Jewish population like Toronto has no Yiddish library."

The library has received about a dozen complaints about the lack of shelf space for Yiddish books, Rabbi Witty said.

Zarek said 40 members of the Yiddish cultural club wrote a letter to UJA Federation in Yiddish last September complaining about what they contend is the federation's lack of support for the library, but received no reply.

Ed Segalowitz, the federation's vice-president for community planning, said the charge that the JPL does not have the money to shelve Yiddish books because UJA Federation does not sufficiently fund the library is unjustified. Federation gives the JPL $129,000 each year, Segalowitz said.

Looking for an interim solution, Rabbi Witty said he was rebuffed when he offered to send up to 80 Yiddish books to the Betel Centre each time the Yiddish club meets.

"Their attitude was that I was making fun of them and that they would have already read any books that I sent," Rabbi Witty said. "My answer was that I would send books that they have not read."

Campaign 2002 results are 'unprecedented'

Continued from page 3

war, he said in his 15-minute address. "The lives of Israelis are on the line every day and night."

Arens delivered an analysis of the current situation in Israel, concluding that Israel can overcome Palestinian terror attacks only through military means.

"The challenge facing us today is keeping Israel strong," he said. "A strong Israel will make it possible to live in peace and security."

Campaign vice-chairs Harvey Naglie and Carole Sterling, along with Jeff Cohen, co-chair of the volunteer development committee, presented the following volunteer awards.

Arens favours military means to end conflict

• Hidden Yidden Award to Darren Gottlieb of the young leadership division and Marvin Kirsh of goods and services – the volunteers who successfully canvassed the most new and first-time donors, raising $3,900 and $42,480 respectively;

• Outstanding Program Award to Michael Kalles and Alan Menkes, chairs of the real estate division, for their *CJN* ad that recognized realtors who had increased their donations to $1,000 and attracted 21 additional $1,000 donors;

• Distinguished Division Award to Owen Duckman and Earl Lipson, chairs of the technology division; and to Morris Flicht and Michael Rosenberg, chairs of the societies division;

• Rookie of the Year Award to Blayne Lastman, co-chair of goods and services, who raised $63,000, with an average donation increase of 163 per cent;

• Top Producer Award to Arnold Aberman, co-chair of the health services division, who raised more than $290,000;

• Top Young Canvasser Award to Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto student Aliza Glatter;

• Rise to the Challenge Award to Gerry Schwartz, event chair for the kick-off challenge fund event;

• Strategic Marketing Award to Len Gill;

• Top Telathlete Award to Ubby Krakauer for his telethon work;

• Pomegranate Award to Ruth Ekstein and Susan Gudofsky of Women's Campaign & Advocacy, which raised more than $5.4 million, approximately $500,000 more than last year.

An additional award was given to campaign associate Jennifer Cohen, the staff member deemed to have had the most direct impact on volunteer success.

There were more than 1,000 volunteers in all, Sterling said.

Next year's campaign chairs will be Ronnie Appleby and Howard Sokolowski. Hinda Silber will succeed Lesley Binstock Offman as Women's Campaign & Advocacy Chair.

בס"ד

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2 P.M. — RAV SCHACHTER
"Halachic Queries on The Blessings for the Arba Kosot"

4-5 P.M. — RAV BRUMER
"The Exodus From Egypt: A Foundation of Our Faith"

8 P.M. — RAV SCHACTER
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1:00 PM KEYNOTE: **PROF. DOV NOY,**
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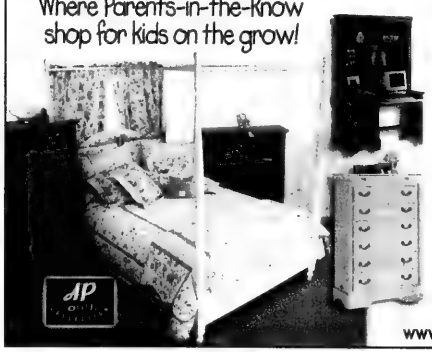

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For the Creative Homemaker, THE GENERAL STORE is a dream come true

Once in a blue moon, a unique, imaginative new merchandising concept comes to town. This is what you'll find at the Thornhill location of The General Store. The bright, cheery colours will enchant you as you step through the wide entrance, to browse through this intriguing, maze-like setting.

The General Store brings to the city the ambience of small-town shopping: a village of boutiques in the heart of the Promenade. It offers an unprecedented variety of handcrafted, one-of-a-kind gifts and collectibles. To see anything like this, you'd have to visit a thousand boutiques.

There's a feeling here that you don't usually associate with a big, 4,500-square-foot store. The 120 booths, together in an easily accessible space, represent boutiques, crafters, manufacturers, importers and wholesalers around the world. It's like a trade fair -- or streets of specialty shops under one roof.

The General Store offers an array of eclectic objets d'art from Kenya, Thailand, Scotland, and a thousand other places: everything from Southwestern Native American-style pottery and wall hangings, to wood and metal handicrafts from Indonesia, or East and West Indian carvings. There are over 20,000 articles in all.

Are you a creative homemaker, looking to beautify your home? The General Store is a dream come true, with something for every taste. Browse through unique decor accents and artistic finds ranging from pillows and table runners, to country afghans and wall hangings, to dried flowers and floral arrangements.

Would you like to enrich the quality of your home lighting? There are ceramic and Tiffany lamps, as well as glass and crystal candle holders and frames; there's handmade lead crystal, and stained glass. Even glass bowls and vases such as you see here, will enhance the way light reflects in a room.

Are you looking for housewarming gifts? There are switch plates, with themes such as flowers or fruit. For kitchen and dining room, there are platters, decorative plates, place mats, napkins, candelabra, and silverware with coloured glass inlay. An entire section is devoted to candles in many scents and designs.

There's something for every space, indoors or out. For a kid's room, for example, there are babies' sleepers with sports themes like hockey, or Noah's Ark. And there are sundials, stepping stones, cherubs, gargoyles, animal ornaments, and statues for outdoor places like your garden or porch.

Are you looking for a special keepsake, a gift for a special friend? There are photo albums, pewter frames, mugs and candle sets. Or how about a crystal chess set?

There are things for the office, too, to make it more personal. You'll find solid marble desk sets, clocks, paperweights and silver pen sets.

You'll see paintings in every style, abstract or representational; there are sculptures in every style, and every possible material from glass to metal. They represent craft traditions from around the world, from Native North American to African.

Would you like to support Canadian and Native artists? They're well represented. From Inuit artists, for example, there are hundreds of carvings, paintings and drawings.

Then there are personal items like aromatherapy, as well as handmade soaps and bath oils. There are wearable accessories like scarves, leather purses and hats.

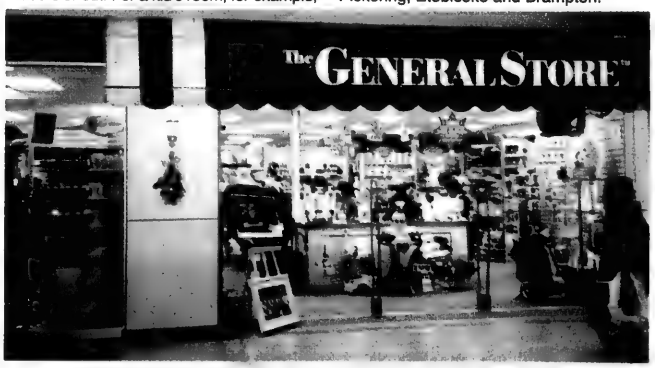
Do you enjoy an antique, nostalgic look? There is memorabilia such as kerosene lamps, old movie posters and John Deere collectibles.

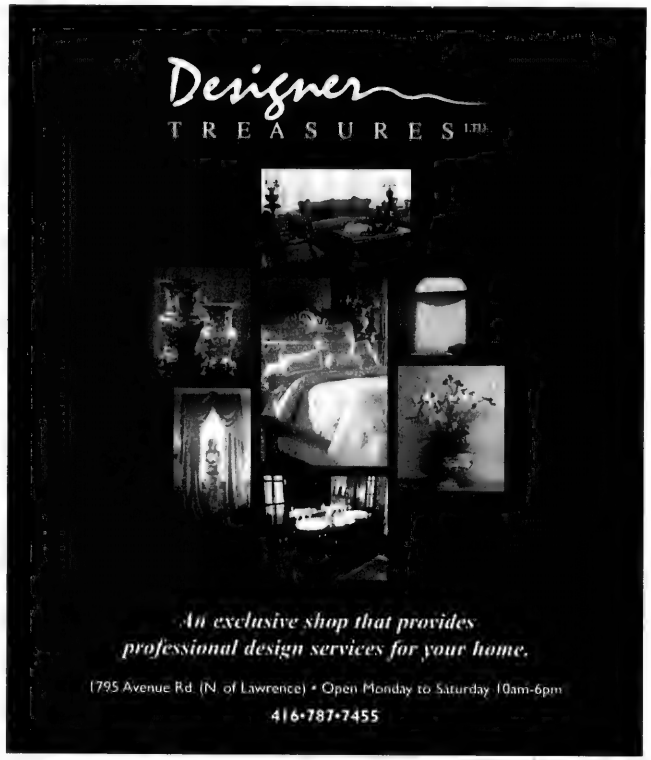
There are even delectations to nosh on. You'll find seasonings, sauces and boxes of fragrant teas; the sweets include maple syrup, popcorn in many flavours, bubble gum in dispensers, homemade brownies, chocolates and jams. And The General Store will put together gift baskets.

The atmosphere is relaxed, so take your time to browse; no one will look over your shoulder or hurry you along. At the same time, The General Store's helpful, knowledgeable staff are there to answer your questions when you need them. You pay for all your purchases, whether one or 20, at a single cash desk.

The Promenade store in Thornhill is the newest General Store location. You'll find it on the lower level of The Promenade (1 Promenade Circle, Unit 1016C) near Sears, opposite The Bank Of Montreal; phone 905-762-1844.

The General Store has 17 locations across Canada, with several others in the GTA area, in Markham, Richmond Hill, Pickering, Etobicoke and Brampton.

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For example, if a customer likes a certain style of sofa but prefers the arm or back styling from another one, we will customize it to how they want it. Green says, "We'll meet any measurement, within reason, since we also manufacture our own hardwood frames."

At Rawhide we pride ourselves on using only the best quality materials and long lasting construction methods. Green elaborated, "Our leather furniture will stand up to a lifetime of regular use and still look great. That's why we offer one of the best warranties in the business."

An interesting tour through their manufacturing plant reveals that there are no great secrets behind Green's philosophy for making fine leather furniture.

To this end, for example, all the leather used by Rawhide International is hand selected from top grade and full grade European hides. Frames are constructed on the premises from solid hardwoods which allow Rawhide to customize one's piece if so desired. Back & arm cushions are zipped to make them easy to remove for cleaning; all cushions are cut from full panels for greater durability.

To ensure years of comfort, Rawhide utilizes a coil spring suspension that's warranted for a lifetime of normal use. High density foam, which holds its shape is used throughout.

All the leather is double baseball stitched for extra strength and added durability.

"We take such great pride in the superior construction and quality we build into every piece we make", says Green.

"Our best customers are the ones who do their homework and understand the relationship between quality & value."

Green says, "After all, value is decided by how much quality you get for the dollars you spend. At Rawhide, what we offer is exceptional value."

Before you start shopping for leather furniture, Green invites you to come to Rawhide or visit them on their website at www.rawhideinternational.com and learn how great quality furniture is made. Then, he says you can shop with confidence as an educated consumer, knowing you're going to make an informed buying decision.

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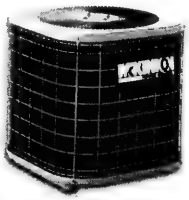

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At the best of times these are not easy choices to make. At the worst of times, why bother? The answer is because you have a need; insulate your home and preserve its value.

Another important question is "why choose vinyl over other window materials?" To begin with, vinyl windows are low maintenance. Wiping vinyl with a soft cloth and without the use of abrasive cleansers is all you need to do. Secondly, efficient and well-engineered vinyl windows will outlast most other window materials on the market. Aesthetically, they are clean and simple; you never have to paint them. Practically, well-engineered vinyl profiles are a fantastic insulating material.

So why choose an EMPIRE 2000 window? We base the answer on the three W's; weight, width and wear. The weight of our profiles matches or exceeds any top-name manufacturer in the industry. The width of our profiles ensures the window's strength and insulating value. The wear of our profiles means that we warranty every window, in writing, for life!

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So give us a call when you're ready to make a change. Our staff is available to answer questions and free quotations are available. At EMPIRE 2000 we believe that quality windows will not only enhance the value of your home but will also provide you with years of convenience and comfort. In this regard, EMPIRE 2000 is simply the clear advantage.

Advertising feature

One Glen Park luxury condos now under construction

Those who enjoy comfort, spaciousness and a carefree lifestyle should make **One Glen Park** — located at the southwest corner of Bathurst and Glen Park — their new home.

This project is part of Camrost-Felcorp's exclusive Signature Collection of condominium residences. In the past 25 years, Camrost-Felcorp has built in excess of 6,000 residential units. One Glen Park is the latest in a long line of design successes. For President David Feldman, it represents the fruition of an ambitious goal: to create a detached home environment in condominium form. As Community Sales Manager Barbara Klein notes, you could call these residences "houses in condo's clothing". Feldman and his design team have created a development that embodies everything a condo can and should be. In other words, a residence without compromise.

With construction proceeding rapidly (the ground floor is well under way), purchasers are scheduled to move into their new home before the end of 2002. And what a home! This jewel of a project, set among million-dollar single-family homes in this highly desirable neighbourhood, sets a new standard of excellence in condominium construction.

You're moving out of a house and into a condo for *convenience*: simple, uncomplicated living, without the *tsuris* of maintaining a house and yard. You want the lifestyle that lets you devote your time and energy to the things you've yearned to do for decades.

Construction proceeding rapidly for 2002 occupancy

One Glen Park offers you this, and a great deal more. Like living in a friendly area where you know your neighbours. Like enjoying all the advantages and convenience of the condominium lifestyle while remaining connected to all your old haunts. Like being within walking distance of shuls and shopping, family and friends.

There are some 43 condominium residences in the richly-appointed seven-storey building. There are a variety of designs available. The seventh floor has four penthouses, for example; each boasts a terrace as large as some entire condominiums!

Not only have One Glen Park's builders maintained the standards of fine design and craftsmanship that go with gracious living, each resident's needs will receive special consideration. This is not just a condominium, it's *your home*, and Barbara will be happy to spend as much time as necessary to ensure that it fulfills that vision.

The *porte cochère* provides a grand entrance for you, your guests, friends, and family. It is complemented by a distinguished, richly appointed lobby with a gracious, warmly welcoming fireplace.

Each condominium unit has a nine-foot ceiling, and there are pot lights in the kitchens and bathrooms. Brightness and generous spaces are the rule here.

There are five high-end appliances, and the kitchens have granite counters with undermount sinks. Whether you wish to enjoy a casual meal, or display your culinary flair at a dinner party, One Glen Park will give you what you've always wanted: a gourmet kitchen in your own home! Speaking of guests, the larger residences are spacious enough that if you feel like having 20 people for Shabbos dinner, there's ample room.

20 guests for Shabbos dinner no problem at One Glen Park

Your every comfort is provided for. You control your own individual heating and cooling environment. Some ensuite bathrooms even have whirlpools, double vanities, separate showers, and marble tile floors.

Want to keep in sync with the world around you? Every residence has provision for a high-speed Rogers Wave link, so you can surf the Web at your leisure.

There are an abundance of facilities for you and your visitors: two guest suites, a party room, and a kitchenette for catering. Thinking about athletics, or a healthy, physically active lifestyle? You'll find a steam room, a fitness centre, even a wave pool for aspiring Olympians.

Prices at One Glen Park — extremely competitive for such a high-end property — range from $286,800 to $980,000. Consequently, sales have been so successful that some two-thirds of the residences have now been sold. You're therefore advised to act soon to ensure you get the floor, suite and design you want.

Luxury. Convenience. Competitive pricing. One Glen Park is a truly inspired masterpiece of fine design, craftsmanship and gracious living that is sure to endure the test of time.

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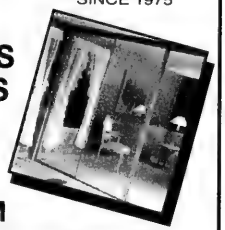

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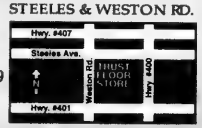

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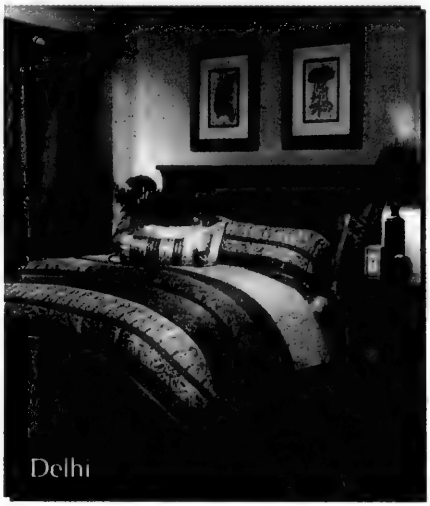
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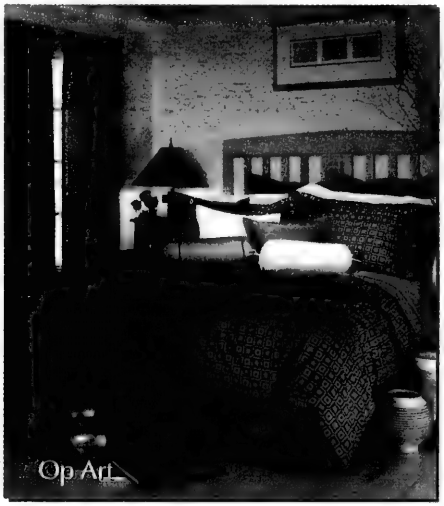
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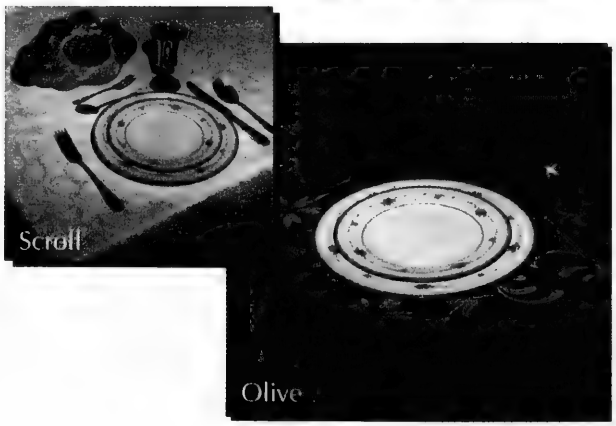
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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, March 4, is deadline for March 14 issue and Monday, March 11, is deadline for March 21. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 391-1836, fax 391-0829.

This week's column was prepared by Rebecca Nadler.

Thursday, March

JACS INFO MEETING

JACS (Jewish Alcoholics, Chemically Dependent Persons & Significant Others) information meeting every Thursday at 8 p.m. 858 Sheppard Ave. W. For information, call the confidential line, 416-410-5227.

SIX WAYS TO ASK GOD

Toronto Jewish Healing Project series, Six Rabbis: Six Ways to Ask God continues with **Rabbi Ronald Weiss**, who will discuss Addressing God: Does One Need A Stamp? 7:30 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation, 1700 Bathurst St. Wheelchair access. For details call **Etta Ginsberg McEwan**, 416-944-3359.

ISLAM'S INFLUENCE ON US

The Jewish Studies Program at U of T is sponsoring The J. Richard and Dorothy Shiff Lecture by **Prof. David Novak** on The Influence of Islam on Judaism. 6:30 p.m. at the Munk Centre for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Place, main floor. Admission free. For information call 416-946-5937.

Friday, March 8

CARLEBACH MINYAN

Minchah followed by a lively, spiritual and energetic Kabbalat Shabbat service with special guest **Chazzan Yisrael Motzen**. 5:45 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. All welcome. For information call 416-789-3216.

Saturday, March 9

SERVICE, KIDDUSH & TALK

Kehillat Ahavat Hesed is holding its next biweekly service at 10 a.m. at 788 Marlee Ave. Service will be followed by full kiddush and a talk by **Ya'acov Schneid** about his work on Jewish-Arab dialogue in Ontario. All welcome. For information call **Marion** 416-449-0004.

Sunday, March 10

SERVICES & SPEAKER

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood offers an exciting morning of prayer, food and a speaker. **Allen Gardner** will discuss December 1953: The Liberation of Men, the Consternation of Women. Services at 9 a.m., breakfast at 9:30 a.m. followed by speaker at 10 a.m.

WOMEN AND PEACE

The Winchevsky Centre celebrates International Women's Day with a presentation by visual artist bh Yael on Women Taking Action in the Middle East. Bagel brunch 10:30 a.m., program 11 a.m. UJPO members $4, non-members $5.

JEWS AND ARABS

The Leonard Wolinsky Lectures on Jewish Life and Education at The Centre for Jewish Studies at York University presents an afternoon of discussion on Jews and Arabs, Past and Present. **Prof. Steven Wasserstorm** speaks on Are We Still Monotheists: Reflections on the Children of Isaac and Ishmael after Sept. 11, at 1:30 p.m. and **Ruth Knafo Setton** on Jews in Arab Lands: Crossing Borders – Suleika and The Road to Fez, at 3:30 p.m. Founders assembly hall, Steeles campus. Details at 416-736-5823.

NCSY COMEDY CAFE

An evening of improv and fun for adults at Comedywood Theatre, Main Exchange Plaza, Bathurst and Steeles Ave. 7:30 p.m. For tickets and information call **Nechama Stern** 416-789-9293 or NCSY 905-761-6279 ext. 32.

Continued on page 29

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Continued from page 28

WORLDS IN COLLISION

Aish HaTorah presents **Rabbi Ken Spiro,** who will discuss the Middle East crisis and its role in the global clash of cultures in a lecture titled Worlds In Collision: Israel, the Middle East and the West, a look at the Palestinian intifadah and its link to the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. 8 p.m. 949 Clark Ave, $10.

FREUD CRITIQUED

Kehillat Shaarei Torah invites young professionals to a lecture by **Elliott Malamet** on A Religious Critique of Freud's Theories, 8 p.m. at 2640 Bayview Ave. Admission free, refreshments served. For information call 416-229-2600.

BETH TIKVAH FILM SERIES

Come laugh your way through *The Frisco Kid* with **Gene Wilder** and **Harrison Ford** on a large screen at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Guest commentator is **Larry Anklewicz**, programmer for the Toronto Jewish Film Festival. 8 p.m.

Monday, March 11

ERNST SUCHARIPA X2

Ernst Sucharipa, director of the Diplomatic Academy in Vienna and Special Envoy for Restitution Issues will give two lectures in Toronto. He will speak on The European Union Between Enlargement, Institutional Reform and Constitutional Debate: An Austrian View, 2 p.m,. at The Munk Centre for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Pl. room 108 N-Wing. On Tuesday, March 12 at 7:45 a.m. he will discuss, Revisiting the National Socialist Legacy, Restitution: Why Now? – The Austrian Experience, at Lipa Green, 4600 Bathurst St. rooms 420-421. Both lectures free. For information, call 416-946-8962.

UNDERSTANDING PRAYER

Rabbi Yael Splansky will discuss the meaning behind the words in prayer. Temple Har Zion, 7630 Bayview Ave. at 8 p.m. All welcome.

Tuesday, March 12

BOOK REVIEWS

Holy Blossom Temple Book Club presents **Prof. Henry Auster** of U of T, who will facilitate a discussion on the novel *If Not Now, When?* by **Primo Levi**. 2 p.m. For information, call **Anne** at 416-789-3291 ext. 235.

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood is presenting **Dena Taylor,** who will review and discuss *A Conspiracy of Paper* by **David Liss**, a mystery about a Jewish boxer and the stock market in the 18th century. 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Mar. 13

POMEGRANATE GUILD

Chaya Natiy will teach participants how to make kippot out of leather and fabric, embellishing with embroidery. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim, 470 Glencairn Ave. For information call 416-402-7189.

ASHKENAZI FOLKTALES

The Jewish Studies Program at U of T presents the 2002 Shoshana Sheir Distinguished Visiting Professor, **Dov Noy** of Hebrew University, delivering the second of three weekly public lectures on The Folk Literature of the Ashkenazi Jews in Eastern Europe. Tonight's topic is The Folksong, 8 p.m. in Lash Miller Chemical Labs, 80 St. George St., room 161. For information, call 416-978-8118. Free.

And What Else Is New

DISCOVER JERUSALEM

Alex Gropper and **Gary Lipton** will present a lecture on Ancient Jerusalem in the Historical and Archaeological Record at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Congregation, 55 Yeomans Rd. 8 p.m. The lecture will include a pictorial investigation into the findings of excavations in Jerusalem. Admission free.

WOMEN AND PASSOVER

Beth Tikvah Sisterhood invite the public to their second Women's Seder, Tuesday, March 19 at 6:45 p.m. with **Rachael Turkienicz**, who will lead a unique educational and spiritual evening. Members $25, non-members $30, by reservation only. RSVP by March 11 at 416 221-3433, ext. 353.

Toronto Hadassah-WIZO presents Women and Passover: Past, Present and Future, with **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**, Wednesday, March 20. $18, dessert included, reservations required. For information call 416-630-8373.

PESACH SEDERS

Beth Radom Congregation invites members and the community to a traditional seder service led by **Rabbi Steven Schonblum**, March 27 and 28. Cost per seder, Adults $70; teens 14-18, $55; children 4-13, $35; children under 4 free. Space limited, reserve early. 416-636-3451.

Beth Tzedec Congregation communal seder, Thursday, March 28. To reserve call 416-781-3511.

LEARN HEBREW

Keren Hatarbut is beginning registration for summer courses for adults, teenagers and preteens in conversational Hebrew for beginner, intermediate and advanced students. For information call **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

JF & CS GROUPS

For information on, or to register for, upcoming Jewish Family & Child Service groups, contact **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Birthdays, Hockey Games & Holidays: Making It Work After Divorce: This workshop is designed to help parents learn new strategies to deal with daily events, holiday celebrations and life-cycle events after separation. Monday, March 18, 7-9 p.m. at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313. Registration and information, ext. 215.

Adolescents And Divorce: This workshop offers parents of teens an opportunity to explore the characteristics of adolescents and to understand how they cope when their family changes. Wednesday, March 20, 7-9 p.m. at 4600 Bathurst St., 6th floor. Registration and information, ext. 215.

FOR SENIORS

Earl Bales Seniors' Club membership open for 2002, $12. March 10, dance with live band 7:30-10:30 p.m.; Wed. March 13, 1 p.m. lecture on dental care; March 6 and 20, Casino Rama: March 14, Casino Niagara: Dancersize classes with **Kitty Cohen** every Thursday at 10 a.m.; Wood carving with instructor Monday thru Thursday, 9 a.m. to noon. Free with membership. 416-395-7881.

Join the **LZA Seniors Club** for socializing Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building) **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking persons meets Tuesdays. March 12, **Gadi Anavi**, regional director of the aliyah office, speaks on Israel and Terrorism. 7 p.m. in the auditorium. **Anna**, ext. 110.

Susan Jackson, director of community planning at UJA Federation will present Humorous Memories of Previous Passovers on Tuesday, March 12 from 10-11:30 a.m. in the synagogue. Admission $1.50 members, $3 non-members.

Musical Interlude with Tom every Monday at 1 p.m. in the music room. No charge.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Spaces open for September in Tic Tac Two. This program for toddlers runs from 9:15-11:15 a.m. September to mid-June. Class options Monday/ Wednesday/Friday or Tuesday/ Thursday or Monday to Friday. For information, call ext. 351.

March 11-15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Red Cross/Lifesaving instructor certification (required to teach Red Cross swimming lessons) for those who have Bronze Cross and Aqualeader award. Fee $270 plus GST. Call **Graham** ext. 252.

Interactive lecture series via satellite broadcast from New York, Sunday, March 10, 7 p.m.: The Ten Commandments with **Rabbi Harold Kushner, Alice Shalvi, Joseph Telushkin** and **David Woznica**. $10/session in advance, $14 at the door. Group rates available. Call ext. 271 or 416-924-6211.

A new show by Montreal artist **Gilbert Boyer** begins at The Koffler Gallery. Thursday, March 14, artist talk 6 p.m., reception 7-9 p.m.

Spring trip to Branson, Mo., together with Bernard Betel Centre via deluxe coach, includes tour of Chicago, St. Louis and shopping in Erie, Pa., May 28-June 5. Call **Teme** at ext. 364 for registration.

DOWNTOWN LUNCH 'N LEARN: Heenan Blaikie recently hosted a series of learning sessions on the Book of Esther given by Hilda Weil. From left are Andrea Rush, Weil and Bonnie Langer. More sessions are planned for April. For information, call 416-398-1510.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

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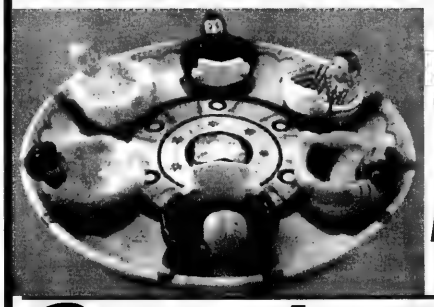

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Mazel tov to Cy Epton on your 80th birthday. With much love from your children and grandchildren.

A swinging 60th anniversary party was held for Ralph & Florrie Kay. Daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren, family, friends and neighbours attended.

Leah & Jacob Weiss and Jacquie & Lloyd Lindsay are delighted to announce the engagement of their children Sharon & Neil.

Mazel tov to Vanessa Bower on your recent bat mitzvah. With lots of love from your parents, brother and all of your family.

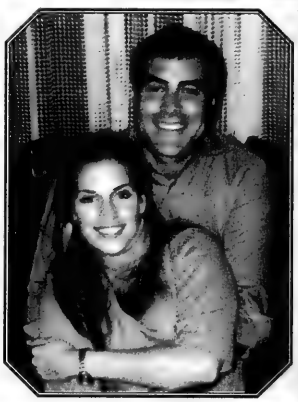
Judi & Rick Morris, Janice & Alan Luftspring announce the engagement of Mindy & Aaron. Grandparents, Marvin & Sylvia Morris, Pete Starr, Renee Luftspring.

Mazel tov to Andrea & Moishe on their engagement. Parents are Ildiko & Paul Fulop and Reva & Ian Brown. Grandparents and siblings are thrilled.

Karen & David Cohen, Art & Ellie Silver announce the engagement of their children Bronna & Jeffrey. Proud grandparents Anne Mitgang and Saul Cohen.

Mazel tov to Mary & Mike Carr on your 61st anniversary. With love from your family.

Happy fourth birthday to Ben from parents Jacquie & Stewart Dankner and proud grandparents.



Miriam & Steve Komlos announce the engagement of Amanda to Marc Valencia, son of Shula Besser & Henry Valencia. Grandson of Perl Besser.

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Students should expand their horizons: educator

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Students who choose their university major only because they want to enter a certain profession or get good marks may be painting themselves into an academic corner if they don't get into that program, warns educational consultant Judy Libman.

"If you're looking for one feature of a university, try to find one that encourages students to take a mix [of courses] in their first year," Libman said in a lecture sponsored by the sisterhood of Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Last year, Libman left York University – where she had been director of student development for the Faculty of Pure and Applied Sciences – to devote herself full-time to her consulting business, Ambitions Educational Consulting. She attributes the volume of inquiries she receives, in part, to a decreased availability of advice for students, both at the high school and university levels.

The result is that students turn to each other for advice. Sometimes students are quicker to pick up on things than the university, she said, but sometimes they're simply wrong. "As an example, lots of students will tell each other you have to go to a university that has a medical school, to be able to go to a medical school. This sort of *narishkeit* [foolishness] gets passed around with the authority of truth."

Often, young people don't interact with anyone other than their friends, she said. "You want to help them see other perspectives," she told parents. "It's enormously important to help them get comfortable with the idea of relating to adults in school and in the workplace, specifically around the idea of mentoring. The kids who really get it, and make it, have had somebody get to know them, or take an interest in them and mentor them."

It's important for students to take at least one small course every year, so they can get to know a professor, she said. From a pragmatic standpoint, students may need letters of reference, she added.

Other ideas include becoming involved in a committee or otherwise becoming "engaged with" the university. Don't avoid opportunities, Libman advised.

She is also big on networking. "When students want to find out about a particular career, you can help them by saying, 'You remember Auntie Ellen's neighbour at the cottage. Do you know that she does that? Why don't you give her a call?' "

Another way for students to broaden their horizons is to read the newspaper, specifically the op-ed pages – not just the news, she said. "Talk about it over the dinner table."

It's also important for parents and their children to have a good rapport and clear communication around career issues, Libman said. Sometimes parents unintentionally send signals that are misinterpreted. Typically, a parent might say – conversationally – that a cousin is in medical school and seems to enjoy it. "You're just trying to keep the conversation going, and they hear, 'Oh-oh, I have to be a doctor.' "

Students have to choose majors way too early, Libman believes. As early as Grade 9, she said, students are choosing courses based on perceived difficulty, and whether or not they like the particular teacher. "Students who think they're interested in sciences will try to take nothing but sciences and maths, and students who have a bad experience will never take it."

In her experience, students often aren't aware of, or don't even consider, more than half a dozen career choices. "In my view, choosing a career before you start university is like choosing a caterer for the wedding before you have the first date."

First year, Libman believes, should be a time to broaden horizons and check out options.

Because of the double cohort year – in which the OAC year is being discontinued, meaning that current Grade 11 students in Ontario will be finishing high school along with students who are now in Grade 12 – students may no longer be able to count on being accepted at a particular university or into a particular program, said Libman.

Although government funding has enabled universities to add new buildings, funding for "faculty renewal" (replacement of retiring faculty members) is targeted to specific areas such as computer science and biotechnology, but not liberal arts or fine arts, she said.

She does not believe that students' delaying university for a year will solve the problem.

Other advice for parents of university or pre-university or college students included:

• Recognize that their career world is going to be very different from ours. Make it a joint learning process to find out about options – information should flow both ways.

• For students using tutors, the tutors should teach them independent thinking and insight, not simply getting the right answer this time.

• Don't let students work too many hours. Research shows that more than 10 hours a week of work in university will lower their marks.

• Help them know that everything isn't life-or-death, and that marks aren't everything. Encourage them to view competition as competition with themselves to achieve their personal best, rather than as competition with others. It's much healthier.

LAW STUDENTS HOLD CONFERENCE: Justice Ian Binnie of the Supreme Court of Canada, third from left, spoke to Canadian Jewish law students including, from left, Louis Wolfson, outgoing CJLSA president Leigh Lampert and Jon Freeman, all of Dalhousie University, at the annual Canadian Jewish Law Students' Association conference, held recently in Montreal. The conference brought together about 90 students from across Canada and addressed issues related to Judaism, Zionism and responsibilities as Jews in the legal profession. Raphael Feldstein of the University of Ottawa was elected to succeed Lampert.

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1:30 p.m. - Professor Steven M. Wasserstrom
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3:30 p.m. - Ruth Knafo Setton
"Jews in Arab Lands: Crossing Borders — Suleika and the Road to Fez"

The lectures will take place in the Founders Assembly Hall, 152 Founders College, Steeles Campus.

The Wolinsky Lectures are sponsored by the Centre for Jewish Studies, the Faculty of Arts, and the Faculty of Education of York University in cooperation with the Toronto Board of Jewish Education.
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On Campus

New pro-Israel paper planned at U of T

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A new student newspaper under the auspices of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) is raising controversy, and the first issue hasn't even been printed yet.

An editorial in the Feb. 25 issue of the University of Toronto student newspaper, the *Varsity*, questions the "utility" of *CounterPoint*, a pro-Israel paper whose first issue is expected to be published in the next few weeks.

How long before there is a pro-Palestinian newspaper to counter *Counterpoint*, asks the *Varsity*. "And with each side firing salvos at each other from closed communities ensconced in newsprint, what hope of real debate is there?"

The *Varsity* and its "anti-Israel bias," according to a Feb. 7 article in the *Charlatan* – its counterpart at Carleton University – was the catalyst for U of T student Benjamin Matta, 21, to start *Counterpoint*.

Not so, said Matta, a third-year Human Biology student and *Counterpoint's* editor-in-chief, in an interview last week. Yes, there have been "problems" at U of T, but there are problems all over, he said.

When he returned to Toronto last year after a year of study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Matta was unprepared for "all the rhetoric I saw in student papers and pamphlets people were handing out at schools saying that Israel doesn't have a right to exist, and that Zionism is racism. Also, in the mass media, I noticed subtle things that make the situation seem different than it is."

Actually, said Matta, he thinks the *Varsity* is "doing a good job overall."

Stuart Lapowich, Israel Affairs Co-ordinator for JCS, believes the *Varsity* is not balanced in terms of space given to each side of the issues regarding the Middle East conflict, but said that could be due in part to a dearth of pro-Israel articles being written for them.

In any event, both Lapowich and Matta agree that *Counterpoint* has a role to play, and not just in the Jewish community.

Matta and some of his fellow students, who now serve on his editorial board, had thought of starting a pro-Israel paper. When they approached Lapowich, they discovered he had similar ideas.

"I wanted to get the truth out, as I see it," said Matta. The target audience is not just Jewish students, although he hopes it will help Jewish students who feel intimidated by anti-Israel challengers and think they have nothing to say. "I want to give them the confidence and knowledge to know what's going on and to be able to say something."

For non-Jewish readers, Matta expects *CounterPoint* will provide a broader context. He hopes it will be available for public distribution at approximately a dozen universities. Approval is pending, once the first issue is available for examination.

"We are committed to including a wide range of opinions," said Matta of the student-written publication. An interview with a representative of the Arab Students Association at U of T, for example, is set to run in the first issue, he said. Another article will address the United Nations' treatment of Israel.

CounterPoint is being funded by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's communication department, and approximately 12,000 copies are expected to be printed. Matta is hoping for quarterly publication.

Book addresses non-academic issues

TORONTO — Of the 10 chapters in a new book for parents of university-bound students, only one is specifically devoted to academic concerns.

Some of the other issues affecting choice of school are spelled out or hinted at in the title *A Parent's Guide to Sex, Drugs and Flunking Out: Answers to the Questions Your College Student Doesn't Want You to Ask*, by Joel Epstein (Hazelden Publishing).

The author is a Massachusetts-based former director of special projects and senior attorney for the U.S. Department of Education's Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Prevention.

Although the book is American-oriented, it offers enough practical, generic information – including safety tips, health-related information and suggestions for what to bring when moving into a dorm – that parents and students here can also benefit.

The suggestion to check out school newspapers is one example. "What alcohol or drug-related messages are expressed in the ads, articles, editorials or letters to the editor?"

More food for thought:

• In what sort of environment do I thrive? Will I feel comfortable at this school?

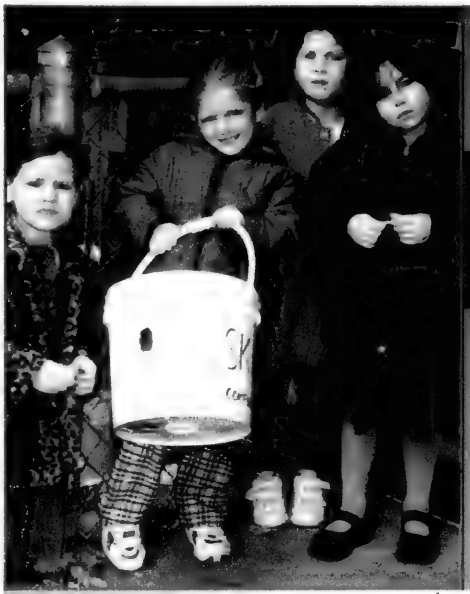
A Web site mentioned in the book, www.hadenough.org, includes disturbing student stories about alcohol and campus life. It indicates that in the United States, 95 per cent of violent crime on campus is alcohol related.

Although he doesn't mention Judaism per se in the section on diversity and housing considerations, Epstein briefly addresses the role of diet and religious beliefs in choosing housing and roommates.

In a section on faith issues, he advises parents whose college-age students become more religiously observant – or less – that "learning to let go in the spiritual realm may be just as important as in other aspects of your son's or daughter's life."

He also devotes a two-page section to sexual orientation, noting that gay student life on campus is "thriving and here to stay." For some students whose family members don't accept their homosexuality, the campus may represent a "protected place," he writes. He notes, however, that discrimination and hate crimes are among the issues facing gay and lesbian students, and ultimately their parents.

The book concludes with a resource list of publications and Web sites. – F.K.



LIVE & LEARN

Challenges

Anyone involved in the world of Jewish or secular education in recent years has seen many changes unfold. This supplement will examine some of these changes from different perspectives.

Students have begun to feel the effects of a more rigorous general studies curriculum at the same time as administrators have had to cope with the pressures of a teacher shortage.

Some schools have taken steps to address the needs of students in a variety of ways, but educators and administrators point to a lot more that needs to be done.

As Jewish day school parents look forward to the financial relief of tax credits, accountability to ministry guidelines is being debated by some provincial political leaders.

In the supplementary education arena, adult learning programs appear to be growing while the number of children registered in Jewish after-school classes is decreasing.

And although subsidies are available to families in need, the challenge of making Jewish education affordable and accessible to the middle class is becoming a real concern as the cost of programs and resources soar.

These are just a few of the changes that will leave their mark on the students currently working their way through the system, and will influence who they will become as adults.

Of course, our children are also very much affected by their home lives and the environment in which they grow.

With Passover just around the corner, many of us have begun to prepare our homes for the holiday.

As I begin my plans for the cleaning and cooking, my mind turns to the seder table where we will sit down as parents and role models and teach our children about their history.

And I remember that the interactive nature of the seder will invite all participants to engage in learning, regardless of their personalities or educational styles.

From generation to generation, the Haggadah has taught us that each child must sit at the table and help tell the story of his or her Jewish heritage.

I believe that we are also compelled to ensure that every child has the opportunity to sit at a well-stocked education table, no matter how challenging the times.

–AM

Desperately seeking qualified teachers

The following four articles represent a summary of discussions between* The CJN *and many of Toronto's Jewish day and supplementary school principals.

Some of the issues raised by the principals were then discussed at a roundtable at York University's Centre for Jewish Studies. Participants included Seymour Epstein, executive director of the Board of Jewish Education; Prof. Alex Pomson, co-ordinator of York University's Jewish Teacher Education Program; and Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services.

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Recruiting, training and retaining teachers is currently the most pressing problem facing the Jewish education system.

Experts note that an explosive growth in Jewish day school enrolment coupled with an increased demand for teachers in the public schools has led to a dramatic shortage in the supply of educators in Jewish schools.

In the United States, organizations such as the Coalition for the Advancement of Jewish Education (CAJE) and the AVI CHAI Foundation have adopted resolutions and taken steps to deal with the personnel crisis in Jewish education.

In Toronto, UJA Federation's Board of Jewish Education Midrasha l'Morim and York University's Jewish Teacher Education programs are available to train teachers.

In the meantime, the current teacher crisis affects the ability of schools to deal with any other problem, said Lucy Cohen, director of education at United Synagogue Day School.

"Teachers develop skill sets at our schools and then go off to public school jobs for better pensions and easier jobs, sometimes with only two weeks' notice," Cohen said. "And projections from the Ministry of Education and the Ontario College of Teachers suggest this problem will continue over the next decade."

Toronto Heschel School principal Gail Baker said it has become especially important to train teachers to meet new curriculum guidelines.

This is especially challenging without access to the professional development programs that the public schools have, added Sheri Wise, general studies principal at Bnos Bais Yaakov for Girls.

Jewish day schools are further burdened by their need to find teachers in both general and Judaic studies, said Reuven Stern, principal of Netivot HaTorah Jewish Day School.

"We need North American teachers for cultural symmetry and Israeli teachers for their perspectives," he said.

Elyssa Cohen, director of the Downtown Jewish Day School, added that some schools expect their teachers to be well versed in the arts as well.

Paul Shaviv, headmaster of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto said administrators need to face issues relating to the professional training of teachers.

"Many of our teachers are professionally underdeveloped," Shaviv said. "There are Jewish studies teachers in our schools who do not have standard curriculum or textbooks, nor do they have sufficient pedagogical training."

Shaviv also said Jewish day schools should offer tuition discounts for children of teachers in those schools in order to attract and retain educators.

Responding to the teacher shortage:
Salaries and status seen as key issues

Kaye: We see a lot of young people who contemplate coming into the field and while initially they may see Jewish education as desirable career opportunities, there are many factors which cause them to reconsider.

Salaries are very low and expectations are very high. However, the turn in the economy may cause more people to consider Jewish education as an alternative career.

Offering teachers discounted tuitions for their children is certainly an issue worth looking at. When I worked in Australia, anyone working in the Jewish community only had to pay 50 per cent of the Jewish day school tuitions. In Toronto, however, you're dealing with a lot of teachers and this would be a major expense.

Epstein: I'm not sure that we have our finger right on the socio-economic issues. We are seeing more students consider careers in Jewish education today because money is no longer the determining factor for them.

As the Jewish community gets richer, some kids feel that they don't have to earn a real salary – similar to periods in English history when people first felt they had their incomes in place before they took jobs.

The question should be how much the large, well established, wealthy families will suffer in this current economic downturn and how this will affect this current generation of kids who wouldn't be dependent on teachers' salaries for a full income.

These dynamics cut across all sectors of Jewish life – haredi, Orthodox, as well as within the liberal Jewish world.

However, this doesn't necessarily affect the issue of status, which can be just as important a factor as salary.

As far as discounted tuitions go, people are considering this issue right now. Toronto is a strange city because most other communities do have arrangements for teachers. We have to solve this problem for teachers and communal workers. However, with such a large day school population and staff, I don't know how we would find those kinds of resources.

Pomson: Today, recruitment isn't as hard as retention. Toronto in particular has done very well at selling teaching as a career and enhancing its status in the eyes of the community. York University's Jewish Education program has seen a growth of 50 per cent in the number of students, as well as a steady number of graduates from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Teaching requires a certain amount of commitment to a vocation – students come into the profession because they feel they're good working with children and they take pleasure in giving of themselves. However, in the long run, you can only live off vocation for a certain amount of time and then financial issues become more significant.

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Live & Learn

Meeting the needs of all children

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Meeting the behavioural, social, educational and psychological needs of as many students as possible is a fundamental challenge facing today's Jewish schools.

For teachers and administrators operating under financial constraints, just teaching children the day-to-day curriculum can sometimes be a challenge.

But schools need to find the resources to accept students who do not fit the "mould," said Kathy Manoim, principal of She'arim Hebrew Day School.

Right now, she said, "schools only want students who are low maintenance and do not require extra time or remediation."

Sheri Wise, general studies principal of Bnos Bais Yaakov for Girls, echoes Manoim's sentiments.

"Your heart tells you that you need to provide special programs, but it is financially very difficult," Wise said.

"Families want [their children] in our schools for reasons of commitment and Jewish learning," said Zita Gardner, director of the Leo Baeck Day School.

However, Gardner pointed out, educators are facing increasing demands for many reasons. Problems emanating from divorces, marital tensions or difficulties with parenting all work their way into the classroom.

"Many parents face enormous demands outside the home and cannot always handle the needs of their children," Gardner added.

Manoim said that when parents don't have enough quality time to spend with their kids, it leads to children who are emotionally needy.

In addition, Manoim said "children are stressed due to over-programming, long school days and little time to develop other interests."

Anita Wein, vice-principal of general studies at Toronto Jewish Academy (Ohr Menachem), said class size is an important issue.

"Where classes are large and composed of students of diverse backgrounds and ability, both behaviour and learning are negatively impacted."

Gail Baker, principal of Toronto Heschel School, said educators need to make use of research on the different ways children learn.

Paul Shaviv, headmaster of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto, and Norman Smith, principal of the Bnei Akiva high schools, pointed to the need to provide opportunities for educationally challenged and non-university bound students.

It's important to change the perception that all Jewish children must go on to academic-oriented professions, Smith said.

"We need to make Jewish education accessible to kids who are currently disenfranchised or non-academic," Shaviv said.

Addressing Student Needs:
Accommodating the greatest number of children

Prof. Alex Pomson, York University: It is to the credit of the principals that they see it as their responsibility to address the needs of the greatest range of children.

Meeting the educational and psychological needs of a broad range of children within each school – an inclusive model – is probably educationally and ethically sounder than providing a separate school model. However, doing so requires a greater level of resources.

Right now, I don't see any easy answers. The current system is already straining to find teachers sufficiently qualified to run regular classrooms. Special needs educators are even harder to find.

On the other hand, it wasn't so long ago that every time a principal had a problem, they would call parents and say, "Your kid can't handle the double load," and the kid was taken out of the system. Principals, schools and public opinion have come a long way since then.

Zac Kaye, Jewish Campus Services: When Jewish day schools do not meet the needs of children, parents are faced with a very difficult decision.

Parents experience a lot of angst trying to reconcile the needs of their children with social pressures that may run counter to their best interests. When peer groups pressure them to stay in a system which may not be best serving the interests of their children, it's important for parents to put the needs of their children – their education and future – in front of what peers are saying.

Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education: This is one area where we have to be careful of absolutes and platitudes. The problem is that you have to see it as a continuum. On one extreme, schools can either meet all children's needs or, at the other pole, maintain a high-level curriculum. Schools are going to find themselves somewhere in the middle or striving towards one end.

These days, there is a strong sentiment in the community for schools to be much more inclusive. However, sometimes a separate school, like She'arim, is needed for those cases that can't be easily mainstreamed.

While the problem has a lot to do with resources, it also requires an attitudinal change. Often, it is the parents of the so-called normal child that complain about special needs children.

Fortunately, things are changing. Twenty years ago you would never have seen camps with programs for developmentally challenged kids. Today Camp Ramah's Tikvah program is celebrating its 10th anniversary.

See page B17 for information about some available special needs programs.

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ONE POTATO, TWO POTATO: Grade 1 students measure the length of a potato peel at the Toronto Heschel School. From left, Mathew Jadd, Jenna Weisz, Isaac Mazer and Russel Gitalis.

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Maintaining Jewish continuity

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Parents have different expectations from day schools and Jewish curriculum is not always a priority, say many educators.

Yet providing a serious approach to Jewish studies was seen as a primary educational objective for all the principals surveyed by *The CJN*.

The divide between parent-body expectations and school vision is creating a new tension in the educational environment.

There are a growing number of parents whose commitment to Jewish education may not be the main reason for choosing our schools, said Zita Gardner, director of Leo Baeck Day School.

Uri Korin from Bialik Hebrew Day School pointed out the importance of providing students with intellectual and spiritual "food for the road" in terms of knowledge, values and codes of behaviour that will sustain and enhance their commitment to Jewish heritage and Jewish community.

Wein said it is important to establish and maintain a position of religious observance that will be meaningful to students.

And Hamilton Hebrew Academy principal Rabbi Morton Green said all kids must be taught to feel a personal responsibility to become recipients and transmitters of Jewish history and tradition.

Rabbi Abraham Soffer from the Associated Hebrew Day Schools noted that it is important to ensure that educational levels remain high by never diluting the program.

Dealing with Curriculum
Finding a threshold of Jewish values

Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education: Some schools have a complete unity between the identity of the school and the community they're serving. However, in those schools where there are real discrepancies between the values of the school and the parent body – where the levels of observance are very different – tension will be created. It can be a healthy tension if it's handled well.

Schools that don't have problems with identity have a greater danger of becoming complacent, falling into ruts and not looking for the next push.

Prof. Alex Pomson, York University: While there are many factors related to the increase in enrolment in Jewish education, there is no question that the decay of the public school system is correlated with the growth of the Jewish day school system in North America.

However, principals have been talking about the reluctance of the lay leadership to define with greater clarity what their school stands for because they don't want to alienate any sector of the population.

Epstein: People may be choosing Jewish education because it is still cheaper than other forms of private school education and they're interested in the social and neighbourhood aspects that the schools can offer.

Zac Kaye, Jewish Campus Services: There are societal pressures as well. People put their kids into Jewish schools because all their friends are doing it, but they aren't really motivated by the level of the Jewish program.

Parents are demanding a style, quality and value system that they want out of their children's education. When you have demand from parents who are looking for something very specific – you see a push and pull going on.

Pomson: The boutique school phenomenon is related to a deepening consumer power in the Jewish community. People have greater disposable wealth and are ready to separate themselves off from the mass in order to pursue certain social and personal needs.

However, I would like to think that there's a bedrock of Jewish values that informs the kinds of decisions that the community makes and encourages a commitment to address the needs of the greatest number within the community in a moral fashion.

LEARNING SCIENCE AT TJA: Grade 5 students, Rachel Ben Margi (left) and Jasmine Filler conduct a science experiment at the Toronto Jewish Academy (Ohr Menachem).

Live & Learn

Supplementary Education: Crisis or crossroads?

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

At the same time that day schools are enjoying increasing enrolment, after-school Jewish education programs are fighting declining numbers.

Experts say that with parents and students facing increasing demands and pressures, supplementary education is often the first after-school activity to go.

Principal of Beth Tzedec Congregational School Dan Goldberg said changes in secular education have put heavier demands on families.

"Time available for extra curricula is curtailed significantly and kids are exhausted by the time they get here," he said.

In addition, Goldberg said supplementary schools face a shortage of interested and qualified teachers.

It is a difficult profession where the pay isn't ideal and there is little respect. Furthermore, Goldberg noted, the Federation of Jewish Teachers' Union makes requirements regarding certification that may not necessarily be effective in an afternoon Hebrew school classroom.

Traditional classroom techniques and approaches need to be replaced by more creative approaches that employ elements of informal education, he said.

Karen Goodis of Shaar Shalom Religious School pointed to the need to implement outreach to the unaffiliated.

"It's important to make our schools and synagogues welcoming and affordable communities," she said.

As the public school curriculum changes and more families have two working parents, there is pressure to move to less frequent sessions, Goodis pointed out.

And while programs can be exciting, learning requires commitment, time and effort from students and teachers.

"If the next generation of Jews are going to be educated and care about Jewish life and institutions, we need to change the approach many families have towards Jewish education," Goodis said.

Eli Kirshblum of Adath Israel Congregational School said the most critical issue facing supplementary education is its very survival.

"The population of Conservative movement schools is going down yearly and the United Synagogue movement has no ability to set standards for each shul," he said.

Michelle Lynn from Holy Blossom Temple Afternoon School said her greatest challenge is finding personnel to deliver the program.

"We have limited hours to offer and funds to pay talented people. Many begin their careers here and then leave as soon as soon as they find full-time jobs."

Lynn also said educators need to find the imagination and courage to think of different ways to bring up the next generation of educated Jews and not get stuck in the assumption that education has to mean "school."

Joan Schoenfeld from the Downtown Jewish Community School said outreach and publicity are crucial.

"Parents need to be educated about the types of schools available and the differences in philosophy among schools."

In addition, the available pool of good, qualified teachers continues to shrink, Schoenfeld said.

And cost and funding have become important factors because supplementary schools have lost various government grants over the past few years.

Hopefully, Schoenfeld said, the availability of tax credits may reduce the financial pressures on UJA Federation's subsidies to day schools, and the role of supplementary schools in expanding Jewish education will be recognized and funded.

Roundtable
The Canadian Jewish News

Supplementary School Education
Creativity crucial to survival

Prof. Alex Pomson, York University: I like to think of the world of supplementary education as a very fragile ecosystem. It is a very brutal, tough world to work in.

After-school education is much more sensitive to the smallest changes in the social or academic environment than the day-school system. The relationship between families and synagogue life has also had a profound influence on supplementary schools.

On the other hand, it's no coincidence that many of the more creative developments in Jewish education have emerged out of supplementary education.

For example, family education, which is now working its way into day schools, initiated in supplementary schools. And dealing with Jewish education in experiential terms is something that congregational and supplementary schools have been more willing to contemplate.

Some classrooms in the United States have effectively abandoned the classroom to allow for a more individualized approach.

Seymour Epstein, UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education: For the most part, supplementary schools get their children from that segment of the population for which Judaism is less essential to their lives. That again contributes to the fragility of the eco-system. It also means that you have to do everything you can, in an outreach fashion, to get to these people and not turn them off.

You have to be very careful about curriculum and tuition.

One of the few advantages of supplementary schools is that they have a greater chance of community, especially if a school is connected to a synagogue.

Zac Kaye, Jewish Campus Services: The panacea for supplementary school is innovation. Tying those schools together with camping or Jewish community centres would provide all sorts of opportunities. There doesn't seem to be a flow today between all the different programs out there. Each one is doing their own thing.

For a more detailed look at the dilemmas facing after school programs, see page B18.

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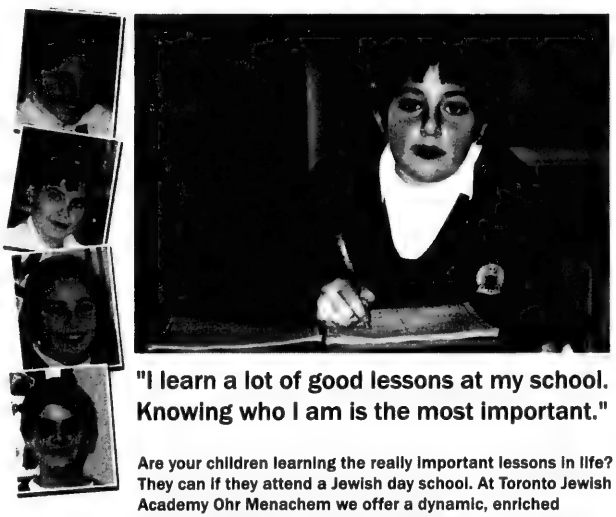

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Live & Learn

The Double Cohort Challenge

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

With the double-cohort year fast approaching, the only ones taking it all in stride seem to be the students.

September 2003 may see double the number of usual applicants to Ontario universities as the first batch of Grade 12 students complete a new four-year curriculum at the same time as the last graduates of the five-year OAC program finish their studies.

The Ontario Ministry of Education states that it is preparing for the estimated 78,000 additional spots needed by 2005-06.

However, People for Education, a grassroots research and lobby group, claims that in September 2003, the 18 universities across the province will be ready for only 60,000 students.

That could leave a short-term shortfall of close to 20,000 spots. Universities are asking the government for more operating funds to hire additional teachers and staff to deal with the problem.

The government has appointed two working groups to study the double cohort issues and claims that it will be ready.

In the meantime, guidance counsellors are telling students to work harder because admissions to universities may be based mainly on grades. At this point, there is no indication that any consideration will be given to extra-curricular activities.

This year's Grade 11 students are being told to think about taking an extra year to retake or add courses. Some guidance counsellors are recommending that parents send their children for post-secondary education outside of Toronto.

In addition, parents and students are being told to widen their options and consider universities or colleges in smaller towns or out of the province.

And while a ministry of education spokesperson stated that they have established a working group to ensure that neither cohort is disadvantaged when applying to universities and colleges, parents are being told that the "new-curriculumed" four-year students will be given no special consideration when competing with students graduating from the older five-year OAC program.

Chana Libman

Some parents are claiming that the four-year graduates are at a disadvantage because they've had to cope with a newer, harder curriculum sometimes even before textbooks have been available or teachers prepared to deliver the program.

The OAC students, on the other hand, are being pressured to fast-track through the system in order to get to university by next year. At high-school meetings, administrators have been telling parents to curb their anger against the province for creating this crunch and work with their kids to put together timetables for next year.

Dana Doidge

Choosing courses has become much more important for students in the new four-year high school program because they are required to prepare and maintain annual education plans to meet year-to-year course requirements.

However, it is difficult to formulate any future plans because many universities haven't even nailed down their acceptance criteria. Standards will depend on the number of applicants they receive as well as the amount of funding allocated from the province.

Continued on page B7

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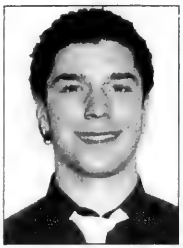
Four teens face the future

Continued from page B6

And with classes and student faculty ratios rising as high as they can go, the only things left to go up are the admission standards required of the incoming class.

Within this backdrop of uncertainty, *The CJN* revisited the four students introduced last year.

Chana Libman, Dana Doidge, Noah Buckman and Yonah Krakowsky are now in Grade 11 and have one more year to go before they finish high school. All four students said that, ideally, they would like to eventually go to medical school.



Noah Buckman

Yonah Krakowsky

Dana, who is in the Claude Watson Arts program at Earl Haig Secondary School, was the only one who said that the double cohort problem is an issue that she thinks about.

"I'm always aware of it," Dana said. "Universities are recommending that we work as hard as we can and the cut off grades keep going up."

It's very difficult to be studying in such an uncertain environment, she added.

While Dana and Noah hope to go to university right after high school, Chana and Yonah are planning to take some time off and go to Israel after graduating.

"I'm still planning, God-willing, to go to Israel the year after I finish high school – maybe to a seminary," said Chana, who is at Ulpanat Orot Girls School.

Yonah, an Or Chaim student, is considering going to a yeshiva. However, he hasn't dismissed going to a kibbutz for awhile.

"Milking cows might be kind of fun," Yonah said.

For university, Yonah is considering New York as an option.

Pursuing post-secondary education out of town is something Noah is also considering seriously.

"I wouldn't mind going to Western or McGill after high school," the Community Hebrew Academy student said.

"If I can keep up my average, then it shouldn't be too much of a problem," Noah added.

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Daniel Igra (right) studies geography while Rachel Nashman, Amanda Shmuel, Samara Bell and Erin Sass participate in a lesson at the Montessori Jewish Day School.

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Ontario joins provinces funding independent schools

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

For just about anybody who hasn't won a lottery, $12,500 is a lot of money.

In some parts of the country, it's a down payment on a house; pretty much anywhere, it will buy a used car, partly furnish a home, buy a luxury vacation for two almost anywhere. For those with tighter budgets, it will buy groceries, pay the rent, heat a home and put gas in the van.

Whether it's for luxuries or necessities, $12,500 could solve a lot of problems. But for thousands of Ontario parents with children in Jewish day schools, $12,500 covers the average high school tuition for only one child for one year. Spending the money while their Roman Catholic neighbours receive full public financial support to educate their children in religious schools means most will have to cut corners somewhere else.

'Most will have to cut corners somewhere else'

For years, parents and Jewish organizations bristled at the inequity while trying to persuade a succession of Ontario governments and opposition parties that justice demanded non-Catholic religious schools also receive public funding.

Advocates of public funding pointed to other jurisdictions across Canada, arguing that provinces from British Columbia to Quebec fund Jewish schools and those of other religious denominations, to varying degrees.

As Alberta embraced a charter-school alternative, a variety of funding schemes were discussed, from the provision of school vouchers, to creation of associated school boards, to tax relief to outright grants.

Then, in its spring 2001 budget, the Ontario government surprised just about everyone by announcing that, beginning Jan. 1, 2002, it would offer tax credits to parents sending their children to independent schools. The credits are being phased in over five years and will eventually be worth $3,500 per student.

The announcement proved controversial, as supporters of public schools warned it would suck money out of the public system and put the future of public education in doubt.

Supporters of the tax credit argued it was a good first step, but that it didn't equal the funding available to parents with kids in the Catholic system.

The development was a long time coming, but it merely meant Ontario was joining other provinces – whether led by governments of the right or left – that have been funding independent schools for years, without the apparent collapse of their public systems.

According to the Federation of Independent Schools in Canada, an Alberta-based national advocacy group, British Columbia, for one, has been funding independent schools since 1989.

B.C.'s Group 1 schools – which have education programs consistent with ministerial orders, employ certified teachers and comply with other provincial regulations – receive operating grants of 50 per cent of adjusted per student operating costs in the local public district. The provincial average is $3,000.

In Alberta, accredited private schools receive a basic instructional grant of about $2,544 per student, an amount equal to 60 per cent of the basic instructional grant given to public schools.

Saskatchewan funds only a few existing independent schools, which receive $4,924

Continued on page B9

THE JEWISH RESPONSE TO MISSIONARIES
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LAMPLIGHTERS: At Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad, Grade 7/8 students, Shaya Edson, Zevi Wachtel and Yossi Gershon Goldberg put on a puppet show based on a chassidic story.

Alternative approaches to funding

Continued from page B8

per student, while Manitoba provides a per-pupil grant of 50 per cent of the net operating expenditures for public schools based on allocations in the previous two years. For 2001-02, that amounted to $3,018 per student.

Quebec independent primary schools receive about 58 per cent of the per pupil grant available to public schools. The other provinces do not provide direct grant support.

When fully implemented in five years, the Ontario tax credit will refund to parents about half the per pupil grant in Ontario public schools, said Georganne Burke, secretary of the Ontario Association of Jewish Day Schools. Between 12,000 and 13,000 youngsters attend Jewish day schools in Ontario.

Burke, who's working on the campaign of Tory leadership candidate Tony Clement, said even if the credit covered 100 per cent of the Ontario per pupil cost, it would leave Jewish parents short of the $12,500 average tuition fee charged by high schools and the average $8,300 charged by elementary schools. Furthermore, she pointed out, parents must pay the tuition and wait months for tax season before they get a refund.

'Parents must pay the tuition and wait months for tax season before they get a refund'

Nevertheless, the tax-credit scheme "will ease the burden on parents with children in day schools," said Ed Morgan, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region.

The Jewish community, which has been lobbying for financial assistance for years, did not favour any specific funding method. "Before the May 2001 budget, we never thought of a tax credit system," Morgan said.

"Before the tax credits came in, we'd have been happy with anything, because it was such a glaring case of discrimination that was crying out for some remedy."

In 1985, he pointed out, educator Bernard Shapiro completed a report on private schools in Ontario. Shapiro, then director of the Ontario Institute of Studies in Education (OISE), recommended creation of a "new creature, a hybrid public/private institution under the wing of the Ministry of Education."

While the Shapiro report gathered dust, talks were under way behind the scenes between B'nai Brith and Catholic boards to see if, in a test case, a Jewish school could come under the auspices of the separate board and be funded that way. Talks proved unsuccessful.

"History has shown that any arrangement has to be negotiated or blessed by the government of the day, and not with other school boards," Morgan said.

An association between Jewish schools and a separate school board was one of 10 options outlined by Shapiro in his 1985 report.

Eventually, he narrowed the possibilities to four: taxable grants to parents; limited support in the form of subsidized materials, transportation, etc.; a voucher system with a cap on total school spending; and the associated schools model.

He further narrowed his choices to the voucher and associates school models, saying implementation of either would address the funding issue while offering healthy competition for public schools.

"Private schools, once planned or operating, would apply to either the public or the separate board for associated status," the report stated.

Shapiro, who now serves as principal of McGill University, thinks the school board association model is even more relevant now than it was 17 years ago.

"I think people are looking for more alternatives today than they did in the 1980s," he said. "People are interested in custom-made choices rather than ones off the rack."

An association between public and independent schools gives parents a choice in education approaches while maintaining the strength of the public system in providing "some sort of common ground" beyond television and visits to shopping malls, he said.

The tax credit approach "does nothing for common citizenship."

Charter schools, another model he investigated in 1985, "could be quite helpful," but they limit students' exposure "to the whole world."

Vouchers, he continued, are problematic. While they give parents choice, they can also be seen to "subsidize the wealthy." He suggested there should be limits on the choices available to parents, but that would require a consensus on the vision of the society we want to build.

"In the end, we all have to live together and we can't live together living apart," he said.

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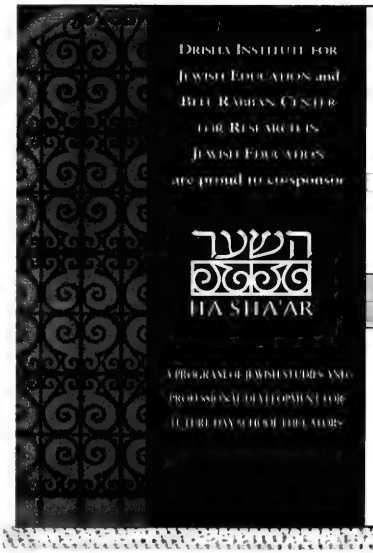
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Jewish schools and the accountability question

By ED MORGAN

Curriculum accountability: as the saying goes, is it good for the Jews?

In the Jewish tradition, let's answer the question with another question. Is it good for the Muslims? Or the Doukhobors? Or, on a slightly different note, the Montessori movement?

Ed Morgan

It is no secret that in the post-Sept. 11th climate, the issue of religious schooling is uppermost in policymakers' minds. Some monitoring is called for since the school setting does not itself guarantee political innocence. No one should forget the fact that the very word Taliban means "students."

Of course, international terrorism is not about to emerge from any Ontario schools. However, Mohammad Khalid of the Islamic Society of North America, which runs several schools in the Greater Toronto Area, is on record in this newspaper as being concerned enough about those Islamic schools that are not part of his organization that he advocates Ministry of Education oversight for all religious schools in the province. Likewise, well-known social commentator and journalist Irshad Manji has courageously written about the misogynistic and anti-Semitic education she received in an Islamic school in British Columbia.

Since worldwide problems have washed up on our shores, it behooves us to also take a close look at some more homegrown concerns. For example, the Chosen People Ministries and the City of David Hebrew-Christian Church, have established themselves in Hamilton and Thornhill. Both of these organizations actively seek Jewish converts, and are recognized as religious groups in Ontario that run evening and Sunday educational programs and schools. And then there are the Doukhobors, whose religious doctrines about public nudity and arson have been a source of continuous conflict with the authorities in western Canada.

This is not to say that the opponents of private education are correct when they argue that religious schools teach intolerance or foster harmful social divisions. For the Jewish day schools, nothing could be further from the truth. As an example, the only Toronto area school to receive last year's Canadian Black History Month Association's education award was the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

We are justifiably proud of our own accomplishments with respect to multicultural education and tolerance; this, in turn, should prompt us to accept (and demand) a level of public accountability for all schools that will ensure that no groups are crossing the appropriate line.

While transparency and accountability are justifiable on the tolerance front, curriculum may well present a very different set of issues. The debates surrounding the Tory leadership race have to a large extent centred on this very question. Some of the candidates favour the status quo of no accountability, while others argue that public tax subsidies should come with curricular strings attached.

Continued on page B14

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Public funding and accountability:

Should day schools be worried?

By PAUL SHAVIV

Ontario is certainly not the first jurisdiction to ask privately sponsored faith-based schools to meet minimum standards in return for direct or indirect funding. In Britain, for example, Jewish schools have been able to integrate into the public education system for over 150 years and many have done so, especially since the 1944 Education Act. Closer to home, Quebec funds the general studies programs of nearly all the schools in the Montreal Jewish system.

Paul Shaviv

What do schools fear? Will the government interfere with the way that Jewish studies are taught? Will compulsory general studies courses contain material that the schools may feel contradicts their "core values?" Will the hiring of teachers be restricted because of the need to meet minimum professional qualifications? Overall, will schools lose control over the education they wish to provide?

No one can guarantee the long-term decisions of the Ontario government, but experience elsewhere suggests that we probably do not have too much to be afraid of, and possibly a great deal to welcome. Most governments are little concerned with private schools and tend to leave them alone as long as they are reasonably well and safely run and don't cause trouble. By the same token, schools and school systems seem to evolve mechanisms to avoid the most sensitive culture clashes in general studies – either by carefully exercising legitimate choices or by negotiating new provisions in the curriculum.

However, in general, the requirement to conform to even minimum standards brings many benefits. It makes teachers, and therefore schools, more professional. It is often a catalyst to new educational thinking and planning within the school. It tends to increase parents' confidence in the system. As well, in the complicated age in which we live, no one should object to the requirement that all school employees must undergo checks for criminal records. And some health and safety requirements are indisputably beneficial.

Minimum standards bring many benefits

Occasionally, there are disadvantages to minimum standards. In England, for example, the level of Jewish studies, including the knowledge of Hebrew, in Jewish day schools is lamentably low, because the standard required for subject skills and knowledge in religious studies in the public examination system is low, and many Jewish schools feel no incentive to go beyond it. Is that a possible problem in Ontario, where the system is different? Unlikely.

Accountability, wherever it comes from, may be painful, but it is generally recognized as, ultimately, a good thing for institutions, organizations and individuals. Jewish schools are really no different. While it may take time for the school system to adjust to a new reality, the benefit to our parent body of the new Ontario tax credit for private school tuition will be considerable – and equitable! It should be welcomed.

Paul Shaviv is the headmaster of the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

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Parents support their children...

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

When school life started to become difficult for Josh, he and his family had to work together to help him get back on track.

Until Grade 5, Josh had been a stellar student who was active in sports. However, lower grades and signals from the school and his teachers about Josh's behaviour left his family wondering what was going on. He had, for example, begun to clown around and to speak out in class inappropriately.

An important turning point for the family came when his parents took him to a specialist and he was ultimately diagnosed with a mild form of Tourette's syndrome.

"I was pretty shocked when the doctor told me. I had no idea that there was anything wrong with me and didn't understand what it all meant," Josh said in an interview.

Children with Tourette's, which is neurologically based, often display involuntary, rapid, sudden movements and/or tics, which can be vocal or physical, and occur nearly every day.

Symptoms are experienced in the same way as sneezes – almost impossible to hold back.

About three per cent of the population is affected to some degree, said Rosie Wartecker, executive director of the Tourette's Syndrome Foundation in Canada.

Teachers and parents often don't understand the disorder, said Josh's mother, Ellen. What frequently happens is that the children start getting punished for things they can't stop themselves from doing.

Because he is an outgoing kid, she said, Josh took on the role of class clown as a way to cover up for a medical disorder he didn't understand.

"As my behaviour got worse, problems in school began to escalate because everyone just expected me to misbehave," said Josh, who was in a Jewish day school until Grade 7.

After he was diagnosed, Josh and his parents began investigating and reading as much as they could about Tourette's in order to help Josh cope.

"The Tourette's Syndrome Foundation became an incredible support group for us as a family," Ellen said. "We didn't realize how many people were affected by the disorder and their advice helped us understand what was happening.

"We met incredible people – professionals and sports figures," she said. "It really helped us to see all these people out there who are affected by Tourette's.

"The next hurdle for us as parents," Ellen said, "was to educate Josh's teachers about his disorder."

The foundation helped the family develop strategies for teachers to use, including breaks outside the classroom when Josh needed them.

"However, it became impossible to organize a time that teachers would agree to come in and meet the experts we would bring in," Ellen said. "They insisted that union regulations wouldn't allow their free time to be used to help a child.

"Even after we would explain the source of Josh's problems, most of the teachers still insisted that he was simply trying to get out of doing things."

They also pointed to the fact that a class of 25 students didn't allow them to meet specific individual needs, Ellen added.

"But because Josh is so bright, creating a place for him to have structured breaks wouldn't have been so difficult. It wouldn't have taken Josh a lot of time to catch up with any missed material.

"Not allowing him to take breaks was like denying diabetic children their insulin," Ellen said. "But the teachers just didn't see this."

Josh has since changed school systems and is now doing much better, his mother said, adding that in his current school environment, which is structured and consistent, Josh is an A student. He also plays select hockey almost every night of the week.

Ellen also noted that it is important for Josh to hear positive comments from his teachers.

"These kids need more positive [feedback] because they hear so much that is negative all the time," she added.

"I feel much less stressed now," Josh said.

Josh's advice to kids with Tourette's is not to be scared of it nor afraid to tell people that you have it.

"Once I told people, I felt a lot better getting it off my chest," Josh said.

Always be optimistic, he added, because the symptoms can get milder over time.

It's also important as parents to always support your children, Ellen noted. "Josh had to know that everyone has their issues and we were going to make this work because we loved him unconditionally no matter what."

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By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

Many children would rather not go to school every day, but few come to hate it as much as 11-year-old Jonathan did two years ago.

He loathed school to the point where he'd sit and devise ways to get out of class – until one day, his plan turned dangerous.

"When I was in Grade 2 [in a Jewish day school], I went into the boys' bathroom and clogged the sinks with paper towels," says Jonathan, recalling the events that ultimately changed the course of his life.

"Then I turned on all the taps and pumped soap into the sinks. The sinks started to overflow. When there was this much water on the floor," he said, using his fingers to indicate about two inches, "the vice-principal came in and slipped."

Though many teachers and parents would have branded Jonathan a bad child or a behaviour problem, his parents Gill and Ian knew better.

"For me that was a turning point," said Gill, sitting at her dining room table across from Jonathan. "I wasn't sure whether he was gifted, but I recognized that he was very bored."

Jonathan took an IQ test, was found to be gifted and was subsequently enrolled in the primary gifted program at a public school, where he was much happier.

"In the regular class, the teacher tells you what to do and you do it," Jonathan explained. "In the gifted program, you go into more depth. The teachers develop and stimulate your brain more. They don't tell you how to do something. They give you choices about how you want to do your work and you figure it out on your own."

Jonathan's three older sisters are also gifted, and they have similar praise for the gifted program.

"In the gifted class, you cover the same curriculum as in the regular class," said Debra, 13, and a student at another public school, "but you learn it faster, and in more breadth and depth. For example, we learn a unit in math in one week instead of one month, and because we're learning at a faster pace, we go on to work we wouldn't otherwise learn for a couple of years."

While Jonathan and his sisters got the enrichment they needed, other children aren't always so fortunate.

"Gifted children are often misunderstood," says Dr. Otto Weininger, professor emeritus at University of Toronto and a clinical child psychologist who works with gifted and challenged children.

"When they're bored in class, they develop their own curriculum, and then they're accused of not paying attention. They are beyond the teacher and move rapidly, in a different way. Sometimes they're thought of as nerds, as too different, and they don't feel as though they're part of the group," he says.

"When kids aren't understood, their difficulties evolve into emotional problems. They're not worked with adequately, they express disinterest in their academics and flounder."

Some statistics suggest that the high school dropout rate is split evenly among gifted children and poor students.

While there are gifted and enrichment programs for children, there is concern that fewer and fewer children will be able to attend them. Children must be tested and recommended for special programs, but with the recent abolition of mandatory Grade 3 IQ tests, there won't be as easy a way to recognize a gifted child.

Gill, who has sat on various educational and advocacy committees, fears that soon there won't even be a publicly funded gifted program.

"I think they're slowly dismantling the program," she said. "With no mandatory testing, fewer gifted children will be found, gifted classrooms will get smaller and smaller, and the board will then say they can't justify the cost of having one teacher in a room with five or 10 students. A lot more kids will slip through the cracks."

Her kids agreed that a destreamed program could create difficulties.

"If they do dismantle the gifted program we'll all be in one big class and the kids won't be able to get along because there will be too many differences," Jonathan said. "It will be hard to talk through problems because one kid will be speaking at a higher level than the other. And we'll have nowhere to go to get more intellectual stimulation."

"The kids who learn more easily would get bored and start talking to other students who may not learn as quickly," Gill added. "The whole class would be disturbed. I think you'd find this at a greater level."

As a result of the elimination of mandatory testing, Weininger advises parents to be their kids' protectors. "Parents have to be strong and stand up for their kids. They have to look for indications that their child may be gifted and speak to their child's principal to find out about gifted programs."

Otherwise, gifted children and society as a whole could suffer.

"I'd like to think that gifted kids are encouraged to develop and take a leadership role," Gill said. "It would be a disappointment to see that potential not come to fruition. You can't teach down the middle. The board's policy is to allow each person to develop to their full potential, but without the gifted program, this can't happen."

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CHAT EXPLORES TEEN VIOLENCE: This year's teen awareness week at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto addressed teen violence. Psychologist Barbara Bresver (centre) discussed the warning signs of violence in order to help students with prevention techniques. The week's organizers, students Tasha Gordon-Solomon and Joseph Heller, are pictured with Bresver. [Anna Morgan photo]

Facing the accountability question

Continued from page B10

For Jewish day schools, the issue is not quite so severe as it is for Montessori schools or other programs whose entire rationale is to present a different curricular choice. Jewish education predates the Ontario school curriculum by several thousand years. It did not arise as a protest or a pedagogical alternative to Algebra or to Shakespeare or to the War of 1812.

Catholic separate schools, with whom the Jewish day schools have always sought parity, fully comply with the Ontario curriculum. No one is proposing that kind of far-reaching control, but some compliance needs to be considered.

In recent weeks, Ernie Eves, the most outspoken advocate of independent school accountability, has indicated that his real concern is with standards, not curriculum. The goal is to ensure that tax subsidies are being spent on schools that, at the very least, convey the "three R's."

From a policy point of view, this proposal is entirely reasonable. It is any government's responsibility to strive for a literate and productive population. Our political leaders are now indicating that everyone must meet basic standards of education, but that how we get there is a matter of parental and school choice. This is what the Jewish day schools have wanted all along.

Ed Morgan is chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and a professor of international law at the University of Toronto.

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More kids turning to tutors for help

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

A few years ago, having a tutor wasn't considered the coolest thing, but today, perceptions have changed dramatically.

In recent years, tutoring companies across the province have noted marked increases in the number of students enlisting their services.

"It's so common now to have a tutor," says John Tzelardoni, part owner of Math Masters Inc., which opened in Toronto in 1994 to teach math, English and science to an expanding clientele.

"Kids walk into the waiting room and realize there are four classmates in the room," he says.

Other tutoring companies, such as Oxford Learning Centres and Kumon Math and Reading Centres, have also seen their numbers surge. As enrolment rises, some centres have noted changes in their clientele: tutors are no longer just for students having difficulty in class.

"The educational reality today is that average isn't good enough to get into [the best] university," says Steve Lewis, director of two Oxford Learning Centre franchises in Toronto.

"We've noticed a significant increase in the number of people choosing tutoring even if their kids are doing well in school. They want their kids to have a leg up," says Lewis, noting that Oxford helps improve reading, writing, math and study skills.

Industry experts say a number of factors explain these trends.

"Today, parents are more aware of what's happening in education," says Sandy Franco of Kumon, which has experienced a 150 percent increase in enrolment in its reading program over the last five years.

"There's provincial testing for grades three and six in reading, writing and math, a Grade 9 math test and a Grade 10 literacy test," says Franco. "When parents see their kids performing at certain levels, they can compare it to other kids at the national and provincial levels. Parents send their kids to Kumon to supplement their child's education if they noticed problems on the tests or to ensure their kids stay ahead."

Another major factor is the new curriculum.

"The curriculum in Ontario schools changed three years ago," says Tzelardoni. "They're trying to cut five years of topics into four years. They've pushed Grade 10 curriculum into Grade 9 and they've even introduced some Grade 11 curriculum to the Grade 9s.

"They're not really preparing primary students for the upper levels, and kids are overwhelmed," says Tzelardoni, noting that more grade nine and 10 students have been coming to Math Masters in the past couple of years.

Franco also thinks the jam-packed curriculum is creating problems for kids, not only because the material is tougher, but also because there is less time for students to absorb new concepts.

"Tutoring programs provide students with the opportunity to practice the material so it won't be a stumbling block in the classroom," she says.

Though the curriculum is taught at a faster pace and the material is harder, Lewis says students aren't able to get the kind of attention kids used to get from their teachers.

"Parents want their kids to be able and ready without relying on the school system," he says. "They know the education system is stressed and that teachers are doing the best they can with limited resources."

And despite their best efforts, Lewis says parents may be unable to help their children.

"Parents are having difficulty helping their kids with the new math curriculum," he says.

"We're finding that the new curriculum is creating more homework and stress at home. It can be hard for parents to work with their own kids, but if their child isn't an independent worker, it means parents have to work with them, and it can be stressful," he says.

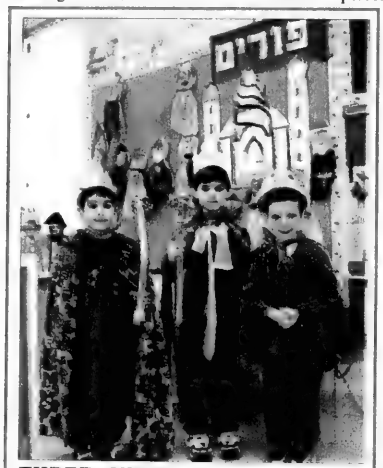
"Parents come to us with a big help sign."

According to those in the field, children will leave with a new and improved attitude, better grades and more confidence, especially since many centres also teach time-management and study skills, factors that contribute to academic performance.

"Because we're able to zero in on the needs of each individual student, we can show significant gains with them," says Lewis.

"We guarantee parents a change in the attitudes of their children. They'll be amazed at how much their kids will enjoy [being tutored]. The program is fun and teachers are well trained and motivating," he says.

All it takes, these tutors say, are a couple of hours a week.



THREE KINGS: Senior kindergarten students (from left) Gabriel Rott, Jonah Silverman and Shaya Dalfen dress up for Purim as King Achashverosh at Associated Hebrew Day School's Posluns campus.

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Live & Learn

Services available for pressured families

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

There is a growing need for services to help families in this complex world we live in, says social worker Beth Feffer.

"Today, we have a greater awareness of the increased pressures students face and we are more able to respond," says Feffer, who is a manager of school social work services at Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS), a preventative outreach and consulting program that services six day school systems, the Toronto District School Board in the North York area and 12 York Region public schools.

Peer pressure, fitting in, bullying, academic competition and a host of other pressures have impacted on young people, says Rosalie Sniderman, principal of the Posluns Education Centre, located at the Neptune Branch of the Associated Hebrew Schools of Toronto.

"Parents are much more aware [than in the past] of the social and emotional needs of their children and are willing to be open and look for professional assistance," she says.

Sniderman, an educator for more than 25 years, says the increase in demand may be due to the growing number of single-parent families, as well as the stresses caused by job insecurity, longer working hours, and families with two working parents.

"Parents want to be good parents and are open to seeking assistance," she says. "The help is discreet and we try to defer any type of labelling."

The stigma attached to psychological and remedial help has decreased as more and more families face home, educational and peer pressures.

"It is not only children with different needs who require help," Sniderman says. "Students with exceptional abilities and talents can benefit from the support services as well."

When a parent or teacher has a concern, the home and the school work together to find the best coping methods for both the student and the family, Sniderman says. An interview is scheduled between the parents and a counsellor or principal so they can arrive at a more comprehensive understanding of the difficulty and decide on an appropriate course of action.

"This [action] may include an assessment by a Jewish Vocational Service [JVS] psycho-educational or tutoring and remediation consultant," Sniderman says.

Ruth Borchiver, director of educational services at JVS, says the increase in density of study, notably in high school, has become common knowledge.

Parents are willing to investigate the sources of their children's academic difficulties more readily now than in the past, she says.

"There is evidence that psychological services which include assessment and consultation are often decisive in enabling children with barriers to learning succeed in day school programs."

Principals are more aware of problems such as groupings and conflicts, says Feffer. As an example, she says, schools have put in place anti-bullying programs.

"Usually the child doing the bullying has a feeling of low self-esteem," Feffer says. "Children need to learn ways to respond non violently. When this situation becomes evident, it is important to listen to the child.

"Children today have increased peer pressure to fit in. Sometimes they turn to smoking, alcohol or drugs as a way of gaining acceptance from their peers."

Parents are encouraged to meet with the school social worker and may be referred to parenting programs at the school, the agency or in the community, Feffer says.

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BJE launches new Web site

In an effort to make resources and information more accessible, the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education has launched a Web site for educators, parents and students.

The Web site (www.bjetoronto.com) provides a variety of resources for teachers – from a library of educational CD-ROMS and reviews of selected books and videos that educators can "try before they buy," to lists of professional development, job and grant opportunities.

The site has recently expanded to include links to general studies materials such as lesson plans, puzzlemakers, and maps.

In addition, there is a holiday section which includes listings of useful materials that can be helpful for teachers and students.

Parents can find contact names and addresses, as well as short descriptions about Jewish schools. And students can find listings of Web sites for research projects, information about inter-school programs, and enjoy looking at photos of themselves.

Live & Learn

Special needs education thriving at Hebrew day schools

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

There have been some exciting developments at many Hebrew day schools in the field of special education, says special education consultant Dori Levine.

"Attempts are being made to accommodate students who have never before been accommodated," says Levine, who has been with the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education (BJE) for four years.

Each school is autonomous and has either created its own special education program or has plugged into the services provided by Jewish Family & Child Service or Jewish Vocational Service of Metro Toronto, she says.

"Over the years, we have seen a changing attitude towards special needs education. There is no longer a stigma attached to students who require the services."

Levine says the BJE plays an important role in helping to sensitize the community and in ensuring that students have access to necessary services.

Representatives from a number of Hebrew day schools met recently to discuss special education programs, she says.

"It was very empowering for them to be able to talk about their differences and to acknowledge areas that need development. Everyone was very enthusiastic about sharing their ideas."

One of the board's new initiatives is the tikun chaim program directed by Debbie Gladstone, who works within the school community to help students obtain access to available resources.

She says that community care access centres have received funding so private schools can provide services for students with medical related disabilities.

"I would like to see some of this money go to our day schools," she says. "[The CCACs] have been slow in responding, but we are working on it."

Gladstone, who came to the BJE about four months ago, works as a liaison between schools and agencies such as JVS and JF&CS to help obtain necessary services for students.

"I feel very lucky to be participating in a community that sees the need for additional resources for all children beginning at preschool," she says.

A number of schools have hired senior resource teachers to help co-ordinate special needs programs in their schools, says Gladstone.

Shana Harris, who has been principal of general studies at Bialik Hebrew Day School for 16 years, says that a remedial specialist is in the school 1½ days a week.

"She works with teachers to help identify students as young as kindergarten age, and helps develop supports for them," Harris says. "That could be in-class support, or occupational or speech therapy. It all depends on the individual student."

The school also has two full-time remedial teachers in the general studies program, and provides support in Hebrew reading. "We have always provided support for special needs children, but in the last 15 years, that support has doubled," says Harris.

Since services have increased, she says, student retention rate has increased. "I know we are enabling more children to have a Jewish education."

Bialik offers psychological and educational testing to its students at no cost, she says, and in the last two years has obtained government funding for occupational and speech therapy.

"Teachers are also learning to provide modification to their programs so students are comfortable in the classroom setting," says Harris.

Last spring at Eitz Chaim, special education co-ordinator Donna Cassels was hired to help co-ordinate services at the school's three campuses.

It is the intention of the school, she says, to provide educational support to special needs students both through the use of direct instruction and through ongoing adjustment to programs in the regular classroom.

Wherever possible, resource teachers work with regular classroom teachers to adapt curriculum to the unique needs of individual students, Cassels says.

"Where it is apparent that a student requires significant skill building in a specific area, the student may be withdrawn from the classroom either individually or in small groups."

Dafna Ross, co-ordinator of support services at the three campuses of United Synagogue Day Schools, says the school has always had a special education program, but it recently developed her position so "services could be more pro-active.

"We are trying to set up a centralized framework of support for teachers and students and facilitate the effectiveness of the service in order to maximize the learning profile of all students."

When assessing students, Ross says, it is important to look at the whole child. "Sometimes children will act out emotionally because they cannot keep up academically."

Gail Baker, principal and one of the founders of Toronto Heschel School, says she and two other teachers are part of a child-study team that goes into the classroom and suggests program modifications for any child who needs it.

"The emphasis at our school is on small-group learning so it is easier to teach the kids. We try to work with all children in the classroom setting," says Baker.

If a child is weak in one area, she says, they try and focus on their strengths in another area. "It's not jargon – it's how you look at the whole child."

At Netivot HaTorah Day School, there has been a special needs co-ordinator for four years.

Carol Weir, who has held the position since last year, says the school has always had remedial teachers on staff, but felt it was necessary to have someone co-ordinate services.

Continued on page B20

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Parents press for change in supplementary schools

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

Rabbi Martin Berman laments what he calls "an unfortunate trend in Jewish education" that is manifesting itself at his own synagogue, Shaar Shalom Congregation, in Thornhill.

The Shaar Shalom Religious School, which serves 150 children from kindergarten through Grade 8 (about one third of whom are members of the synagogue), will change in September from its current three-day-a-week schedule to Sunday morning plus one weekday.

The new format will cut classroom time from 5½ to 5 hours a week, but the school will have a required Shabbat minyan six times a year, conforming to one of six models deemed acceptable by United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, the umbrella for the Conservative movement.

"Parents are less prepared to make the sacrifices necessary for Jewish education," said Rabbi Berman. "I am not happy with it, but I recognize that for the survival of the school, either we accept the changes or lose the school."

In fact, the school lost about 50 students this year. "With the new public school curriculum," explained principal Karen Goodis, "parents are finding it very difficult to have their children attend two nights plus a weekend, and get all their schoolwork done."

To the best of Goodis' knowledge, there are only two other Conservative congregations of the seven in the Greater Toronto Area that still run three-day-a-week Hebrew schools. The others have all moved to two days.

"There will certainly be increased pressure on them," she believes.

For Elisa Morton Palter, a mother of three and board member of an independent Hebrew school – and for other parents who don't want to eat into Sunday family time – Hebrew schools like Shaar Shalom's aren't even an option.

"My husband's work is very busy during the week, but he has made it clear the weekends are for us," Morton Palter said.

She and her husband Gilbert also ruled out Jewish day school. Among their reasons were their own positive experiences attending public schools; their desire to expose their children to a multicultural society; confidence that their wide circle of Jewish friends would provide a Jewish social milieu; and their proximity to a good neighbourhood public school.

When they couldn't find an existing Hebrew school that met their needs, Morton Palter began seeking like-minded parents and started her own one-afternoon-a-week community Hebrew school in the York Mills and Bayview area.

New Public School curriculum spurs move to two days a week

Coincidentally, another mother, Lisa Taerk, started Ledbury Community Hebrew School for similar reasons and along the same lines about five years ago. The two schools merged last year, keeping the Ledbury name and the York Mills area location. The Banbury Community Centre venue is at capacity for its 55 students, ranging from kindergarten to Grade 6.

In addition to searching for a new location for its burgeoning population, including a significant number of younger siblings, affiliated families must decide what to do about their children's bar and bat mitzvahs when their educational hours do not qualify them to have Saturday morning celebrations at certain synagogues.

At Shaar Shalom, for example – as at other United Synagogue affiliates – youngsters who want to have a Saturday morning bar or bat mitzvah must be enrolled in a 5½-hour-a-week, BJE-recognized program of Jewish studies, at minimum.

"To have a celebration on Shabbat morning is a privilege," explained Rabbi Berman. "One has to merit it by meeting educational standards."

At Beth Sholom Synagogue, which used to be part of United Synagogue but is now unaffiliated, there is still "support and enforcement of United Synagogue policy," said Rabbi Aaron Flanzraich. Exceptions may be made by the synagogue's ritual committee in certain circumstances.

"The feeling was that the bar or bat mitzvah is a celebration of progression into Jewish life, and the thing that marks the ability to progress in Jewish life is education," said Rabbi Flanzraich. "I believe that the policies were and are meant to help our children become educated so that they can participate in Jewish congregational life."

Continued on page B19

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Live & Learn

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Parents press for change in supplementary schools

Continued from page B18

"I think [our] parents understand that the synagogues have a mandate," said Morton Palter. "They have to do what they have to do. They have their reasons, and they're valid." She doesn't believe her fellow parents are angry about synagogue policies, but she does encounter some frustration.

For the most part however, they look at other options, like independent synagogues or Israel-based celebrations.

Morton Palter stressed the strong commitment of her fellow parents to Jewish education. "All of us have had to work enormously hard."

Morton Palter and her husband, as participants in the Wexner Heritage Foundation program for up-and-coming Jewish community leaders in the late 1990s, faced an additional test of their commitment.

Among the 38 families represented in the Toronto Wexner group, they were in a small minority as parents of supplementary Hebrew school – as opposed to Jewish day school – students. In fact, said Morton Palter, when her husband was interviewed before the program, the first question he remembers being asked was, "Why aren't your kids in day school?"

At the end of the intensive two-year program, however, they remained convinced that they'd made the right decision for their family.

In the Toronto area, 11,488 children attend BJE-affiliated day schools, 5,700 attend affiliated supplementary schools and more than 550 students attend unaffiliated supplementary schools, according to statistics provided by the Board of Jewish Education (BJE) for the 2001-2002 year.

Morton Palter feels the perception among Jewish community members, in general, is that supplementary school is a "second choice, or even a fifth choice" compared to day school, but Seymour Epstein, executive director of the BJE, would beg to differ.

"I don't think of it in those terms," said Epstein in a separate interview. "It seems to me it comes from families with different kinds of needs and approaches."

Rounding out the picture, he noted, "everyone understands that the whole idea of supplementary school is difficult. You're taking kids at a time when they should be free and imposing a curriculum on them. It's not a simple story. Supplementary schools have a kind of built-in problem. On the other hand, when they're good, they're very good. We have leadership who were raised in supplementary schools."

He believes strongly that supplementary Jewish schools can be a very positive force in Jewish education, he said.

The Ledbury school is currently negotiating with the BJE to become recognized by the organization. Neither the school nor the board foresees any obstacle to that process.

Although the BJE is in the process of re-examining its criteria, current criteria include a written curriculum, verifiable standards of learning, and a democratically chosen board comprised of "members in good standing of the Jewish community" (i.e. contributors to UJA Federation, which funds the BJE and its affiliates), Epstein said.

There is no minimum number of classroom hours, although a minimum of 100 hours per year of Judaic instruction is recommended, beginning at Grade 3.

Karen Valter, principal of the Ledbury school since its inception, is a psychometrist and special education teacher who has taught at a number of local Jewish day and supplementary schools. She says she is realistic about what can be taught in two hours a week.

"Conversational Hebrew is not included, because there just isn't time. We teach some vocabulary as it's relevant to the holidays and rituals. We teach high-frequency words that occur in the brachot and in the davening."

Valter, who is Orthodox, said she believes strongly that her curriculum is the best it can be for a two-hour-a-week school.

Her teachers are graduates of Beth Jacob Teachers' Seminary, and she stressed that their love of and commitment to Judaism is a very important component of the program. All the teachers, for example, invite their students to come to their sukkahs at Sukkot. "We want them to see that when we talk about building a sukkah and decorating it, we really do that."

As a parent, Morton Palter wants her children to be familiar with traditions and holidays and to be comfortable in a Jewish environment, particularly in a synagogue.

"They learn an amazing amount," she said.

At Pride of Israel Synagogue, an unaffiliated congregation with traditional Conservative-style services, Rabbi Robert Rhodes said that there is talk of re-evaluating the shul's policy that any halachically Jewish child may have a Saturday bar or bat mitzvah.

The reason, he said, is a "low level of performance" by some celebrants who don't have a minimum level of education.

But he himself makes a case for continuing the status quo. "You've got a chance to connect with people who [may] have no connection," he said. "Some of them join the shul and stay with us, and some of them don't."

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Live & Learn

School choice in the Orthodox community

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

Parents who want an Orthodox education for their children no longer have to send them out of town, although many do so – to yeshivot in New York, Milwaukee, Cleveland or Pittsburgh, for instance. But the options right here are growing.

Leaving aside Associated Hebrew Schools, which, while offering a traditional Torah education, includes students from the entire spectrum of Jewish observance, parents have the choice of schools that run the gamut of Orthodoxy: Netivot and Bnei Akiva Schools for the centrist Orthodox, Eitz Chaim and Ner Israel for what might be called right-of-centre Orthodoxy, haredi schools like Beth Jacob Elementary School (known colloquially as Little Bais Yaakov), and Yesodei Hatorah.

Comment

The differences between the schools are not merely ones of curriculum. Rather, they are a reflection of specific worldviews.

Education in the Orthodox community is not seen as the transmission of facts, or or even the teaching of a body of information. Instead, it is the handing down and preservation of a whole way of life.

The implications are far-reaching, beginning with the admission policy. A school must decide whether to have a self-selecting policy; in other words, assume that only those in agreement with the school's philosophy will apply. However, this may not achieve the desired result.

What some schools are doing is to have a list of questions for the prospective student's family. Do they watch television? Do they go to movies? Does the mother cover her hair? What shul does the family attend? All these issues have a bearing on whether the child will fit in with the student body, and the ethos and culture that the school is trying to create.

It is important to note that the choice of school will also affect the choice of marriage partner, especially in the somewhat rarified atmosphere of shadchan-arranged matches.

The idea is to insulate the students from what Rabbi Akiva Stefansky, principal of Beth Jacob High School, has described as corrosive influences, those that will affect the moral compass of a student. The feeling is also strong that youngsters must be kept away from people who do not share similar views, Rabbi Stefansky has said.

Curriculum is also affected. The ratio of religious subjects to secular is a case in point. Schools seen as part of the centrist Orthodox stream give more or less equal weight to each, not only in time but in emphasis. Others try to integrate secular and Jewish studies whenever possible. For instance, the French Revolution would be taught, not only as it related to world history, but also as it affected the Jews, and Jewish practice in France.

Similarly, science courses, while usually based on Ministry of Education guidelines, may leave out topics such as evolution that are questionable according to a school's religious doctrine. English literature courses may feature expurgated versions of Shakespeare.

Secular studies become, to a greater or lesser degree, secondary to religious ones, not just in the amount of time spent on them, but in the seriousness with which the students – and their parents – approach them. This is particularly true in those schools that discourage students from going on to university, except for universities under strictly Orthodox auspices, such as Touro College.

These considerations are not capricious for the right-wing schools that apply them. The issue of Orthodox education must be seen, not through the eyes of the general community, but through the worldview of the haredim. The outside world and its values simply don't have either the appeal or the significance that they do for those beyond the confines of that community.

Since many schools have opened in recent years, parents face an increasingly difficult choice. New elementary schools include The Toronto Cheder (usually referred to as TTC), an expanding boys school, and Bais Bracha, a girls' school. Among the new high schools are Tiferet Bais Yaakov and Bnos Bais Yaakov, both for girls. Lubavitch now has a girls' high school, Bais Chomesh, as well as Bais Chaya Mushka for elementary age girls and Cheder Chabad for boys.

One of the more startling developments has been the move of the Hamilton yeshiva to Toronto, with its name changed to Darchei Torah.

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To make matters even more difficult for parents, the children, as is the case with all youngsters, may want to go to a particular school, not for ideological reasons, but because "all my friends are going there."

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Special needs programs flourishing

Continued from page B17

Weir meets regularly with teachers, and together with a psychological educational consultant who comes in once a week, puts together an educational plan for the child.

An occupational and speech therapist also comes into the school, Weir says. The school also has some Israeli volunteers who offer students extra help. "These volunteers are not teachers but they are sometimes able to give the extra help a child needs."

Above all, it is important to be honest and up front with parents, Weir says. "We can modify and change their program, but if the child is not getting anywhere we have to make a decision and help parents find the right place for their child."

Ideally, every child should remain in their home school, Levine says, but for some students, the best solution may be to attend She'arim Hebrew Day School, a school for children with learning disabilities and/or attention deficit disorders, or Zareinu Educational and Therapeutic Centre, which offers educational and therapeutic services to children with physical and intellectual disabilities.

"These schools are seen as a continuum of service and they play an important role," says Levine. "There are few communities in the world that have such schools available."

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BATHURST JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTRE SCHOOL & DAYCARE
4588 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1W6
Director: Kailah Rubin
Tel: 636-1880, ext. #351
Fax: 636-5813
Our school & daycare caters to children 18 months-5 years. We offer a stimulating, enriched program focusing on creativity, cognition, social, emotional and physical skills. Jewish holidays are celebrated. We offer music, Hebrew and swim specialties, a Fun Centre gym and the Children's Discovery Museum.

MENORAH NURSERY INC.
4300 Bathurst St.,
Downsview, Ont. M3H 3R4
Also at: 18 Reiner Rd.
Administrator: Helen Dodick
Tel: 416-638-6910
Menorah Nursery is a place where each child has an opportunity to learn through play with other children, with appropriate toys and materials, and where their mental, emotional, and physical growth is fostered. Choosing Menorah Nursery, assures you that we will provide a warm, stimulating and secure place for your child.

PLAYLEARN PRESCHOOL INC.
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Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9X7
Director: Mrs. Necha Jakubowicz
Tel: 905-737-3336 Fax: 905-886-0059
Licensed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services, the warm nurturing atmosphere and carefully thought-out programing fosters socialization skills, builds self-esteem and allows each child to reach his/her fullest potential. The joys of being Jewish are carefully transmitted through hands-on activities, forming an awareness and love for people and Eretz Israel.

SWEET BEGINNINGS PRESCHOOL
949 Clark Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6
Principal: Joyce Tradburks
Tel: 905-764-7671 Fax: 905-764-1606
A licensed pre-school which boasts excellent teachers, small classes and well-equipped classrooms. Our program fosters positive Jewish identity while catering to the individual developmental needs of each child. Our enriched curriculum includes: music, drama, science, crafts, fine/gross motor activities, lots of fun, hands-on experiences!

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E-mail: kidsfun@axxent.ca
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The Academy for Gifted Children - P.A.C.E. provides high-powered learning experiences to challenge bright minds and ensure intellectual growth and achievement, while simultaneously addressing the social-emotional needs of the child. P.A.C.E. offers a differentiated education, built on greater depth and breadth of instruction, and a more complex approach to learning.

THE GILES SCHOOL
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Toronto, Ont. M3C 2C3
V.P. Admin.: Sharon Isac
Tel: 416-446-0825 Fax: 416-446-0846
The Giles School offers a challenging academic program strongly supported by the world's best software, well balanced with art, music, and physical education. The school is most proud of its gifted teachers from around the world whose credentials usually exceed those of Ontario.

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Tel: 416-966-4406 Fax: 416-966-9736
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Tel: 416-785-3410 Fax: 416-785-6616
E-mail: shsadmin@sterlinghall.com
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THE YORK SCHOOL
1320 Yonge St.,
Toronto, Ont. M4T 1X2
Administrator: Marilyn Andrews
Tel: 416-926-1325 Fax: 416-926-9592
Creative pre-K program; elementary and high school based on International Baccalaureate Diploma; non-denominational; co-educational; mid-town location; strong academics, art, music and physical education; emphasis on developing research and problem-solving skills; laptop program.

SCHOOL FASHION

CRAWFORD BOYS
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SENIORS EDUCATION

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE FOR CREATIVE LIVING
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Toronto, Ont. M2R 3T6
Contact: Ruth Cohen
Tel: 416-225-2112, Ext. 105
Fax: 416-225-2097
Website: www.betelcentre.org
A vibrant centre with over 35 years experience in providing high quality recreational, educational and fitness courses at affordable prices to seniors age 55+. Also offers health promotion lectures, health screening clinics, chiropody, nutrition and social work counselling, home support services and religious services. Kosher cafeteria. Facilities for bar mitzvahs, engagement parties and special celebrations. Kosher catering available.

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Directory of Education Advertisers cont'd

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Special Education

ATTENTION DISORDERS NEUROFEEDBACK CENTRE (ADNC)
1357 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5R 3H8
Director: Tamara Druckman
Tel: 416-944-0103
Neurofeedback is a non-invasive alternative to medication for Attention Deficit Disorder. By utilizing feedback from their brainwave activity, individuals are able to learn to increase their concentration and control impulsivity and restlessness. In conjunction with the intensive training program, the ADNC teaches learning and memory strategies which enhance the increased ability to focus.

THE DUNBLAINE SCHOOL
21 Deloraine Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5M 2A8
Contact: Judith Weatherhead
Tel: 416-483-9215 Fax: 416-483-0903
Website: www.thedunblaineschool.com
A non-profit school, Gr. 1-8, seeking to maximize the potential of students with learning disabilities in a nurturing environment. Aims to prepare students for re-introduction into public and private school systems. Dunblaine features individualized programs for each child emphasizing the development of social skills, self-awareness and building self-esteem.

MERLE L. LEVINE ACADEMY
4630 Dufferin St., Ste. 318,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 5S4
Principal/Director: Merle L. Levine
Tel: 416-661-4141 Fax: 416-661-4143
The Merle L. Levine Academy, a co-ed school that meets Ministry guidelines, is a leader in providing academic and/or social skills to students with learning disabilities and attention problems. The school helps students become independent learners and return to mainstream schools to continue their education.

REENA
Toby & Henry Battle Developmental Centre
927 Clark Ave. W.,
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8G6
Executive Director: Sandy Keshen
Tel: 905-889-6484 Fax: 905-889-3827
Reena is a non-profit social service agency supporting individuals with a developmental disability, and their families through residential and social work programs. Community day, evening, respite and Sunday programs focus on recreation, education, life skill/vocational training, support and leisure. Charitable donations can be made through the Reena Foundation at 905-763-8254, ext. 3033, or toll free 877-324-4141, ext. 3034.

DR. ABRAHAM SHORE SHE'ARIM HEBREW DAY SCHOOL
Sara & Sam Hennick Education Centre
4588 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Ont. M2R 1W6
Principal: Kathy Manoim
Executive Director: Faigie Davids
Tel: 416-633-8247 Fax: 416-633-4783
Provides special education for children with learning disabilities and attention deficit disorder, focusing on the needs of the whole child in academic, social, organizational and other areas for both Judaic and general studies. Special programs include: social skills, computer skills, Feuerstein thinking skills, art therapy, parent education and support.

Supplementary Schools

AHAVAT YISRAEL HEBREW SCHOOL
8950 Bathurst St.
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 8A7
Principal: Mrs. Leslie Shapiro
Tel: 905-731-6704 Fax: 905-731-4651
Provides a creative, enjoyable learning experience for those interested in a once or optional twice a week program. The school, in its 12th year, offers an enriching curriculum of reading, writing, language, prayers, Israel and holidays. Special events include challah baking, Purim party and Passover seder. Remedial and enriched program available. Affiliated with Board of Jewish Education.

ATERET SHALOM HEBREW SCHOOL
Yorkhill Elementary School
350 Hilda Ave. (at Clark),
Thornhill, Ont. L4J 2P6
Principal: Joseph Klinger, MA
Administrator: Sadie Domb
Tel: 905-886-1457
From J&SK to Gr. 7 and bar-bat mitzvah individual tutoring. Once or twice weekly (Sundays, Wednesdays). Kids love Hebrew, holidays & celebrations prayers, Israel, Bible, history, music, arts & crafts, Israeli folk dancing & more! Remedial and advanced programs too! Affiliated with Board of Jewish Education.

BEIT RAYIM SYNAGOGUE AND HEBREW SCHOOL
9711 Bayview Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9X7
Principal: Ora Shulman
Tel: 905-770-7639 Fax: 905-770-5635
E-mail: admin@beitrayim.org
Website: www.beitrayimorg
Beit Rayim Hebrew School offers a 2-day per week program from JK-Gr. 7. Innovative programs enrich the Jewish life of each student. Curriculum includes, Hebrew language, prayer, holidays, Bible, Israel and music. Parents have the opportunity to participate in learning along with their children at family study programs. Affiliated with United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism and recognized by the BJE. Grads qualify for bar/bat mitzvah in any conservative synagogue. Beit Rayim Synagogue is a warm, family oriented Conservative Egaliarian Shul.

BETH ISRAEL HEBREW ACADEMY
11 Pickett Cres.,
Richmond Hill, Ont. L4C 9L1
Director: Lillian Benlolo
Tel: 905-770-1082 Fax: 905-770-6965
Richmond Hill Sunday Hebrew School. Major Mack & Bathurst, for a unique learning experience. Small classes, loving and caring experienced teachers who specialize in teaching reading and writing Hebrew in a fun & unique way as well as Torah holiday songs, tradition and more. It's so affordable - you can't resist. It's so great - you can't wait. Call today 905-770-1082.

BETH SHOLOM HEBREW SCHOOL
1445 Eglinton Ave. W.,
Toronto, Ont. M6C 2E6
Contact: Esther Benari-Altmann
Tel: 416-783-6103 Fax: 416-783-9923
Beth Sholom Hebrew School has it all! Hebrew language and writing, prayers, holiday & shabbat celebrations, Israel and Jewish identity and much, much more. Our school-wide family education programs are not to be missed. Add a little music, song and fun and your child's after-school is some place they want to be! Call to register today: Beth Sholom Synagogue: 416-783-6103 or Esther Benari-Altmann: 905-771-9012.

BETH TIKVAH SCHOOLS
3080 Bayview Ave.,
Willowdale, Ont. M2N 5L3
Principal: Chaim Klein
Tel: 416-221-3433, ext. 301
Fax: 416-221-1602
Offers a dynamic 2-day-a-week Jewish studies curriculum: Hebrew, Bible, prayer, history and values. We seek to develop a positive Jewish identity in each child through a meaningful, responsive educational environment, with a variety of youth activities. All classes are open to the community and are in the Synagogue.

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15 Hove St.,
Toronto, Ont. M3H 4Y8
Rabbi Lawrence Pinsker
President: Suzanne Silk Klein
Tel: 416-638-4783 Fax: 416-638-5852
Offices at 20 Martin Ross Ave.
Reconstructionist - a liberal, egalitarian, traditional place to pray and learn. Warm, nurturing congregational Hebrew school; stimulating bar/bat mitzvah program; exciting teen program; innovative adult education program. Fully egalitarian participatory religious life; active and strong social action program; mutually supportive community reflecting Jewish spiritual and ethical ideals.

DOWNTOWN JEWISH COMMUNITY SCHOOL
750 Spadina Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 2J2
Principal: Joan Schoenfeld
Tel: 416-924-6211 Fax: 416-924-0442
Website: www.djcs.org
(c/o Miles Nadal, JCC)
E-mail: joan@djcs.org
Affiliated with the Miles Nadal JCC and Board of Jewish Education. 300 students, ages 4-18. Jr. K-1 on Sun., Grades 2-7 Jewish Studies on Sun. & Hebrew on Sun. & Wed., High school Wed. 7-8:30 p.m. Special programs/features: community holiday celebration program and Oneg Shabbat dinners, adult education programs, family Israel fair. Provides students with strong sense of Jewish identity in pluralistic community.

HEBREW ACADEMY OF RIVERDALE (HAR)
179A Danforth Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M4K 1V2
Principal and Head Teacher:
Dr. Arnold Goodman, Ph.D.
Secretary: Chad Derrik
Tel: 416-504-6662
•Hebrew Across the Curriculum •Jewish History and Culture •Combining the Past with the Present. Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 noon. "For the Riverdale community and beyond."

KEREN HATARBUT INSTITUTE
788 Marlee Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6B 3K1
Director: Joseph Klinger
Tel: 416-787-0197
Offers courses for adults and teenagers in conversational Hebrew for beginners, intermediate and advanced students. All classes are conducted under the guidance of skilled Israeli teachers. The promise is that beginners will speak, read and write Hebrew in 14 sessions.

LEDBURY PARK COMMUNITY HEBREW SCHOOL INC.
42 Barrydale Cres.,
Toronto, Ont. M3B 3E2
Board Member: Elisa Palter
Tel: 416-449-8878 Fax: 416-444-1289
Ledbury Park Community Hebrew School is a supplementary Hebrew school for children from SK to Gr. 7 including a bar/bat mitzvah program. Our program is offered 1 day per week, after school from 4-6 p.m. The curriculum includes music, Torah, prayers, holidays and customs and Hebrew literacy (reading). We welcome children of all ages and educational backgrounds.

ORAYNU CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FOR HUMANISTIC JUDAISM
Bayview-York Mills area, 10:1 ratio
Tel: 416-385-3910
Jewish history, traditions and values, explored from a secular, humanistic perspective, provide our children with a strong Jewish identity. At Oraynu, our children also participatre in cultural activities, tzedakah and community service projects, music, family education and holiday celebrations. The curriculum culminates in a unique, 2-year humanistic B'nai Mirtzvah program.

SHAAR SHALOM RELIGIOUS SCHOOL
2 Simonston Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont. L3T 4L1
Principal: Karen L. Goodis, RJE
Tel: 905-889-0987 Fax: 905-889-1575
Location: Thornhill Secondary School. Highlights: 2 days a week. Intensive Hebrew reading program, excellent Family Education, Winter Arts Program, music, synagogue skills; remediation available. We are committed to providing children with the tools to become committed adult Jews. SK-Gr. 8. Classes meet Sun. & Wed. Gr. 8 Judaica program. Affiliated with the BJE and United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism.

MORRIS WINCHEVSKY SCHOOL
585 Cranbrooke Ave.,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2X9
Education Director:
Frances Handlarski
Executive Director: Maxine Hermolin
Tel: 416-789-5502 Fax: 416-789-5981
E-mail: mws@on.aibn.com
Website:
pages.ca.inter.net/~mws/mian.htm
We offer family-oriented community holiday celebrations, Sunday School "Shule" classes from age 4 up, a secular Bar-Bat Mitzvah program and a Youth division. Our organization's 74 year history enriches our curriculum. We explore our Jewish traditions, identity & heritage through Yiddish culture, history, literature, music, drama, art and social justice perspectives. When Shule is over, we move to our "zumer haym" — a family-oriented cottage community west of Toronto. Join us!

Swim Schools

FRANK'S SWIM SCHOOL
Contact: Michael Liebmann
Tel: 416-636-5023 Fax: 416-636-9664
Has been the only answer for 34 years. The school's motto: "We teach the individual according to their needs and abilities" is the key to success. For 20 of these years Frank and his son Michael have overseen and guided all instructors and the progress of every child, and now Michael like his father before him is always accessible.

Tutoring

MATH MASTERS TUTORING SERVICES
280 Sheppard Ave. E., Ste. 202,
North York, Ont. M2N 3B1
Contact: John Tzelardoni
Tel: 416-223-6284 Fax: 416-223-0065
Whether the student needs improvement, or is excelling in his or her course, Math Masters will provide a program that is beneficial to the learning process. Offering a personalized, one-on-one service, our students experience an increase in academic results, confidence, and self-esteem. For further information, please call 416-223-6284.

Ulpan

ISRAEL ALIYAH CENTER
Tel: 416-633-4766
KIBBUTZ PROGRAM CENTER
3995 Bathurst St., Ste. 300,
North York, Ont. M3H 5V3
Program Director: Iris Ashkenazy
Tel: 416-638-8824
Studying in Israel is a great way to broaden your knowledge and get the opportunity to experience authentic Israeli culture and way of life. Such programs like TASP - Teach and Study Program - gives the student both an MA degree and experience teaching English to Israeli students. In WUJS, students meet both Jewish students from around the world and get the experience of studying and living in Israel on their own. These programs and others we offer give students opportunities to further their understanding and an experience of a lifetime, that will last with them through their years.

Universities

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF THE HEBREW UNIVERSITY OF JERUSALEM
3080 Yonge St., Ste. 5024,
Toronto, Ont. M4N 3N1
Contact: Adam Silver
Tel: 416-485-8000, 1-888-HEBREWU
Fax: 416-485-8565
E-mail: admissions@cfhu.org
The Rothberg International School at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem offers a variety of undergraduate and graduate programs. Students who wish to participate in a unique study opportunity can either apply to the 1 year program which fulfils comparable credit requirements for most Canadian undergraduate arts programs or alternatively can apply to a 2 year Masters program offered in 6 different areas of specialization. Preparatory programs to enter the Hebrew speaking educational stream of 1 year graduate opportunities are also available as are scholarships.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
500 West 185th St.,
New York, NY 10033
Contact Toronto: Stuart Razin
Tel: 416-783-6960 Fax: 416-783-9854
Contact Montreal: Pearl Jonassohn
Tel: 514-738-9011 Fax: 514-738-0563
Yeshiva University - a unique resource for the Jewish community; rated 41st among the nation's top 50 U.S. universities. Combines undergraduate liberal arts/sciences with parallel Jewish studies programs. Graduate courses at YU's Graduate Schools of Law; Medicine; Psychology; Social Work; Jewish Education and Administra-tion, and Jewish Studies. Rabbinic training and professional training of Cantors offered at affiliated Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS).

CANADIAN OVERSEAS PROGRAM TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY
3130 Bathurst St., Ste. 214,
Toronto, Ont. M6A 2A1
Academic Affairs Director:
Orna Benaton
Tel: 416-787-5692 Fax: 416-787-1762
Qualified English-speaking undergraduate students may apply for 1 year, 1 semester, or summer session programs in the Overseas Student program at Tel Aviv University. The Overseas Student program has been designed for full-time students who are about to enter or are currently enrolled in a Bachelor's degree program.

CENTRE FOR JEWISH STUDIES, YORK UNIVERSITY
Vanier 241, York University
4700 Keele St., Toronto, Ont. M3J 1P3
Director: Prof. Martin Lockshin
Tel: 416-736-5823 Fax: 416-736-5344
BA Religious Studies (Jewish Studies Stream), BEd (Jewish Teacher Education Program), MEd, MA and PhD (by department), Certificate in Hebrew and Judaic Studies, Exchange Programs in Israel and Europe. Courses in Hebrew Education, Classical Judaism, Philosophy, History, Sociology, Women's Studies, Holocaust, Sephardic Studies, film, Israel and Middle East Archaeology.

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119 St. George St.,
Toronto, Ont. M5S 1A1
Administrator: Eva Hollander
Tel: 416-978-8118 Fax: 416-946-7719
For over 25 years, the Jewish Studies Program at the University of Toronto has been engaged in teaching, research and scholarship. This multidisciplinary program, which encompasses the Arts and Science departments of English, German, History, Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations, Philosophy, Sociology and the Study of Religion, is unique in Canada for the breadth and depth of its curriculum.

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RRIS is a unique academic program that offers students from around the world an opportunity to pursue a 3-year, fully accredited B.A. in Computer Science and IT Management, taught entirely in English at the Interdisciplinary Center (IDC) in Herziliya. Full scholarships and generous financial aid are available.

Not just a minor experience

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

All around the city, everyone seems to be doing it – singles, parents and grandparents. And on almost every night of the week.

Adult Jewish education seems to be happening everywhere in our community. From lectures in packed auditoriums to intimate gatherings, formal and informal educational programs are taking place in learning centres, workplaces, homes and synagogues.

Jewish leaders point to several reasons behind the emergence of a vibrant adult Jewish learning environment in synagogues that is growing to meet the spiritual and intellectual needs of every segment of the community.

Rabbi Jay Kelman at Beth Jacob Synagogue believes the overall increase in learning is due to an awareness that being Jewish means being a knowledgeable Jew.

The generation that arrived in Toronto after the war had to focus on learning a new language and earning a living for their families, Rabbi Kelman said. The community has now matured and begun to focus on the role of education.

"Jewish education is in," Rabbi Kelman noted, pointing to the increase in enrolment in day schools across the city.

This has resulted in the merging of several factors – graduates of the many day schools are searching for greater depth in their lives in a city filled with wonderful teachers, Rabbi Kelman added.

"And we have a 4,000-year-old tradition that offers a lot of meaning that has been expressed in a way that modern people can appreciate."

Pray and Learn sessions at many synagogues offer alternatives to the more communal prayer settings.

At Beth Jacob Synagogue, people come together in a small beit midrash and discuss the week's Torah portion.

"It's informal, participatory and interactive, because people don't want to be simply spectators anymore," Rabbi Kelman said.

Daph Yomi programs, which exist in many Orthodox shuls as well as in small shtieblach, focus learners on a different page of the Talmud every day. According to Rabbi Kelman, the number of daph yomi programs is growing – with approximately 40 lessons taking place in the city every day.

There is also an increase in the number of Orthodox programs directed at women, Rabbi Kelman said.

"There is no doubt that one of the burning issues in traditional Judaism is the attitudes towards women and women's learning.

"With the changing status of women in our general community, it's important to recognize that women want more meaning in Jewish life and that if Torah is the basis of being a Jew, then women also want to be actively Jewish."

Some feel that including women may be detrimental to family structures, Rabbi Kelman said. "But if women can be doctors, lawyers and CEOs, why should they be ignorant in Judaism?"

Whether Orthodox, Conservative, Reform or Reconstructionist, any Torah learning is great, Rabbi Kelman said.

"Learning is an act of Jewish engagement and the important thing is acknowledging, as Maimonides said, that no one people has a monopoly on truth."

Holy Blossom Temple rabbi John Moscowitz attributes the growth in Jewish learning to a greater understanding that Judaism is a "very serious business."

In addition, there is a feeling in the community that the Jewish people are entering very difficult times, Rabbi Moscowitz said. The violence in Israel, the events in Durban and the attacks of Sept. 11 have shaken up the community, resulting in a need to come together for major public events to hear intellectuals articulate their views of the world.

"The fact that all members of the community are joining to hear lectures on a wide variety of subjects shows that Jews, whether they're Orthodox, Conservative or Reform, want to feel part of Klal Yisrael."

"They also want reality named," Rabbi Moscowitz said. "In difficult times, there is less tolerance for fooling ourselves. People start to turn to things that have more depth."

In meeting the needs of those who look for Judaic understanding, learning has to respond to the beginner as well as the more advanced, he noted.

It is also important, he said, to offer classes that portray all aspects of Jewish heritage because there is a growing awareness that people can find a way to open the door into Judaism through other means besides ritual – such as study, prayer or Zionism.

The important thing is that they eventually come in, Rabbi Moscowitz said.

Rabbi Wayne Allen at Beth Tikvah Synagogue pointed out that in addition to large lectures and a growth in chavurot and informal study groups, there is also an increasing demand on rabbis to be teachers.

"There are many people who want to study and they approach me because they want individual attention. It's become important to customize adult Jewish education to reach out to as many people as possible."

Rabbi Allen said older people are also contributing to the current increase in the demand for education.

It's important, he said, to be attentive to the needs of older people because they have more free time on their hands and are participating in study groups in greater numbers.

On the other hand, Rabbi Allen said, the greatest challenge right now is bringing in younger people who are more critical and selective about which programs they'll attend.

Some Adult Jewish Learning Programs

Please note that there are many available programs in the city. This list is a sample of the many classes available.

- Almost every synagogue in the city offers a variety of adult Jewish learning programs.
- Canada Israel Experience Birthright Israel brings young Jewish adults between 18 and 26 to Israel for the first time as part of an educational experience. For information, call 416-398-6931.
- The Florence Melton Adult Mini School is an interactive, pluralistic program based on a curriculum developed through the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. For information, call 416-789-7400.
- The Koffler Centre of the Arts offers lectures throughout the year on a variety of topics. For information, call 416-636-1880.
- Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning. For information on the many programs offered, visit www.kolel.org.
- Keren Hatarbut Institute offers Hebrew ulpans in the evening and during the day. For information, call 416-787-0197.
- Workmen's Circle Peretz School offers classes in Yiddish. For information, call 416-787-2081.
- Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women – a text-based program of serious Jewish learning. For information, call 416-398-1510.

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- Bright and spacious new location in the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre.

Ages 6-14 — Grades 1-8
Contact: Kathy Manoim, Principal: 416-633-8247

Coast to Cost

Book remembers Alberta's Jewish war veterans

BY TAMARA STECYK
Special to The CJN

CALGARY — Val Rimer has seen his 20-year-old dream fulfilled by having the stories of the Jewish war veterans of southern Alberta captured in a new book.

Memories on the March, a 140-page book written by Tyler Trafford, illustrates the personal experiences of southern Alberta military veterans.

"We were concerned that the memories and experiences of the veterans would be lost," said Rimer, commander of the Calgary post of the Jewish War Veterans of Canada (JWVC). "That concern has been translated into this book."

After meeting some of the veterans, Trafford, a non-Jew with no military knowledge prior to researching the book with Rimer, realized the project was a unique opportunity for a writer.

"For a lot of veterans, this is the last chance to tell their story. The book itself became a stick that was poking up all these memories that would otherwise not have come out," he said.

At times, the interview process was emotional for both Trafford and the veterans. Many of the Jewish veterans had locked out their war experiences and the interview opened a door that had been closed for more than 50 years.

"Some of them cried about what happened," said Trafford. "It's not been just a book. It's been an experience. It's changed my attitude about veterans and Jewish people completely."

Trafford and Rimer gathered names of about 450 Jewish veterans in southern Alberta, and in the process, they made some interesting discoveries. Rimer learned of stories he had never heard from members of the post. Trafford found a complete manuscript by a Russian immigrant, Reuven Smushkevich, when he spoke to Smushkevich's daughter, Polina, about the project.

"It's a complete life story of a military veteran that was unearthed because of this. It would have never appeared otherwise," said Trafford.

While writing *Memories on the March*, Trafford made a point of telling stories about everyday people.

"It's stories about what it was like to be Jewish in the military," he explained.

"This is not a book about charging up a hill with bayonets loaded and being a hero in that action," added Rimer.

"Ten per cent of Canada's Jewish population enlisted in the military during the Second World War, which was the highest rate of involvement of any ethnic group in the country," he said.

Many of the Jewish soldiers at the time were not aware of the Nazi plan, but even when they were, they kept a Hebrew designation on their dog tags.

"You really did not want to be captured wearing that. But it did not bother them," Trafford said.

Memories on the March also tells stories about others, including one about a peacekeeper and another about volunteers who fought in Israel's War of Independence. Not all the veterans in the book were born and raised in southern Alberta; they may have immigrated to the area following the war or lived in a town or city in the area for a few years before moving to another part of the country.

Trafford could not write a story about every veteran. "What we aimed to do was to get stories that were very representative so it didn't really matter that we didn't get everyone. We have one person's story in one way or another," he said. "This book isn't really a military record. It was written in a very non-military way."

Both Trafford and Rimer hope *Memories on the March* will be read across the country, especially by children and grandchildren of the veterans.

"It's the only one of its type in Canada. We are so proud of this book, and that this book should be across the country," said Rimer.

"I didn't know there were Jewish veterans. People don't associate with that. There's probably so much focus on the Holocaust that sometimes it's easy to overlook that there were all these men and women in the military," Trafford added.

Copies of *Memories on the March* can be obtained by calling the Jewish War Veterans at 403-255-5305.

MEET THE MAYOR: **Grade 5 students at Leo Baeck Day School recently welcomed Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman. He talked about his role as mayor and gave first hand insight into municipal government. Seen with Lastman (from left) is Ben Wechsler, Sachary Magerman, Michelle Kimel and Tamar Dobner.**

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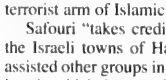
As terrorists connect, a true call for peace?

According to Reports



By PAUL MICHAELS

Two items this week:

Under the title "'I want to have the honour of becoming a martyr,'" Matthew Kalman writes from the West Bank town of Jenin about Ali Safouri, a 39-year-old father of four. Safouri commands the Sarayeh (Brigades) on the West Bank, defined by Kalman as "the terrorist arm of Islamic Jihad" (*Ottawa Citizen*, Feb. 26).

Safouri "takes credit for a string of recent attacks in the Israeli towns of Hadera and Afula and says he has assisted other groups in carrying out shootings and bombings in which dozens of Israelis have been killed and hundreds injured," Kalman writes.

Kalman then quotes Safouri as he boasts: "'I meet with young men and encourage them to carry out martyrdom attacks. I feel very proud when I see these young men prepared to sacrifice their lives and turn their bodies into shrapnel as a weapon against the enemy.'"

What is most revealing in Kalman's report is Safouri's admission that he co-ordinates with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah group "in all matters." With rare exceptions, the western media have not examined the nature of this co-operation.

The motivation that links Islamic Jihad and Hamas to Fatah merits closer attention. In the *New Republic*, Israeli journalist Isabel Kershner writes that Marwan Barghouti, head of Fatah's Tanzim West Bank militia, "has developed a working relationship with Hamas through the grassroots Unified Committee of Nationalistic and Islamic Forces, and has held joint press conferences with West Bank Hamas political leader Sheikh HassanYousef" (Feb. 18).

While Safouri justifies his violence against Israeli civilians as a means of non-terrorist defence of his homeland, Kalman refers to Safouri's colleague, Mahmoud Jawalbeh, who was more blunt. While Israel exists, Jawalbeh argues, there can never be peace.

The second item concerns Saudi Arabia. As of this writing, an unofficial offer of a broad Arab peace with Israel, in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal to the June 1967 lines, is being evaluated by all parties.

This may represent a genuine breakthrough in Saudi foreign policy. However, it may also be just a clever PR manoeuvre designed to corner Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in world opinion and assuage U.S. anger about the 15 Saudi nationals involved in the Sept. 11 attacks.

A very informative documentary about Saudi Arabia ran on CBC Radio's *"This Morning – Sunday"* on Feb. 24. Host Michael Enright noted: "With the demise of the Taliban in Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia is the most conservatively Islamic nation in the world... It remains the home, the inspiration and the underwriter of militant Islamic fanaticism. And now, it may not even have that stable a government."

The documentary disclosed numerous details about the ties between the fanatical Wahhabi clerics who revile Jews – and Christians – and reject any notion of a Jewish presence on "Islamic holy land," and the Saudi royal family. This relationship, as well as the traditional hostility of Saudi Arabia towards Israel, makes one wonder how sincere any peace offer can be. We may soon find out.

Paul Michaels is director of communications with the Canada-Israel Committee.

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

ייִדיש־ווינקל

רעדאַגירט פֿון: אַלעק סילווער

שיר השירים

עסיי פֿון יוסף העפטמאַן ע"ה

פֿון רעדאַקציע: ווי באַקאַנט איז „שיר השירים", געשריבן פֿון שלמה המלך, איינע פֿון די פֿינף מגילות אין תנ"ך, און איז פֿאַרבונדן מיטן יום־טוב פּסח. מיר דרוקן דאָ אַן עסיי וועגן „שיר השירים", געשריבן פֿון יוסף העפטמאַן מיט אָרום 25 יאָר צוריק. יוסף העפטמאַן (1888־1955), געווען רעדאַקטאָר פֿון „הצפירה" און „היום" אין וואַרשע, און פֿון „דואר היום" און „הבוקר" אין ישראל איז, כידוע, אויך באַקאַנט געווען דעם יידיש־ליענער מיט עסיין און קאָרעספּאָנדענצן פֿון ארץ־ישראל, וואָס ער האָט לאַנגע יאָרן בײַזן מלחמה־אויסבּרוך אין 1939 פֿאַרעפֿנטלעכט אין וואַרשעווער „דער מאָמענט" אוּנטערן פּסעוודאָנים „עמנואל". צוליב דער לענג פֿון דער עסיי דרוקן מיר עס אין צוויי טיילן.

א סך רעטשענישן זײַנען פֿאָראַן אינעם לעבן פֿון יידישן פֿאָלק; און דאָס יידישע פֿאָלק גופֿא, זײַן לעבן, עקסיסטענץ און ענערגיע זײַנען אינמיטן פֿון די וועלט־ווונדער, וואָס האָבן באַשעפֿטיקט און באַגײַסטערט נישט אײַן דיכטערישן קאָפּ. אָבער צווישן אַלע אַנדערע רעטענישן פֿונעם יידן דאָרף מען באַוווּנדערן אירטיילן דאָס רעטעניש פֿון „שיר השירים" אין יידישן לעבן.

ווי אַזוי האָט זיך אײַנגעפֿלאָנצט אָט די דאָזיקע ווונקע אין בלוטיקע פֿאָעמע אין אַמאָליקן פֿאַרחושכטן יידישן געטאָ? — דאָס איז אַ סוד, וואָס פּסיכאָלאָגן וועלן לאַנג דאַרפֿן שטודירן. אפֿשר איז עס געווען דער סוד פֿון בעקשאָפּט, די גרויסע בענקשאָפּט צום פֿריַיען פֿעלד, צו די ווייטע בערג, צו די ווינטן אין צו דער ליבע, וואָס האָט געוועבט די שטאַרקע פֿעדעם, מיט וועלכע „שיר השירים" האָט זיך פֿאַרבונדן מיט דער פֿאָלקס־נשמה.

„קום, מײַן געליבטער, לאָמיר אַרויסגיין אין פֿעלד; לאָמיר נעכטיקן אין דאָרף, אין גאָר באַגינען וועלן מיר אירשפּטיין אַן אָוועקגיין אין ווינגאַרטן; זען צי דער ווײַנשטאָק האָט שוין באָווין די בליטן. . . דאָרט וועל איך דיר ווײַן מײַן צערטלעכקייט".

אין דאָס פֿאָלק קרעמערס, מעקלערס און בעלמלאָכות, — דאָס גאַנצע אָלטע פֿאָלק פֿון „אַפּגעשלאָגענע הושענות", ווי פֿרוג האָט זיך אָמאָל אויסגעדריקט, וואָס אין גענוגן פֿאַרשפּאָרט צווישן די ענגע מויערן פֿון פֿרעמדע שטעט אין שטעטלעך, פֿלעגט נאָכזינגן די דאָזיקע נאַיווע דאַרפֿישע ווערטער, וואָס האָבן אין זיך די מעלאָדיע פֿון גאַרטן אין פֿעלד; מען פֿלעגט עס נאָכזינגען מיט אַ געפֿיל פֿון הילליקייט, פֿאַרשטיינדיק אונטער די דאָזיקע ווערטער אַ העכערן זין. די ליבע פֿון „שיר השירים" איז געווען מער נישט ווי אַ משל אויף דער ליבע צווישן כביכול אַן כנסת ישׂראל, צווישן גאָט אין דער יידישער אומה. אין דאָך זײַנען עס געווען ווערטער פֿון פֿעלד, אַן בלומען, אַן ליבע — ווערטער אַן באַגריפֿן, וואָס זײַנען, דאָכט זיך, אין פֿלוג, אַזוי ווייט אַן פֿרעמד געווען דעם יידן.

דאָך דאָס דאָזיקע נאָכזינגען „שיר השירים" באַצייכנט אַמבעסטן דעם כאַראַקטער פֿון יידישן פֿאָלק. „ווי דער גוטער ווײַן, וואָס מאַכט ציטערן די ליפּן פֿון די שלאָפנדיקע", אַזוי איז דער גייסט, וואָס שפּעקט אינעם פֿאָלק. די זונקע פֿריידן, דאָס גלײַק פֿון לעבן אַן־די לופֿט צו לעבן, — דאָס זײַנען אײַנגעבּרענט אין דער פּויערישער פֿונעם יידישן כאַראַקטער. אַן אפֿילו ווען דאָס פֿאָלק איז געשלאָגן, געווען דערנידעריקט אַן באַלײַדיקט, האָט אירע זײַנען ליפּן געציטערט דער שמיכל פֿון אַמאָליקע גליקלעכער טעג.

„שיר השירים" איז דער שרים פֿונעם פּייערדיקן ווײַן, מיט וועלכן די יידישע נשמה איז אַנגעטרונקען.

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Hamilton mourns loss of community leader

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — The community is mourning the loss of one of its leaders, Sam Lax, who died recently at the age of 86.

Lax was born in Hamilton, one of five children of parents from eastern Europe. His father was a rag and scrap dealer in the city's east end, and Lax left school at 16 to help work in the family business.

Described by his son Ted as a man who was "larger than life, and who ran on energy," Lax left a lasting legacy to the Jewish community to which he was committed, and to the city he loved and vowed never to leave.

Lax was involved in several community organizations in the 1950s and 1960s. He was a founding member of the building fund for Beth Jacob Synagogue and served as membership chair. He was also a founding member of the Beverly Golf and Country Club, intended for Jewish members at a time when they were not welcomed by existing clubs in the city.

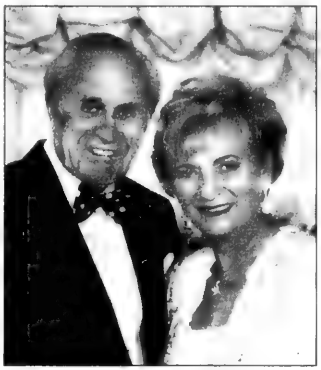
He was chair of the Jewish Welfare Fund (the precursor to the UJA and Jewish Social Services) and part of a small group that inaugurated Hamilton's annual Negev Dinner in 1953, which today is a major fund-raiser for the Jewish National Fund. He himself declined to be the honoree until his "bar mitzvah year" in 1966 – marking 13 years of involvement with the organization. When it was announced that he would be the honoree, those in the community who knew him remarked that it couldn't happen to a nicer guy.

Lax was also invited to join the board of St Joseph's Villas seniors' home, run by Catholic nuns, becoming its first Jewish member.

He was known for being open to ideas and for treating everyone with equal respect – "from the president of a steel mill to the guy loading scrap into a trailer," said Ted in an interview. Aside from his sense of humour and infectious laugh, Lax's kindness was also legendary.

Ted recalled two particular incidents.

"My dad loved to play the *Hatikvah* on his violin, and on one occasion, a friend asked to borrow the instrument. It was somehow never returned, and as time went on, my wife Bonnie and I decided to get him a replacement.



Sam and Sally Lax

"Not long after, my father was out for lunch at a local hotel he frequented when a waitress serving him happened to mention that she wanted to give her son music lessons but could not afford to buy him a violin. My dad went straight home and brought back his to give her as a gift."

One particular kindness shaped the course of Lax's career. In 1945, he started his own scrap metal company, originally called Lax Brothers, which in 1964, became Lax Iron & Steel Co. Ltd. One day that winter, he was driving to St. Catharines when he saw a stranded motorist in a broken-down car. He pulled over to help, and when the man asked to be taken to a meeting at a plant, Lax agreed to drive him there.

The man turned out to be the president of Fleet Manufacturing, a Fort Erie aircraft company, and as they parted, he told Lax to come back in two weeks. Lax was then given his first scrap account. Fleet's company president told him he trusted him, and on the strength of his kind deed, sent several key accounts his way. One of those accounts included the scrapping of the Avro Arrow. The Diefenbaker government had decided to scrap the series of supersonic fighter jets and Lax's crews dismantled completed planes and those in production, heeding the directive that every piece be smelted down.

Lax brought his brother Sheridan into the business and the company later diversified into machine tools and real estate. In the 1950s, the brothers bought water lots from the Hamilton Harbour Commission and added landfill from other construction sites to make them into useable land. Initially, Lax dreamed of building a residential waterfront development on the bay, but the city bought back the 70 acres and developed the land into Bayfront Park, which opened in 1993.

Of all his achievements, though, Lax was proudest of his family. He and wife Sally, who is from Regina, met when she came to Hamilton for her brother's wedding. She was 19; he was 28. They had five dates in 10 days.

"We got engaged on the Labour Day weekend, and were married just over two months after we'd met," his wife Sally said in an interview. "Everyone said our marriage wouldn't last because I was so young."

But the couple were happily married for 56 years. Ever the romantic, Lax would send Sally a dozen roses for birthdays, especially special occasions, "and sometimes in between," she said.

"He was a gentleman and always treated me like a lady, opening doors for me, that sort of thing. Even when he was sick in his final days in a Florida hospital, he charmed the nurses, and when the doctor came in, Sam asked him how he was. The doctor was a little surprised, but thanked him for asking all the same.

"He loved people," said Sally, "and he loved life."

In addition to his wife Sally and his son Ted, Lax leaves three grandchildren – Sandra, Richard and Bobby.

BIALIK PLANTS TREES: In honour of the 100th anniversary of the Jewish National Fund, students, staff and parents of Bialik Hebrew Day School undertook to plant 1,800 trees. Seen here at a ceremony to present the trees to JNF is (from left) Courtney Conway, vice-president of the student council; Dr. Uri Korin, director of education; Frank Wilson, president of JNF Toronto; Ben Prossin, executive director, JNF Toronto; and William Raskin, president of the student council.

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Canada abstains on key UN anti-racism vote

Continued from page 1

Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance." It was adopted by a vote of 137 to two (Israel and the U.S. voted against), with two abstentions (Canada and Australia).

Canadian Jewish Congress had asked Canada to vote against the measure, but CJC last week had some praise for Ottawa's consistent stand.

Canada issued a strongly-worded explanation of its abstention, repeating that it was "deeply disappointed" by the Durban conference, which was "inexcusably marred by unacceptable references to the Middle East... We regret that time and energy that should have been dedicated to the eradication of racism was squandered."

Canada said it wished to reiterate that it disassociates itself "integrally from all references in the Durban Declaration and programme of action directly or indirectly relating to the Middle East."

While some of the Durban conference's so-called "outcome documents" contain "helpful language" in the fight against racism, and while Canada remains committed to the fight against all forms of racial discrimination, this country "continues to have serious concerns about both the Durban process as well as its outcome documents. That is why Canada abstained on the follow-up to the WCAR," the explanation said.

In a letter last week to Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, CJC asked Canada to oppose the resolution, consistent with its reservations expressed at the end of the Durban conference.

CJC national president Keith Landy said in the letter it would be "difficult to see" how Canada could support a resolution that endorses the WCAR's final draft and "expresses satisfaction" with the conference's outcome, and which calls for "full implementation" of all its recommendations.

But CJC conceded that the Canadian delegation played a constructive role in improving the resolution's language from its original draft form.

"We would have preferred they vote 'no,' but we commend the Canadian government for going as far as it did," Landy told *The CJN*. Ottawa's explanation of its vote "is an excellent statement, under the circumstances."

CJC was also pleased that the language in another resolution passed by the UN was altered from an earlier draft to include anti-Semitism as a form of racism.

In the first version, drafted last November, the UN called on member states to examine "contemporary forms" of racism as they relate to "Africans and people of African descent, Arabs, Muslims and Jews."

Congress wanted "anti-Semitism" substituted for "Jews."

Not using the term anti-Semitism "is a retrograde step for its downplays the true nature of anti-Jewish animosity," Landy wrote to Graham. "Merely condemning discrimination against 'Jews' does not reflect the historical phenomena of anti-Semitism as millennia-old hatred and persecution of the Jewish people. As the oldest and hardiest strain of the racism virus, anti-Semitism is on a quantitatively different plane from other examples cited.

"We respectfully ask the government of Canada to seek to change these resolutions to once again refer specifically to anti-Semitism."

The revised resolution complies, and urges a continued battle against racism, including on behalf of "Africans and people of African descent, xenophobia, Negrophobia, Islamophobia/anti-Muslim, anti-Semitism and related intolerance."

The resolution, dealing with measures to combat contemporary forms of racism, passed without a vote, as did a third resolution on fighting racism and racial discrimination.

* * *

Also last week, CJC presented a brief to the department of foreign affairs in Ottawa that urges Canada to vote against any anti-Israel resolutions expected at the annual meeting of the UN's Commission on Human Rights, scheduled to begin in Geneva next week.

The CJN will follow the story as the conference gets underway.

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Israel & the Jewish World

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Israel's security cabinet keeps military pressure on PA

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The security cabinet met last Sunday night to discuss Israel's response to the most recent wave of terror attacks.

When the meeting convened by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon concluded, it was reported that the cabinet had approved a plan by the Israel Defence Forces to apply continuous military pressure on the Palestinian Authority (PA) and terrorist organizations. The purpose of the plan is to put an end to Palestinian terror. The plan, details of which were not released, was unanimously approved by the cabinet.

A total of 21 Israelis were killed in four attacks over a period of less than 24 hours last weekend. Nine people were killed and many others injured, including women and children, in a suicide bombing in the haredi neighbourhood of Beit Yisrael in Jerusalem, following services on Saturday evening. The bomber was identified as a 19-year-old man from the Dehaishe refugee camp near Bethlehem.

Ten Israelis were killed and four injured in a shooting attack Sunday morning at an IDF roadblock north of the West Bank city of Ramallah, near the settlement of Ofra.

A Kassem 2 rocket captured by IDF forces in Jenin last week. Right, an IDF soldier stands atop his tank outside the Balata refugee camp.
[Israel Sun and Isranet photos]

Also on Sunday, an Israeli soldier was killed and four others wounded in a shooting attack near the Kissufim Crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

The Al-Aqsa Brigades, the military wing of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, claimed responsibility for the attacks.

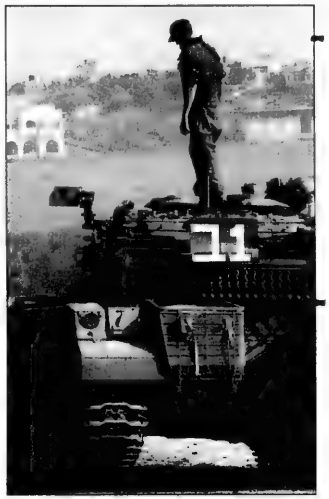
Dozens of Israelis demonstrated Sunday evening outside the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem where the cabinet meeting took place, Channel 1 reported. They called for the government to take harsher measures against the PA, and some held signs with photographs of Arafat and Al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden.

Sharon and Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer disagreed Saturday night on the appropriate Israeli response to the latest wave of Palestinian terror attacks.

Sharon wanted an order issued to tighten Arafat's confinement in Ramallah and return the tanks to their positions around his office there. But Ben-Eliezer opposed the move and was able to delay any intensification of the siege around the Palestinian leader's compound. The defence minister believes Israel needs to give Arafat back his freedom of movement, at least within the territories, but the prime minister is opposed to this.

During the weekly cabinet meeting Sunday morning, Sharon said Israel must maintain its pressure on Arafat and the PA.

Continued on page 38



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'Intensive operations against Arafat' will continue

Continued from page 37

"We need to continue our intensive operations against Yasser Arafat and the Palestinian Authority. If no real pressure is applied, it will be difficult to hold any kind of negotiations," he said.

Sharon also denied that the recent attacks were in response to IDF operations in the territories, adding that anyone who made a connection between the two had "political motives" for doing so.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres spoke of the need for dialogue and progress on the understandings he reached with Palestinian legislative council speaker Abu Ala. "We have to give hope to the 3.5 million Palestinians," Peres said.

Ben-Eliezer praised the IDF for its operations in the West Bank refugee camps of Balata and Jenin. "We proved that we are not deterred from entering any focal point of terror," he said. "The operations are a success and we will continue to operate every place where there are terrorists."

Sharon spoke about the security areas he had mentioned in his speech to the nation on Feb. 21. He said the areas would comprise a strip of varying width of several kilometres for the duration of any interim agreement.

"This is what is required as long as there is no real agreement and no final settlement," he said, adding that he believes it is impossible to reach a final settlement within a short time, and that at present the Palestinians also prefer an interim agreement.

Shin Bet head Avi Dichter said at the cabinet meeting that Arafat "is detached from reality and sees things with a much less dismal perspective than do his close associates."

Tanzim and Fatah continue to lead in carrying out terror attacks, Dichter said, but PA security forces are not participating in the fight. If they do join the struggle, "this would be a serious campaign," he said.

In related developments, six Palestinians, including three children, were killed Monday afternoon when an IDF tank fired on two vehicles in Ramallah.

Palestinian sources reported the strike was a botched Israeli assassination attempt on Hamas activist, Abu Kweik, whose wife and three children were among the dead. The sources also said that Abu Kweik was not in either of the vehicles at the time of the explosion.

The Palestinian Authority head of security in the West Bank, Jibril Rajoub, said a pickup truck was hit by two tank shells fired from the nearby settlement of Psagot.

An IDF source said the blast was an assassination attempt on two armed Palestinians in the area, but the shell had hit the civilians in error.

Abu Kweik is a member of the Hamas military wing in the al-Amari refugee camp in Ramallah.

With files from Amos Harel and JTA.

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Israel blocks construction of disputed Nazareth mosque

By ORI NIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Construction of the Shihab al-Din mosque, close to the Basilica of the Annunciation in Nazareth, will not go ahead, the Sharon government decided Sunday.

Sharon's cabinet adopted a recommendation submitted by a special ministerial committee headed by Housing and Construction Minister Natan Sharansky. The recommendation reverses the policies on the issue enacted by the Netanyahu and Barak governments.

Police in the northern district have been preparing for possible violence sparked by the decision, but Arab leaders do not anticipate such a reaction.

The square in Nazareth has become a source of tension between Christian and Muslim leaders and groups because of differing interpretations of its historic and spiritual importance. Muslims believe that Shihab al-Din, cousin of Arab hero Saladin, is buried in the area of the square. Christians believe the basilica is where the angel Gabriel told Mary she would give birth to Jesus.

Sharon's cabinet passed the no-construction decision by a resounding majority. Only Science, Culture and Sport Minister Matan Vilnai voted against it; two other Labor party ministers (Minister without Portfolio Ra'anan Cohen and Agriculture Minister Shalom Simhon) abstained.

The main points of the decision are:

- No mosque is to be built on the controversial square in Nazareth.
- The government proposes to the Waqf (Muslim religious trust) seven alternative sites for the mosque, some of them close to the disputed square, and all of them available for immediate building.
- The government offers to restore the structure which holds Shihab al-Din's grave in concordance with Muslim needs and sensibilities, but without altering the site's status.
- The government supports the Nazareth municipality's original plan (which it approved six years ago), calling for the square to become an open tourist site.

Waqf leaders in Nazareth and prominent figures from Israel's Islamic movement responded angrily to the government's decision, but Vatican representatives in Israel said it is "bold and wise."

Rejecting accusations that his committee acted on a preconceived plan to block the mosque's construction, Sharansky said on Sunday that his panel "did very serious work, comparing and deliberating the various claims, and consulting experts."

In an interview, Sharansky said there are two main reasons why his committee repealed the recommendations of the Netanyahu and Barak governments.

First, he said, the Muslims "have not abided by all the understandings reached with them in the past." They failed to remove a protest tent, thus violating government orders, and they set a cornerstone and started work on the mosque without obtaining the required building permits, Sharansky charged.

Also, Sharansky said, the past government committees did not give appropriate weight to Christian sensibilities on this issue and particularly the Vatican's position.

Sharansky added that he asked Israeli President Moshe Katsav, who led the ministerial committee on the dispute under the Netanyahu government, how the decision was reached. According to Sharansky, Katsav said his committee relied on Nazareth Mayor Ramez Jaraisy as sole spokesperson for the Christian view. The Barak government panel was headed by Shlomo Ben-Ami and depended largely on the Katsav committee's work, Sharansky said.

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Feb. 25

• An Israeli company, CBYOND, has developed a tiny camera, designed to penetrate veins and provide imaging during catheterization processes, *Ha'aretz* reported.

This is the first time that intravenous imaging has been made possible. The camera's diameter is 2.5 millimetres (approximately 0.09 inches). The company hopes to start testing the camera on patients within 14 months.

Feb. 26

• Avraham Fish, 65, Aharon Gorov, 46, both of Nokdim in the West Bank, and IDF Sgt. Galit Arbiv, 21, of Nesher, who were all killed on Purim by terrorists, were buried in their respective communities.

Feb. 27

• A female suicide bomber, apparently on her way to the town of Maccabim, which borders the city of Modi'in midway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, detonated an explosive device after she was told by police to leave the car in which she was travelling, killing herself and injuring three police officers.

Feb. 28

• An IDF soldier and at least 13 armed Palestinians were killed in clashes when Israeli troops moved into the two refugee camps of Jenin and Balata in response to the previous day's suicide bombing.

March 1

• A senior member of the military wing of Hamas was one of at least four Palestinians killed during exchanges of fire between IDF troops and armed Palestinians in the refugee camps of Jenin and Balata. At least 30 others were wounded as the operation that began early the previous morning moved into its second day.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Arens skeptical of Saudi peace plan

Continued from page 1

Asked if the plan has any redeeming features, Arens replied, "It might be a microscopic move in the right direction."

He added that "if there is a positive spin here, the Saudis have made a move that is not hostile to Israel."

Arens would not speculate whether the plan is a public relations ploy designed to burnish Saudi Arabia's image since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Turning to a different topic, Arens said the Palestinian uprising will intensify if the Palestinians continue to think they can achieve political gains through violence.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, he said, bases his strategy on that assumption. "He is a man of violence."

Arguing that the intifadah can be crushed militarily, Arens said, "There is only a military solution. We're dealing with a war, our task is to win it, and I think we will."

Arens, who was once Israel's defence minister, added: "You have to go after the sources of violence. You can't win this war by remote control."

Israel, he said, must be prepared to launch raids into Palestinian towns in Area A, territory fully controlled by the Palestinians.

"In principle, we're prepared to fight as long as it takes," he said, referring to the goal of eradicating terrorism. "We have the ability to end the violence in a reasonably short period."

Taking a swipe at Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's tactics in confronting the intifadah, Arens said, "This government has been hesitant. It didn't do a year ago what it's doing now."

Israel and the Palestinians can resume talks after the violence has been suppressed, Arens said.

Advising Israel not to negotiate under fire, Arens declared Israel will not be "brought to its knees" by violence.

Asked whether he agrees with Sharon that Arafat is "irrelevant," Arens said, 'It's not an appropriate terminology. Arafat has influence. I wish he were irrelevant. He's relevant."

On another topic, Arens said Israel should retaliate if Iraq fires Scud missiles at Israel again. (During the 1991 Gulf War, Israel did not strike back after being pummelled by 39 Iraqi Scuds.)

"Israel should certainly not take [an attack] lying down. There is no reason why Israel should not hit back."

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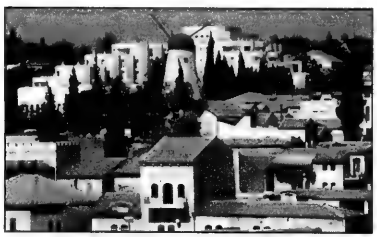
Jerusalem's Island of Serenity

It's not really an island, but it might as well be. On a map, it's where central Jerusalem's Keren Hayesod, Ze'ev Jabotinsky and David Hamelech streets meet. In spirit, it's a world away from the buzz and bustle of Israel's populous capital.



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So what makes Yemin Moshe, which deteriorated under Jordanian rule until 1967, a planet apart from worldly endeavours? It's lightly populated with fewer than 150 charmingly restored and renovated houses. Its residents are warm and welcoming. The spiritual peace of the Old City, which Yemin Moshe faces, pervades the neighbourhood. And it's a haven for talented artists and musicians, who often visit Yemin Moshe's placid surroundings from other parts of the world. Perfect ingredients for a peaceful passage from urban life.

Next week: Katzrin captures the flavour of Talmudic times.

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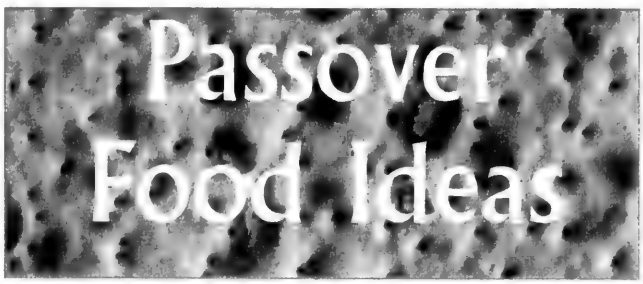

TRADITIONS ABOUND

In some ways, Passover traditions differ worldwide.

While Ashkenazi Jews are forbidden to eat rice throughout Passover week, it is a staple for Sephardi Jews.

For Ashkenazi Jews, matzah balls are an essential part of chicken soup; to some Arabic Jews, they are an unheard of entity.

Charoset also varies widely. There are sweet mixtures with apples and nuts, recipes with dates, and other recipes with pomegranates or lemon rind.

Some of us have eggs and salt water at our seder table, while others have potatoes. Some use horseradish for bitter herbs, while others use romaine lettuce.

Despite our differences, however, we all gather with our family and friends at the seder table and we all retell the story of the liberation of the Jews from slavery.

We also revel in our own family traditions. Often, the same person leads the seder, the same child says the Four Questions, and the same person opens the door for Eliyahu.

Food plays an important part in those traditions. Whether we serve turkey, fish or chicken as a main course, or candied carrots, sweet potato tsimmes or potato kugel as side dishes, we are no doubt serving similar foods to those that graced the seder tables of our mothers and grandmothers.

Some of us want to start our own food traditions, however, and we search for new recipes to enhance our seder meal.

At *The CJN*, we've tried to make that search easier. We've provided you with some *CJN* staff favourites, as well as some recipes from around the world.

We've also tried to make Passover week easier by printing recipes for dishes to try when you just need something different.

Whether you're making your first seder or you're thinking that next year you may pass the job of hosting the seder down to the next generation, we have tried to provide you with some recipes that could become a family tradition.

The ingredients in all our recipes are acceptable for Passover use, and can be purchased kosher for Passover in most large Jewish communities.

From all of us at *The CJN*, enjoy your Passover meals, and Chag kasher v'samayach.

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Passover Food Ideas

Potato takes creative stage

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

For the humble potato, taken for granted all year and rarely on centre stage, Passover is a week in the spotlight. Without competition from pasta or – unless you're Sephardi – legumes, beans, corn or rice, for eight glorious days, the potato reigns supreme.

We cook potatoes almost by instinct, the same way, over and over. Yet with the possible exception of chocolate, name another food you can eat every day and never tire of!

Determined this Pesach to find new and interesting ways to serve potatoes, I consulted cookbook editor Roy Finamore, who, with Molly Stevens of *Fine Cooking* magazine, has written the encyclopedic, lusciously photographed *One Potato, Two Potato* (Houghton Mifflin), the quintessential guide to everything you ever wanted to know about the vegetable.

Finamore, who has worked with Martha Stewart, Mexican cooking authority Diana Kennedy, Ina Garten (of Barefoot Contessa fame) and Anne Willan, teamed up with Stevens, who was classically trained in the art of French cooking at the famed La Varenne and author of *Williams-Sonoma New England*. Together they cooked 1,500 pounds of potatoes, testing 20 varieties, and offering 300 mouth-watering recipes from appetizers, soups and salads to main courses and even desserts.

So first we shop. Are your mashed potatoes gummy? Your French fries soggy? Your potato salad mushy? Maybe you're using the wrong potato. Finamore explains the difference between high-starch potatoes, like Idahos and russets, which more readily absorb liquids and seasonings (therefore better for mashing and baking), and low-starch or "waxy" potatoes, like white boiling potatoes and round reds, which, being more dense and moist, will turn to glue if overworked. Instead of mashing, boil them or roast them – any preparation where you want them to hold their shape. "Think of potato salads and hash browns," says Finamore.

How to tell if a potato is high-starch or low-starch? Here's a great trick: "Cut a raw potato in half with a large chef's knife; if there is a lot of white residue on the blade and if the potato seems to cling to the knife, it's starchy. If the potato leaves little residue on the blade and falls away from the knife without clinging, it's most likely waxy."

By the way, don't be confused by the term "new potatoes," which, strictly speaking, refers to any variety that is within 15 days of digging and is therefore available only in late spring and summer. Often stores mislabel red or white potatoes as "new." "If you can easily rub the skin off the potato with your thumb, it's not a real new potato," notes Finamore.

Once you get them home, store potatoes in a cool, dark place, but never in the refrigerator, which will cause the starches to convert to sugar and sabotage your recipes.

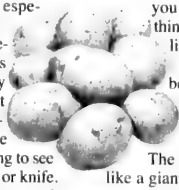
Now for the tools. You'll need a sharp peeler. "I like the Y-shaped peelers because they strip a wider swath," says Finamore, "but Molly prefers the old-fashioned swivel peeler because she likes the way you can use the pointed tip to dig out any eyes or blemishes."

Finamore urges us – no, begs us – to purchase a ricer and a mandoline. For the silkiest mashed potatoes, only a ricer will do. A hand masher is second best, but unless you want glue, avoid the food mill. Just be sure to get a ricer with a solid basket, Finamore warns, not one with a removable plate, which gets stuck to the plunger and has to be pulled out and readjusted with each stroke. "It's an annoyance you can do without," she says.

A mandoline is essential for cutting thin, even slices for knock-out shoestring fries and gratins, and it beats the best knife for ease of slicing. Don't be put off by the high-roller price tag you see in gourmet kitchen stores. Finamore assures us that a serviceable mandoline can be had for around $30 (US).

Now, to scrub or not to scrub. Thicker skinned potatoes like russets can take a good scrubbing without damaging the skin, but be gentle with the thinner skinned varieties. Either way, use a vegetable brush with stiff bristles. Save your kitchen scrub sponge for your pots.

When boiling potatoes, think "steady simmer" rather than violent boiling, and here's a great tip for draining. Instead of throwing the potatoes in a colander (as we all do!) which crushes the potatoes on the bottom and causes them to cool unevenly, use a wire rack or a basket that fits over the sink, and spread the potatoes out in a single layer. This is especially important for making potato salad.



Remember, too, that cooking times will vary depending on the season. Freshly dug potatoes take less time to cook than older storage potatoes. The variety you choose and the size of your chunks will affect cooking times too, so adjust your recipes accordingly. Cut potatoes into similar sizes and cook the same varieties together, advises Finamore, and when testing to see if they're done, use a thin skewer rather than a fork or knife.

For the silkiest mashed potatoes, after boiling, put them back in the pan for about a minute to dry them, stirring with a wooden spoon.

Heat the cream (or milk if you choose) and add it slowly as you beat in each addition. Beat a little longer than you think you should. This will make your mashed potatoes lighter and ready to take more liquid.

Duchess potatoes are dried and riced the same way, beaten with egg and piped with a pastry bag for a dramatic presentation. Finamore says salmon or halibut may be substituted for the cod in the recipe below.

Just select skinless fillets 1 to 1½ inches thick.

The Mushroom and Spinach Stuffed Potato Galette is like a giant stuffed latke, crunchy on the outside with a delicious vegetable filling.

Continued on page 42

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Green Beans Almandine
Cole Slaw, Dill Pickles
Matzo
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Macaroons

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HAPPY PASSOVER
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More than one way to cook potatoes

Continued from page 41

The Gingered Sweet Potato Pie with Meringue is a twist on your grandmother's marshmallow topped casserole. "Sautéed pears add a sweet note without making these candied," says Finamore. "It's a gorgeous holiday side dish."

DILLED COD WITH DUCHESS POTATOES

Duchess Potatoes:

2 lbs. russet potatoes, peeled and cut into chunks
coarse salt
6 tbsp. (¾ stick) unsalted butter, softened
1 large egg, lightly beaten
2 large egg yolks
freshly ground white pepper
pinch of freshly grated nutmeg
1 large egg, beaten, for an egg wash (optional)

Put the potatoes in a large saucepan, cover with cold water by at least an inch, add a good pinch of salt, and bring to a boil. Cover partway, reduce the heat to medium, and cook until the potatoes are tender. Drain the potatoes, return them to the pot and put them back over the heat to dry. Shake the pan and stir until the potatoes are floury and have made a film on the bottom of the pan.

Put the potatoes through a ricer and return them to the pot. Stir in the butter. Beat in the whole egg and the 2 yolks. Season with salt, white pepper and nutmeg.

Dilled Cod:

4 tbsp. (½ stick) unsalted butter, softened
1½ tbsp. chopped fresh dill
1 large egg, beaten with 1 tsp. water, for an egg wash
1 shallot, finely chopped
1½-2 lbs. thick cod fillets
coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper

1-2 tbsp. dry white wine or fresh lemon juice
sprigs of curly parsley for garnish

Heat the oven to 400. Butter a large ovenproof serving platter. Combine the butter and dill, whipping with a fork; set aside.

Fit a pastry bag with a large star tip and fill the bag with the duchess potatoes. Pipe a thick border about 1 inch high, around the edge of the platter. Brush the potatoes with the egg wash – lightly, so you don't ruin your piping.

Scatter the shallot over the bottom of the platter. Arrange the fillets on top, tucking under any thin tail or belly pieces so that the fillets are an even thickness. The fillets should be lightly touching each other but not overlapping. Season the fish with salt and pepper. Dot the tops of the fillets generously with the dill butter. Splash on about a tablespoon of the white wine.

Bake until the potatoes are just beginning to turn golden on the edges and the fish is cooked through, 20 to 25 minutes.

The *garni du jour* for this dish could only be sprigs of curly parsley. Serve from the platter.

MUSHROOM-AND-SPINACH-STUFFED POTATO GALETTE

Galettes are crunchy, hot cakes, a clever means to use up odd bits of leftovers. Once you've got the hang of making a stuffed galette, you might try your hand at other combinations. Any filling ingredients should be cooked (with the exception of tender-leafed vegetables such as baby spinach or fresh sorrel), and the filling should never overwhelm the potatoes. When we're feeling especially brave, we may add ⅓ cup or so of shredded cheese, but be forewarned, this can lead to trouble and make the galette stick to the pan. We're grateful to chef Randall Price for this recipe.

6 tbsp. (¾ stick) unsalted butter
½ lb. mushrooms (a combination of button and chanterelle is nice), trimmed and sliced
coarse salt and freshly ground black pepper
1 shallot, minced
2 lbs. white or all-purpose potatoes, peeled
2 cups loosely packed tender spinach leaves, any tough stems removed

Melt 2 tbsp. of the butter in a skillet over medium-high heat. Add the mushrooms, season with salt and pepper, and sauté, shaking and stirring often, until browned and very dry, about 10 minutes. Add the shallot and cook for another minute. Remove from the heat and set aside.

Continued on page 44

Price Chopper

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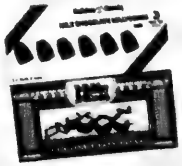
1.99



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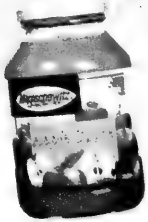

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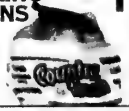

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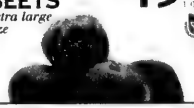

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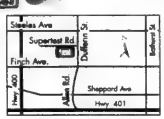

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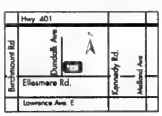

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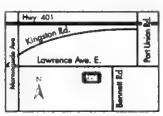

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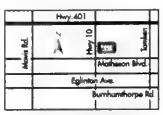

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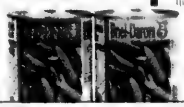

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Passover Food Ideas

Get creative with potatoes

Continued from page 42

Grate the potatoes with the fine julienne blade of a mandoline or the large holes of a box grater. Toss the shreds with salt and pepper to taste.

Heat 3 tbsp. of the butter in a 10-inch cast-iron or heavy, non-stick skillet over medium-high heat. When the butter is very hot – it will stop foaming – dump in half of the potatoes. Flatten them a bit with your hand and cover with the sautéed mushrooms. Top with the spinach leaves. Cover with the remaining potatoes and press hard on top with a flexible metal spatula to form a large pancake. Cook, continuing to compress with the spatula, until the cake is browned on the bottom and holding together, about 10 minutes. If it appears to be browning too quickly, lower the heat a smidgen – if you cook the galette at too high a heat, the potatoes inside won't cook through. During the last few minutes, use the spatula to loosen the galette and peek underneath to make sure that it's not sticking.

You have two options for flipping the galette: either lift and tilt the pan, and slide the galette onto a large flat plate, or set a large round plate over the skillet, and quickly flip the whole ensemble. Whichever method you choose, loosen any stuck bits of potato in the pan before continuing.

Add the remaining 1 tbsp. butter to the pan. Flip the galette and slide it back into the pan, browned side up, to cook on the other side. Cook, loosening the cake with the spatula and shaking back and forth to make sure that there's no sticking for 8 to 10 minutes, until browned on the bottom.

Cut into wedges and serve warm. Serves 6.

GINGERED SWEET POTATO PUDDING WITH MERINGUE

½ cup sliced almonds, very lightly toasted*
3 lbs. sweet potatoes, baked until very tender
3 tbsp. unsalted butter
2 ripe comice or bartlett pears, quartered, cored and sliced
2 tbsp. light brown sugar
2 tbsp. brandy or cider
1 tsp. ground ginger
¼ tsp. ground allspice
freshly grated nutmeg
coarse salt and freshly ground white pepper
3 large eggs, separated
½ tsp. ground cinnamon
3 dashes hot sauce

Heat oven to 350. Generously butter an 8-inch square baking dish or a round 3-quart casserole and sprinkle a heaping ¼ cup of the almonds over the bottom and sides.

Peel the sweet potatoes and pass them through a food mill into a big mixing bowl.

Heat the butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat. When the butter stops foaming, add the pear slices and cook, stirring once or twice, until they are evenly coated with butter. Sprinkle on 1 tbsp. of the brown sugar and cook until the pears are starting to fall apart and the juices are beginning to caramelize, about 5 minutes. Transfer the sautéed pears to the food mill and puree them into the bowl with the potatoes.

Return the pan to the heat and pour in the brandy. Bring to a quick boil, scraping with a wooden spoon to dissolve the caramelized bits, and then stir the liquid into the mashed sweet potatoes. Season with the ginger, allspice, a few gratings of nutmeg and salt and white pepper.

Whisk the egg yolks until they are light and frothy. Stir the yolks into the sweet potatoes and scrape the lot into the baking dish. Bake until heated through and beginning to bubble around the edges, 40 to 45 minutes.

During the last few minutes of baking, whisk the egg whites with the remaining 1 tbsp. brown sugar, the cinnamon, and a pinch of salt to soft peaks. Fold the hot sauce and 2 tbsp. of the almonds into the meringue.

Remove the casserole from the oven and spread the meringue evenly over the sweet potatoes. Sprinkle the remaining 2 tbsp. almonds on top of the meringue and return the dish to the oven. Bake until the meringue is golden brown, another 10 to 12 minutes, and serve. Serves 6 to 8.

***Note:** Be careful when you toast the almonds. If you brown them too much, they'll burn when you bake the casserole, so aim for beige.

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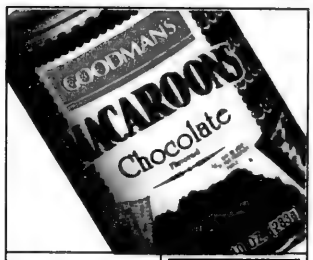

Goodman's Macaroons
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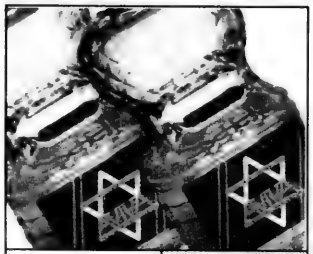

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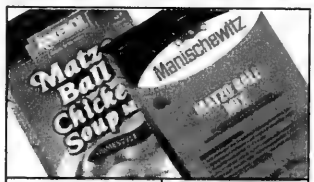

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Passover Food Ideas

Horseradish gives a good kick

BY RIVKA TAL
Special to The CJN

Pesach and horseradish go together. It's on the seder plate and tops the gefilte fish. Many people over 50 or so have fond memories of a parent or grandparent patiently grating horseradish for the Passover seders by hand. What would Pesach be without *chrein*?

Funny name, isn't it? Horseradish, however, has nothing to do with horses and it is not a radish (it's a member of the mustard family). The name may have come from an English adaptation of its German name. In earlier times, the plant grew wild in European coastal areas; the Germans called it *Meerretich*, or "sea radish." The German word *Meer* sounds like "mare" in English. Perhaps "mare-radish" eventually became "horseradish." The word "horseradish" first appeared in print in 1597 in John Gerarde's English herbal on medicinal plants.

Horseradish root

It's a pity to save horseradish for Passover use only. It's a low-calorie, natural condiment that adds a distinctive, pungent flavour to foods. It is commonly used as a relish with meat and fish or as a tangy seasoning in sauces served with these foods. It can also add zest to appetizers, relishes, dips, spreads, salads, salad dressings, sauces and gravies. Some cooks use it generously to give a "hot" taste to food; others find that a small amount of horseradish is sufficient to impart a subtle, delightful flavour that turns an ordinary dish into an extra special one.

Did you know? Chances are that the horseradish you use was grown in the U.S. midwest. More than two-thirds of North American horseradish comes from Madison and St. Clair counties in southwestern Illinois. Most of it is grown near Collinsville in what is called the American Bottoms, the most concentrated area of horseradish production in the world. The superior quality of Illinois horseradish is due to fertile soils, a suitable climate, and producers skilled in special cultural methods.

The sharp and piquant flavour and the penetrating smell of horseradish become apparent when the root is grated or ground. This is because the root contains highly volatile oils that are released by enzyme activity when the root cells are crushed.

Why not make your own horseradish sauce this year? Your cost will be a fraction of that of purchased horseradish and it's fun, too. Buy

Continued on page 48

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Horseradish gives a good kick

Continued from page 47

good-quality roots: clean, firm and free from cuts and deep blemishes. The freshly peeled or sliced root and the prepared product are creamy white. Generally, the whiter the root, the fresher it is.

You will need a Pesachdik food processor, a well-ventilated kitchen (open windows and doors, fan an asset), a large bowl (at least 12-in. diameter), lots of empty jars or plastic containers and an hour and half. Everything within a radius of 3 feet may turn red. Wear gloves, or else your hands will take on that hard-earned, brown-in-the-cracks look. When the fumes get to be too much and the tears start coming, that's OK; think of all the troubles of the Jewish people past and present! Don't wear your best clothes.

Fresh horseradish varies greatly in strength and that is why the measurements below are not exact. If you like it "weaker," add more beets.

HOMEMADE HORSERADISH SAUCE

8-10 lb. fresh beets
1/2-1 cup water from cooked beets
1 fresh horseradish root (about 1 lb.)
1/2-1 cup vinegar or lemon juice (or a combination)
2-3 tbsp. sugar
salt and pepper to taste

Scrub beets and cut off stems. Cut in halves. Cook covered in a large quantity of rapidly boiling water for 40-50 minutes or until tender (a fork penetrates easily). Save about two cups of the cooking liquid. Cool beets under running water. When cool enough to handle, peel; the peel will slip off easily. Cut each piece in half. Insert steel blade into food processor and chop beets finely, in batches. Place in a large mixing bowl.

Scrape or peel horseradish root. Cut into 1-in. slices. Chop in the food processor in batches until very fine. Try not to breathe! Add horseradish to beets.

Thoroughly combine beets and horseradish. Add beet-cooking liquid, vinegar and/or lemon juice, sugar, salt and pepper to taste. Mix well and taste. Correct seasonings. Store in tightly closed containers in refrigerator. Will keep a long time, but gradually loses strength. Yield: enough *chrein* for at least a few months!

Gefilte fish with horseradish sauce

POTATO SALAD WITH HORSERADISH

2/3-1 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup horseradish sauce, drained
2 eggs, hard-boiled, chopped
1 cup celery, chopped
1/4 cup onion, chopped
4 cups new warm potatoes, cubed
sugar, salt and pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients in a bowl and pour over warm potatoes. Adjust seasoning. Serve immediately or chill in a tightly covered container.

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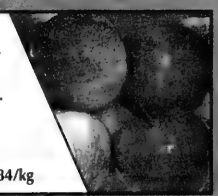

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Anton Kuerti concert to be taped for CBC special

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Internationally renowned pianist Anton Kuerti joins his wife, acclaimed cellist Kristine Bogyo, in an upcoming concert to be taped for a CBC documentary.

"I very rarely play with my wife," Kuerti says. "There have been a lot of discussion and opinions flying back and forth. We don't always agree on everything, as is the case with most married couples. We looked over a lot of pieces together."

The concert will be held March 17 at 3 p.m. at Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park Cres. It is to be filmed for a doacumentary about the couple called *A Marriage in Music*, produced by Zephyr Films for CBC-TV's performing arts series *Opening Night*.

One of the pieces they will perform is *Magog*, which was composed by Kuerti for Bogyo when they first met at a music centre near Magog, Que.

They will also play César Franck's *Cello Sonata*, which Kuerti says is the same as the composer's *Violin Sonata*, but appropriate to play on either instrument.

Kuerti will also play two solos, Beethoven's *Piano Sonata No. 24 in F Sharp Major, Op. 78* and Mendelssohn's *Fantaisie in F Sharp Minor, Op. 28*.

The Austrian-born, American-raised pianist has lived in Canada for 30 years. At the age of 11, he performed a Grieg concerto with Arthur Fiedler. He has studied with a who's who of musical greats – Arthur Loesser, Mieczyslaw Horsozowski and Rudolf Serkin – and has performed in 38 countries and with most major U.S. orchestras, including the New York Philharmonic.

Kuerti has recorded approximately 50 CDs, has been honoured with a number of awards, prizes, and honorary doctorates, and an officer of the Order of Canada.

"I am blessed because I spend most of the time doing what I love doing most and getting paid for it as well," Kuerti says.

Continued on page 53

Theatre school grad gets his debut in The Edible Woman

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — A 23-year-old graduate of the National Theatre School is making his professional acting debut with one of Canada's most prestigious theatre companies.

Michael Rubenfeld plays Trevor in CanStage's production of *The Edible Woman*. The play written by Dave Carley based on the Margaret Atwood's first novel is running till March 16 at the Bluma Appel Theatre at the St. Lawrence Centre of the Arts, 27 Front St. E. in Toronto.

The Edible Woman traces the journey of a young woman named Marian, who has a good job and a handsome fiancé, but slowly her world becomes unfocused.

"The play is about a woman's struggle to find what she wants and needs, she finds herself through exploration," the Winnipeg-born Toronto resident says.

"In the play, Marian played by actress Jillian Fargey, has an affair with my character's roommate Duncan, played by Darren Keay. My part is not very large, but I'm talked about throughout the entire play because my roommate and I are co-dependant. I'm his paternal roommate and he is sort of the child who needs me to take care of him and I need him," says Rubenfeld.

Rubenfeld went to a general audition that was hastily called when a female cast member who was to play three roles including the male role of Trevor quit at the last minute. The production team decided to divide the roles among two actors and for the first time that *The Edible Women* has been produced on stage, actually picked a male actor to play Trevor. Rubenfeld had only four days for rehearsal to prepare for his first foray into the Toronto theatre scene.

"I have a nice little part, I come out on stage and say really funny stuff. I feel very fortunate and honoured to be working at CanStage; they've been very supportive of my work. My profession makes me feel that I live in a bit of a pipe dream. For me, this is the most fun I could possibly imagine having in my life and realising that I could possibly make a living from it," says Rubenfeld.

Rubenfeld isn't the first artistic one in his family, although he claims it skipped a generation. His grandfather sang in a trio with his two sisters in their native France, prior to World War 11.

The actor has completed a short film called *Room Tones* and a feature film called *Summer* to be released in June. He prefers the theatre to film.

"I love the theatre, I'm writing for the theatre too. I write about Jews, believe it or not. I'm on my third draft of a play. It is about the father in a Conservative Jewish family who has an affair with a non-Jewish woman and how it affects the rest of the family," he says.

For tickets to *The Edible Woman* call CanStage at 416-368-3110 or TicketMaster at 416-872-1111.

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

THE TRAVELLERS MARK GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY WITH HOOTENANNY

The Travellers, the acclaimed Canadian folk group that sang folk, labour and protest songs throughout the 1950s, are scheduled to hold a hootenanny this spring in what has become perhaps Toronto's hottest folk club.

According to group leader **Jerry Gray**, the evening marks the beginning of The Travellers' 50th consecutive year of performance. Gray is the only original member of the band, which he reconstituted after it broke up in the '60s.

Its top hit, which brought the foursome instant fame, was a Canadianized version of the **Woodie Guthrie** song, *This Land Is My Land*.

In the good old days of folk music and social activism, a hootenanny "was supposed to be like a community singsong," Gray explains. "We'd all sit around and swap songs. That was the idea. The songs had a social purpose."

The Travellers' hootenanny takes place at Hugh'sroom, 2261 Dundas St. W. at Bloor. May 1, 8:30 p.m. Reservations, 416-531-6604. Details at Web site www.hughsroom.com.

Incidentally, Gray reports that the NFB documentary on The Travellers that premiered last year at the Toronto Jewish Film Festival generated good reviews after a recent screening at the New York Jewish Film Festival.

* * *

Mel Brooks Live: Celebrated Jewish comic **Mel Brooks** breezed into town recently to plug the upcoming Toronto production of his huge Broadway hit musical, *The Producers*. Brooks was the surprise guest at a Mirvish Productions news conference at which **Ed** and **David Mirvish** unveiled the hit show as the lead production in their new subscription season.

Based on the film of the same name, *The Producers* tells the story of a down-on-his-luck theatrical producer Max Bialystock and his timid accountant Leo Bloom, who hatch a scam to raise money for a Broadway show that they expect will be a fiasco. It's reportedly next to impossible to get tickets to the musical in New York. For ticket information here, phone 416-593-4225 or visit the Web site www.mirvish.com.

* * *

Tragic Love at Glendon: The Swiss play *Aimee and Jaguar*, a "riveting two-woman show," comes to York University's Glendon Theatre this week.

The play is based on the true story of the tragic love between **Elisabeth Wust**, a Nazi officer's wife in 1940s Berlin, and **Felice Schragenheim**, a Jewish lesbian who died at Bergen-Belsen. The story was the basis of a bestselling book by **Erica Fischer**.

Aimee and Jaguar stars **Graziella Rossi** and **Pia Waibel**. It is being performed March 11 in English and March 12 in German, 8 p.m. Glendon Theatre, Glendon College, 2275 Bayview Ave. (south of Lawrence). $5 at the door.

The Glendon Gallery opens its doors prior to the performances for a special viewing of Still Life, an exhibition by **Thelma Rosner** that pays tribute to two women who independently wrote cookbooks in Nazi concentration camps.

* * *

Piano Concert: Award-winning pianist **Alexander Tselyakov**, who has toured internationally and recently performed a sold-out concert at New York's Carnegie Hall, plays a program of Chopin and Rachmaninoff this month in North York, presented by the BJCC Koffler Centre school of music and Na'amat Canada.

Tselyakov has been described as "superhuman and intoxicating" and "one of the most talented piano virtuosos performing today." He is a winner of the coveted International Tchaikovsky Competition. Leah Posluns Theatre, 4588 Bathurst St. $36. Thursday, March 21, 8 p.m. 416-636-1880 ext. 228.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• Toronto sculptor **Sorel Etrog** encountered the handwritten "script images"of **Wenzel Ziersch** in Munich and was so fascinated he arranged to curate a showing in Toronto. It opens March 13, 6 to 8 p.m. with Etrog and Ziersch in attendance. Goethe-Institut Inter Nationes Gallery, 163 King St. W. Until April 13. 416-593-5257.

• Toronto Philharmonia presents Masters Old and New, a concert featuring **Haydn**, **Heard**, **Mozart** and **Beethoven**, with soloists **Jeong-Won Kim** and **Stefanie Baldassarra**. $37-$26. George Weston Recital Hall, North York. March 14, 8 p.m. 416-250-3708, www.torontophil.on.ca.

• Mohawk Ideals, Victorian Values, an exhibit about the Victorian-era Canadian Native Oronhyatekha, who succeeded as both a physician and businessman, opened this week at the Royal Ontario Museum. Until Aug. 2.

• The Miles Nadal JCC has announced that Ashkenaz 2002 will take place Labour Day weekend at Harbourfront. Watch this space for details.

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Make the most of your stopover in Britain

By KATHRYN KATES
and RANDY ROWETT
Special to The CJN

LONDON — Many Canadian travellers destined for exotic places such as Malta, Cyprus and South Africa need to make flight connections through London, England.

No matter; if you have a long day's wait before boarding your final flight or you choose to take advantage of your stopover by staying in England for a longer period of time, there is plenty to do in and around the British capital.

While in London, you should invest in The London Pass. For £4.99 GBP (approximately $12 Cdn) a three-day pass gives you free entry to over 60 attractions and public transportation on all city trains, tubes and buses. Places of interest include the Tower of London, Buckingham Palace, the British Museum, Kensington Palace, the Royal Air Force Museum and the Tate Britain, where admission is free, but your pass will get you a complimentary Acoustiguide.

Also included in London's north end are the Jewish Museum in Finchley, dedicated to the lively social history of London's Jewish immigration and settlement and the Jewish Museum in Camden which received a "highly commended" from Visitor Attraction: London Tourism Awards 2000. The Camden museum explores the Jewish community in Britain and beyond.

If your stopover is just too short to contemplate visiting all the attractions, then consider a quick overview with one of the tours offered on The London Pass such as the London Pride Sightseeing Tours aboard an open-topped double decker bus or Catamaran Cruisers' boat tour along the Thames River. The more energetic will enjoy a guided tour of London by bike from the London Bicycle Tour Company, just remember to cycle on the left-hand side.

If you plan to shop in London – a very tempting thing to do, some interesting places to drop your pounds are Covent Gardens with its quirky boutiques, Carnaby Street for retro chic, Notting Hill for hip fashion, Kings Road for high fashion and Portobello Road for second hand fashion.

Of course, a London shopping spree should include at least a peek at Harrods, the glamorous seven-storey department store in Knightsbridge.

A must-do during your London stopover is to attend a matinee or evening performance at one of London's historical West End theatres or the nearby London Palladium in Oxford Circus.

The London Palladium has presented many wonderful theatricals and great variety acts over the years, as immortalised by BBC television and seen in Canada, a few decades ago.

Public transport into London from all three airports is easy. The underground at Heathrow will take you directly to Paddington Station. Gatwick to the south and Stansted to the north are connected to the city's underground system by train. In fact, purchased prior to leaving Canada, the BritRail Classic or Flexi Pass offers affordable transportation, not only from the airports to London, but throughout Great Britain with 18,000 daily departures from England, Wales and Scotland.

A number of travellers are making their way to England by charter to Gatwick Airport before catching a flight to another country, boarding a train or cruise liner, renting a car to tour England or crossing through the Chunnel to France. If you prefer a stopover that takes you to the English countryside surrounding Gatwick instead of heading to the streets of London, there are a number of small charming towns to hang your bowler hat.

The South Lodge Hotel in Lower Beeding, North Horsham in West Sussex is only 15 minutes from Gatwick, if you don't get lost on the roads' roundabouts. This breathtaking Victorian country house built in 1883, lies on a 90-acre garden overlooking the rolling South Downs. Private coach tours are offered to Brighton's Royal Pavilion and nearby attractions including Petworth House and Leonardslee Gardens.

Dover the "Gateway to Great Britain" since Roman times, is the place many tourists find themselves when their stopover brings them to England with continued travel by train across the English Channel to Calais, France or to board a cruise ship from the city's famed naval port.

Sights to see in Dover include the Battle of Britain Museum, Roman Painted House, Dover Transport Museum, the Women's Land Army Museum and Dover Castle with its Secret Wartime Tunnels. Wallett's Court Country House Hotel and Spa is a charming property that sits on the White Cliffs of Dover.

For more information contact British Tourist Authority at 1-888-VISIT –UK and BritRail at: 1-866-BRITRAIL or 1-877-677-1066.

Arts & Travel

Reviewer delves into books and films

By SHEILA DROPKIN
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — To Heather Kassel, a film is more than just a movie and a novel is more than just a story.

One of several professional leaders of literary discussion groups in Toronto, Kassel's course at Beth Tikvah Synagogue covers five books and five films each year, with no classes given in July and August.

After watching each film and reading each book a minimum of three times, Kassel does far more than critique what's on the screen or the page. She delves into the backgrounds of the authors, screenwriters and directors, unearthing their family histories and the reasons why they got involved in their projects.

"By the time I've read a book for the third time, all the characters are family to me," she says. "I study the books and films intently, trying to get as much out of them as possible. My ultimate goal is to help people see film differently and to read books differently, to see what's behind the obvious."

Relying largely on the public library and Internet for her research, Kassel has also been known to phone authors with questions. For her film reviews, she also studies camera angles, and the use of colour and music.

Kassel's most recent review subject, *Nurse Betty*, starring Renee Zellweger and Morgan Freeman, is a case in point.

The film, she said, is much more than a frothy trifle or a dark comedy. She described it as a psychological study and a parallel to *The Wizard of Oz*. Both tales depict a witness to a horrendous event (a very bloody murder-by-scalping in Betty's case and a devastating storm for the *Wizard*'s Dorothy) who find refuge in a dissociative fugue state or amnesia caused by fright and an identity transformation.

A former high school English and math teacher, Kassel considers herself "always a teacher; that's what excites me." While she started out reviewing only books, she added movies to her repertoire when videocassettes became popular, and she studied film at York University to learn more about the medium.

"With film, I am reaching a larger audience," she says. "It's more expedient for many people who don't have the time to read books. Film is a legitimate artform now."

The reviewed items, she says, must be award-winners or short-listed for major prizes and provide a cross-section of points of view and themes. The books are all in paperback and Canadian content is included whenever possible.

Kassel, who was born in Hamilton, has influenced her family with her views. Her husband, a physician, once thought "films are only for entertainment but is now keen to go" to more serious fare, she says. Her children – two sons and a daughter – are all interested in film. Kassel jokes that her daughter, who is also a voracious reader, once turned down a prospective suitor because he didn't like foreign films.

Pianist's concert to be taped for CBC

Continued from page 50

Kuerti's repertoire features 50 concertos, including his own. He is known for his commentaries on music, including a weekly CBC radio series. The pianist takes pride in exposing his audiences to lesser-known works.

"Sometimes musicians are astonished when they find something of really high quality, yet by a little known composer," he says. "For example, I'm directing a big festival in June in Edmonton of the music of Carl Czerny, a student of Beethoven, sponsored by the Canadian Centre of Austrian and Central European Studies located at the University of Alberta."

Kuerti has two sons; the eldest is a budding conductor and the youngest, plays the cello like his mother. When not performing, he enjoys skiing and white-water rafting.

He is also involved in politics. In 1988, he ran as a federal candidate for the NDP. He believes that for a parliament to properly represent a population it should have people in it from all backgrounds and not be composed almost entirely of businessmen and lawyers.

Now a member of the Green party, Kuerti would consider running again given the opportunity.

For more information on the recital, call 416-922-3714 or visit www.mooredaleconcerts.com.

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Business Profile

Sangoma – an Internet company with real products

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There was a time not that long ago when a company with a .com at the end of its name had to beat off potential investors with a stick, if not a bundle of fibre optic cable.

Fearing they would be left behind, people threw money by the bushel at companies making an Internet play, even if their business plans proudly forecast no profits today or for the foreseeable future.

Those were heady days for fly-by-nighters and legitimate enterprises alike, but those days are gone.

Today, a .com at the end of a corporate name is poison, a curse, a not-so-subtle signal to badly burned investors to stay away. Hence, one Toronto area company with real, concrete products you can touch has dumped the .com from its name and re-assumed its old, reliable moniker.

In existence since 1984 (a fact it proudly displays on its media handouts), Sangoma Technologies is a specialty shop. It has been quietly and diligently plugging away, creating a comfortable niche for itself in the Internet market in which it developed equipment that simplified a complex routing procedure.

Wanpipe is a piece of equipment that resembles an internal modem or video card; it replaces external routers and other equipment that link office PCs to the Internet or to a company's internal network at remote locations. Unlike the bulky boxes widely in use that take up valuable desk space, use lots of power and are difficult to fix, the Wanpipe is installed directly in servers, saving space and money, and making it far easier for techies to diagnose system problems.

'Not just smoke and mirrors.'

Where other Internet companies promised the moon, Sangoma relied on word of mouth to expand its modest customer base, centred mostly in the United States, Germany, Poland and Israel.

For David Mandelstam and Gideon Hack, that was just the way they liked it. The principals behind Sangoma for many years, they were happy running a specialty shop that provided a steady if unspectacular revenue stream in which everyone at the shop made a comfortable living.

A couple of years ago, however, they were convinced to take the company public and they were faced with an offer they couldn't refuse. Sangoma was listed on the Canadian Venture Exchange in March 2001. Mandelstam and Hack went from majority partners to minority shareholders, while Mandelstam took on the added responsibilities of president and CEO and Hack, vice-president and chief technology officer.

"It's a different business," Mandelstam conceded. "It's interesting. It's been a real growth experience.

"Before, we spent time thinking about technical things. Now... there's a pressure to perform. People have to be informed."

In their new roles, sharehholders have to be coddled and the company's products have to be publicized. Getting the company's name "out there" comes close to being job one.

"Before, we had very simple jobs," Mandelstam said. "We had to sell cards. Now we have to sell ourselves."

Mandelstam and Hack admit they're still getting used to that part of the business.

Still, they're grateful being where they are. Many companies servicing the Internet did not survive the shakeout that struck when the Internet stock bubble burst.

For Hack, the reason for Sangoma's success was simple. The company never overextended itself. "We had real products, not just smoke and mirrors," he said.

"We had a viable business. We had customers. We had revenue," added Mandelstam.

Back in the mid-'80s, Mandelstam, 55, started Sangoma in partnership with a neighbour. Even then, the product was an early equivalent to today's routing equipment, though at very low line speeds, said Mandelstam, a mechanical engineer by training.

Hack, who grew up in Pretoria, South Africa, emigrated to Canada in 1987 and joined his uncle, Mandelstam, as a software engineer. Hack, 40, wrote much of the programming that allowed the company's hardware devices to function.

In 1989, he bought out the other partner and the company settled into its pattern of holding on to its market while constantly upgrading its product line.

Another of its inventory items is a board that facilitates in-store point-of-sale connections to outside computers. It too is part of the WAN (wide area network) communications hardware and software products that Sangoma specializes in.

David Mandelstam (left) and Gideon Hack with their Wanpipe.

While the Wanpipe has proved popular among its already loyal roster of customers – at $849 (US) it replaces external equipment that could cost around $3,000 (US) – the company continues its research and development to find new WAN cards for different services in the business world.

Eventually, Hack said, the company will develop products for the home retail market as well.

There's a $2.1-billion U.S. market in router equipment for small business out there, Mandelstam said. "If we grew 10,000 per cent, we'd capture one per cent of it."

In the long term, he predicts, "We will do orders of magnitude better than we are now."

So far, the company's numbers are quite modest.

For the first quarter of the 2001-02 fiscal year, Sangoma reported net income of $187,649 (Cdn) on sales of $708,179 (unaudited), or $.007 per share.

In the fiscal year ended June 30, 2001, the company's total loss, taking into account goodwill amortization and income taxes, was $1.1 million ($.039 a share), compared to a gain of $.1 million the year before.

"It's been a more difficult year than we'd have liked to experience," Mandelstam acknowledged. "Things appear to be turning around.

"We're the best kept secret in Canada," he added.

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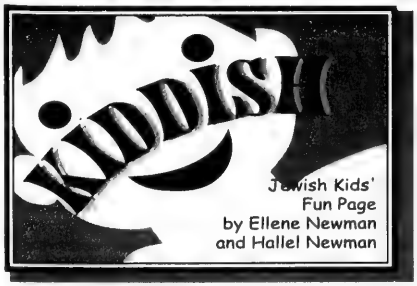


3,800 years ago, all the world's people worshipped idols. But one little boy had doubts. This story has been adapted from the midrash.

Avram and the Idols

Avram sat on the floor of his father's idol shop, gazing at the nearly empty shelves.

"Avram," called his father Terach from the next room. "I have a new batch. Set 'em up, and if anybody comes in, tell them about today's two-for-one deal. I have an appointment with King Nimrod, and I won't be back until tonight. See you later."

Avram went into the adjoining room, where the newest batch of idols lay gleaming in the light. Avram looked at them and thought to himself for the umpteenth time, "They're just statues... how could anybody worship stones and wood, gold and silver?"

While he was putting the new idols on the shelves, an elderly man walked in.

"Good morning," he smiled. "I need to buy a new house protection god." He added in an embarrassed whisper, "*Someone stole my old one last night.* Say, that one looks nice! How much is it?"

"The 'Protection Baal'? That's on sale for $249.99. But could I ask you a question? How old are you?"

"I'll be 79 in a month."

"This statue was made last week, and you, a 78 year old man, want to pray to it?"

"You know, young man, you have a point there. I... well... maybe I don't want to buy it. I'll have to think about it."

The man left, shaking his head and thinking.

A young woman entered. "Oh hello, Avram. Are you behaving yourself? I've brought an offering for Zorroz."

She put a small dish of food in front of the largest idol in the shop. Zorroz was seven feet tall, had a huge ruby set into his forehead, and was coated with a thick layer of solid gold. She bowed before the statue and left.

Avram sat alone in the shop again, looking at the shelves stacked with statues. *How could anybody be stupid enough to think these have any power?* He grabbed his father's axe and chopped the idols, one by one, into tiny pieces. Fragments of earthenware and gold, silver and wood, littered the floor.

Just then Avram heard his father's distinctive footsteps outside. There was only one idol still standing, the imposing Zorroz.

Avram shoved the axe into Zorroz's outstretched hands just as Terach opened the door.

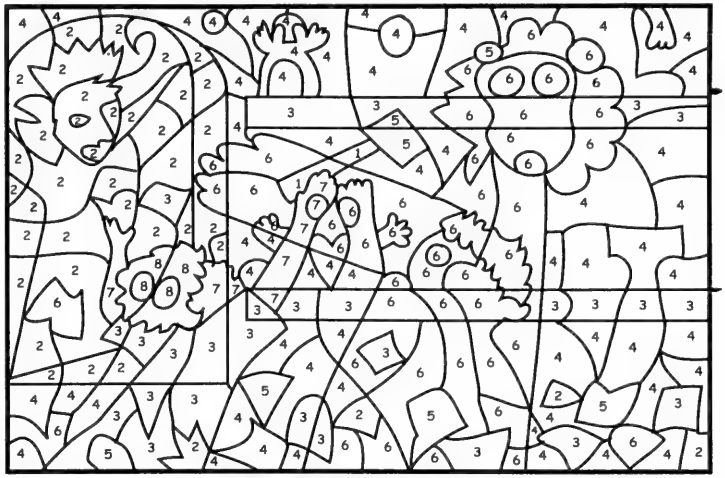
"Avram, did you sell any... **What in the world happened here?**"

"Nothing much, Dad. Zorroz wanted that dish of food there, but the other ones wanted it too, so he chopped 'em up."

"Don't lie to me, Avram," raged Terach. **"Zorroz can't move! He can't pick up an axe any more than he can talk or breathe!"**

"Exactly," agreed Avram. "So why do you worship him?"

1. brown
2. blue
3. green
4. purple
5. red
6. gold
7. tan
8. black



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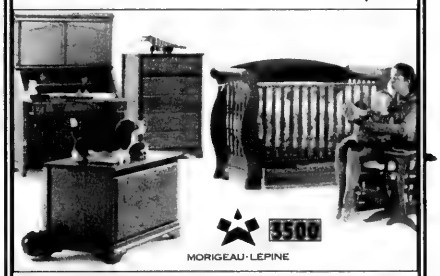

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Friedlichs celebrate 75 years of marriage

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Is there a secret to being happily married for 75 years?

"You have to be considerate, you have to compromise, and you have to say yes when you want to say no," said Lewis Friedlich, 101. He and his wife Aurelia, 94, recently celebrated their 75th wedding anniversary.

Lewis and Aurelia Friedlich

"There are times when you have to give in, and you must not hesitate to do so. You should not do anything in excess, and last, but most important, listen to your doctor and keep on good terms with the guy upstairs," he said.

The Friedlichs, who live on their own in a spacious, midtown apartment, married in Budapest, Hungary, on Feb. 6, 1927, six months after they met on a boat en route from Vienna to Budapest.

"She was so beautiful; I loved her at once," Lewis said.

"I also noticed him," Aurelia added.

The couple, who spoke to *The CJN* at their home, raised two sons and now have five grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. "Our family is close; they come to visit whenever they can, and they often take us out for a meal.

"Our great-grandchildren feel at home at our house. Aurelia sits on the floor and plays with them; she could be a recycled teenager."

The couple immigrated to Canada 52 years ago to escape the Communist regime in Hungary. "It was very difficult at first," Lewis said. "I was unemployed for several months until I found a job packing groceries at Loblaws."

Eventually, Lewis, who was an executive in a lumber conglomerate in Budapest, took over a lumber company here, and ran it until he retired in 1978.

Until only a few years ago he helped his son Steve run his engineering consulting firm, taking care of bookkeeping and the payroll.

"I had to stop though when my eyes and legs became bad. Our bodies are made out of bones, not steel. They get weaker," Lewis said.

"We have to express our thanks to Canada, our adopted country. Although we experienced some difficulties when we arrived, we became accepted members of the community and have been very happy here."

With pride, he displays their anniversary greeting from Queen Elizabeth. "It came in the mail, just like all our other cards," he said.

Seniors prepare for their bat mitzvahs

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — One doesn't usually use "bat mitzvah" and "home for the elderly" in the same sentence, but Cantor Daniel Benlolo is out to prove that the two are a perfect fit.

A popular local bar and bat mitzvah teacher, Benlolo has been teaching weekly bat mitzvah classes for the last four months to a group of women who never dreamed they would be doing such a thing in their golden years.

Seven women at the Bess and Moe Greenberg Family Hillel Lodge are committed to completing the course and celebrating their bat mitzvahs together on Mother's Day (May 12). A "quartet of Bettys" – Rosenberg, Liebhoff, Ballon and Wax – as well as Pearl Muroff, Miriam Gordon and Mavis Dover are eager to show their families and friends what they have accomplished.

The women, most of whom do not read Hebrew, are learning to read the Ten Commandments phonetically, in large print. Each one has been given a personalized folder with her part highlighted.

"This has changed my whole view on Judaism in that I suddenly realized that I have other obligations to myself and my family," Gordon said. "My sons and their families are very observant and now I, too, read more and study more."

Rosenberg said she "was the first one to [volunteer], because this is something that was not part of our family life when I was growing up and I wanted to do it."

The classes are held in the lodge's chapel, where Benlolo also performs weekly for the residents.

"I wanted to do something to give back to the lodge. I thought a nice way would be to have a bar/bat mitzvah program for the elderly, and Stephen Schneiderman, the executive director, was enthusiastic about my suggestion," Benlolo said.

"The women come from all different streams of Judaism, but it seems to me that each of them has a very traditional family background," he said. "They reminisce about when they were children and never thought they would have an opportunity to have a bat mitzvah."

Students from Yitzhak Rabin High School have been volunteering to help the bat mitzvah students and will be present on the big day to help with hair and makeup.

"The day will be very special, with the ceremony followed by music and a big party," Benlolo said.

Meanwhile, across the street at the Tamir Residence for developmentally challenged adults, Benlolo has also been tutoring three women and hopes they too will be able to have a bat mitzvah.

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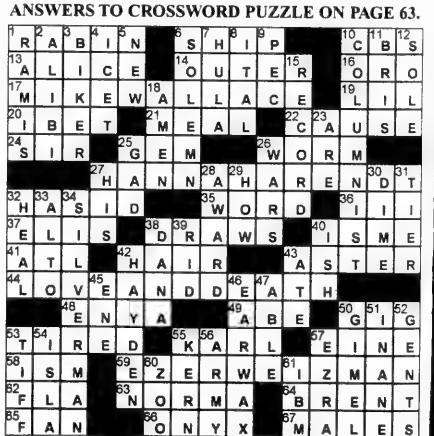
WE APOLOGIZE

Last week's issue of *The CJN* repeated the previous week's crossword puzzle.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 63.



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women seeking men

FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances into the arts, fit non smoker Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality Wants a best friend, lovers later Looking for a soulmate Please respond **AD#1232**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests This outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling She works in science and engineering **AD#1548**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands likes to have fun Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature **AD#1285**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

STARTING OVER
Single, non smoking, professional lady with 2 university aged children and a beautiful golden retriever, may be interested in you this 51 year old likes long walks, sunsets, dancing, movies, travelling, having fun, good friends and honest communications **AD#1128**

VEGAS MOMMA
Las Vegas momma, roll the dice and give my mom a call A kind, caring, compassionate, and vivacious woman widow Early 60's, looks 50's Enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining, Caesar's Palace Who knows, you may have dealt a royal flush Seeking a non smoking male, similar qualities and interests. **AD#1259**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature **AD#1285**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

INTELLIGENT FEMALE
Attractive Jewish female, intelligent, kind, easy going enjoys outdoors seeks honest man, non smoker, secure for possible long term relationship **AD#1145**

DANCING, DINING
65 yrs old, divorced female enjoys dancing, dining, plays, seeks male with similar interests **AD#1078**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining **AD#1590**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre movies, dining **AD#1590**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

DINING ART
Young female, pretty, Jewish, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys dining, art, solid outings Desires man, 43-53 yrs, professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker, for mature relationship **AD#1301**

MONTREAL LOVIN'
Single female, 58 yrs, in Montreal, slim, fun loving, classy, enjoys aerobics, travel, art, music, dancing Seeks male, sincere, stable, traditional, kind and affectionate Let's share travel between Toronto & Montreal **AD#1338**

FULLY LOADED
Blonde bombshell with brains No surprises seeks same type of guy who is secure Submit photo Must be a professional Time is limited, so hurry! **AD#1025**

SEEKS YOUNG AT HEART
Sexy, classy, attractive, slim, talented, intelligent, secular, non-smoking, multi-faceted lady who is fun, easy to be with and highly evolved seeks a man between 51-60 yrs who is young at heart and loves life She likes the arts and working out **AD#1408**

HONEST PROFESSIONAL
Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, friendly, professional, easy going, down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, travelling Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship **AD#1112**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Friendly down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady, seeks a sincere, attractive hard working man for a committed future She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

SEXY SIREN
Sexy siren (LOL) Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together Dancing, dining etc **AD#1355**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-76 yrs old **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
"The key is compatibility" Looking for someone who mutually clicks Our personalities have to mesh Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs See if our voiced blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

L'CHAIM
Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life **AD#1163**

A SOUL MATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth single Jewish female,35 yrs old, 5'2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music Seeking a positive, handsome athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also She is looking for an honest relationship **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship **AD#1026**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1136**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family Please reply **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1657**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere Please call **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life. **AD#1041**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk **AD#1310**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and fancy. Must give her undivided attention **AD#1427**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc.. seeks Jewish female, with similar interests Please contact me. **AD#1329**

Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday **AD#1399**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5'6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me **AD#1216**

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AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile Together we will make for an award winning performance **AD#1446**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family **AD#1067**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs Please call, will meet for coffee **AD#1433**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5' 3", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun tobe with, trustworthy, considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated Looking for love in all the wrong places Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years Would like a photo. **AD#1577**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes Loves music, dancing, movies Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1514**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim, blonde, blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive and emotionally available, seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times. She likes quiet times, playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories **AD#1045**

DINING AND SPORTS
Attractive, professional Jewish female, enjoys sports, dining and movies, seeks a cute man, who is handsome, honest and trustworthy **AD#1333**

REACH FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big" Single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, coring and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoys walks, travel, dancing, dining, conversation Seeks male, 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship. **AD#1441**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 40 yrs, enjoys a glass of wine, dinner, movies, travel, theatre, and skiing, seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring Share laughter, fun and friendship **AD#1021**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive female, seeks friendship first with a wonderful man, preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and secure If you are tall and dark it's a bonus, you'll be happy you made the connection **AD#1073**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis, skiing, movies, restaurants, going for walks Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere **AD#1134**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Attractive, professional female, sexy with class, enjoys hiking, biking, tennis, water skiing, long walks, with dog, seeks male, with similar interests **AD#1425**

SINGLE FEMALE
43 yrs, 5' 9", brown eyes, attractive, honest, sincere, likes sports, dancing, dining, movies, seeks active, romantic, honest, established male, 40-50 yrs of age **AD#1062**

men seeking women

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating Also seeking long term relationship Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park Kind and caring wants future family **AD#1066**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour Likes to keep busy with time Looking for someone to be comfortable with **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale Attention car buffs. '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty. Interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance. Let's have a wonderful life together **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969 Waiting for you call. **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE
Poetic 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done. And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue." **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship. **AD#1288**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile **AD#1195**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors. A traditional male, works a a financial consultant. Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented Seeks lady with many interests **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with **AD#1334**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall; not overweight, nice looking **AD#1267**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first **AD#1208**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old He is honest with a great sense of humour **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5' 9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer, things in life, emotionally and financially, stable, seeks female, with similar qualities **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children. **AD#1502**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1242**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs, 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news. hope you like what you see **AD#1546**

CALL ME
Male, 48 yrs, humourous, good natured, friendly, enjoys stock markets, dancing, many other things, if interested, please leave me a message **AD#1004**

PRICELESS
"Attention bargain shoppers!" Male, reduced for quick sale Makes an extraordinary gift! Item shelf for 44 yrs. Contents include: Kindness, passion, sincerity, romance, adventure, sense of humour, communication Product use Weekend getaways, dancing cheek to cheek, long walks, dinner and movies. Any buyers? **AD#1063**

SHY ONE
Shy male, 6' 3", 220 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeks 30-40 yrs, who enjoys dancing, playing sports, surfing, the internet, and spending, time with family if this interest you, get back to me **AD#1108**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Groucho male, 75 yrs, enjoys Florida sunsets, movies, fine food, classical music, social activities, seeks female, attractive, loves to hold hands for companionship **AD#1359**

EASY TO LOOK AT
31 yrs, 5'5", associate producer, lives in central Toronto, brown hair and eyes, down to earth, affectionate, handsome, enjoys dining, movies, outdoors, long drives in the country, flying gliders, seeks female, 25-33 yrs, down to earth, affectionate, not too hard to look at **AD#1012**

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5 HOUSES FOR SALE
10 HOUSES FOR SALE PRIVATE
15 HOUSES FOR RENT
20 HOUSES FOR SALE/RENT
24 HOUSES WANTED TO BUY
25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
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45 CONDOMINIUM WANTED
50 ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
55 ACCOMMODATION WANTED
60 SHARED ACCOMMODATION AVAILABLE
62 SHARED ACCOMMODATION WANTED
65 ACCOMMODATION/SWAP/EXCHANGE
67 HOUSE SITTERS WANTED
68 HOUSE SITTERS AVAILABLE
70 UNIVERSITY ACCOMMODATION
75 APARTMENT FOR RENT
78 SHORT TERM RENTAL AVAILABLE
80 SHORT TERM RENTAL WANTED
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82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT
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155 ISRAEL PROPERTY FOR SALE
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180 OUT-OF-TOWN PROPERTIES
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190 VACATION PROPERTY AVAILABLE
195 VACATION PROPERTIES WANTED
196 VACATION PROPERTIES-EXCH./SHARE
198 SPACE FOR LEASE
199 COMMERCIAL PROPERTY AVAILABLE
200 OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE
201 OFFICE SPACE WANTED
202 STORAGE SPACE WANTED
203 STORAGE SPACE AVAILABLE
205 LAND/LOTS FOR SALE
210 LAND/LOTS FOR LEASE
225 INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES
230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES
232 BUSINESS FOR SALE
235 BUSINESS WANTED
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245 EMPLOYMENT WANTED
246 VOLUNTEERS
247 DAY CARE AVAILABLE
248 DAY CARE WANTED
250 DOMESTIC HELP AVAILABLE
255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED
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Spectacular custom home! 61 x 132 ft. 4 bedrooms, 5 baths, 3,400 sq. ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

1ST AD! 29 VIEWMOUNT AVENUE! $895K!
Bathurst/Glencairn! Bldr's own 5+2 bdrm, 5 bath! Mn fam+lib+lau +2pce! Nanny ste! 56x140'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

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BRIAR HILL - ALLENBY SCHOOL
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Charming 3 bedroom, 2 baths reno'd 1999. 30 x 105 ft. Finished basement. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

12 CROSSEN DR! YONGE/STEELES!
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* * *

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WALTON, Molly – on Feb. 15, 2002, late of 255 Bamburgh Circle, #406.
SILVERMAN, Jack – on Feb. 17, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
KAYFETZ, Benjamin – on Feb. 15, 2002, late of 7 Austin Cres.
ISSENBERG, Larry – on Feb. 17, 2002, late of 33 University Ave., #2108.
BURMAN, Billie – on Feb. 17, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
SINGER, Anne – on Feb. 16, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BERKOVITZ, Morris – on Feb. 15, 2002, late of 145 Marlee Ave., #101.
SANDERS, Alexander – on Feb. 20, 2002, late of 25 Fisherville Rd., #701.
MALLEN, Rachel – on Feb. 20, 2002, late of 58A Royce Ave.
LENECK, Helen – on Feb. 20, 2002, late of 91 Roberts Dr.
KRUKIN, Shirley – on Feb. 19, 2002, late of 765 Steeles Ave. W., #1001.
ROSEN, Al – on Feb. 20, 2002, late of 50 Park Rd.
FINK, Rose – on Feb. 22, 2002, late of 529 Spadina Rd.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

SOLOMON, Joseph – on Feb. 20, 2002, late of 411 Duplex Ave., #1906.

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devoted father of Paul (Wendy) Kates and Bob Kates
grandfather of Adam & Amy, Mark & Lisa

February 19, 1920 – February 7, 2002

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TATOR, Elaine – on Feb. 14, 2002.
ABRAMOVITCH, Irving – on Feb. 21, 2002.
KAYFETZ, David – on Feb. 22, 2002, late of 1555 Finch Ave. E.
BONESS, Ethel – on Feb. 24, 2002, late of 12 English Ivy Way.
TANENBAUM, Regina – on Feb. 24, 2002, late of 10 Norcross Rd.
NARIZHNY, Ilya – on Feb. 23, 2002.
KING, David – on Feb. 22, 2002.
WARREN, Kitty – on Feb. 23, 2002.
FARACHE, Esther – on Feb. 24, 2002, late of 3705 Bathurst St.

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HECHT, Siegmund – on Feb 17, 2002, late of 2 Tamarack Dr.
TAFFEL, Max – on Feb. 17, 2002.
HERMAN, Esther – on Feb. 18, 2002, late of 4 Dellbank Rd.
TARATUTA, Sofia – on Feb. 19, 2002.
ALEXANDER, Michael – on Feb. 19, 2002.
NEUGENBAUER, Bella – on Feb. 20, 2002, late of 4266 Bathurst St.
LIVSA, Haia – on Feb. 20, 2002.
BORTS, Rita – on Feb. 21, 2002, late of 4415 Bathurst St.
BERKOVITZ, Ann – on Feb. 21, 2002, late of 50 Rosehill Ave.
BENITAH, Marcos – on Feb. 21, 2002, late of 2700 Bathurst St.

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Israel & the Jewish World

Saudis won't table peace plan unless Arafat at summit, PA minister says

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Saudi Arabian Crown Prince Abdullah will not present a new Middle East peace proposal at an upcoming Arab summit if Israel does not lift travel restrictions on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and allow him to attend, a senior Palestinian official said Monday.

"Prince Abdullah informed me that he would not present his ideas to the Arab summit if President Arafat didn't participate in it," Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Sha'ath said by phone from Jeddah, a day after meeting the crown prince.

Sha'ath said Abdullah also raised Israel's travel ban on Arafat with senior U.S. officials and was optimistic he would win Washington's support for ending Arafat's confinement. Sha'ath added the prince also pledged $50 million to help the Palestinian Authority out of its current financial crisis.

Abdullah had been expected to present his peace plan in detail to a March 27-28 Arab League summit in Beirut.

He has floated the idea of a full Israeli withdrawal from the territories captured in the 1967 Six-Day War in exchange for Arab recognition of Israel and the full normalization of relations.

European Union officials Monday urged the United States and Arab nations to rally behind the initiative. "We need to do all to ensure that the Saudi initiative succeeds," EU Commission external relations spokesperson Gunnar Wiegand told reporters.

EU security chief Javier Solana is discussing details of the Saudi plan in Washington this week, following talks with Prince Abdullah in Jeddah. But EU officials are adamant that Arab countries must also back the initiative.

"We hope the plan can muster the support of all Arab League members," Wiegand said. "We have to break the current impasse," Wiegand went on to say, insisting that the recent "dramatic escalation of violence" in the region required quick action. "We cannot continue like this," Wiegand added.

Israel has not made a formal response to Abdullah's plan, but Cabinet Secretary Gideon Saar said Sunday the proposal that Israel withdraw to its pre-1967 war borders was an unacceptable precondition and that permanent frontiers could only be determined by negotiation.

Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has pledged not to return to the pre-1967 borders, but he has not rejected the Saudi proposal out of hand.

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Israeli rink rats make pilgrimage to hockey's holy land

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Teenage hockey players are pretty much the same the world over. They love the sound of sharp skates digging into fast ice, the snap you hear when a puck is passed crisply tape to tape, the cool of the rink air, the elation of scoring that all-important go-ahead goal.

In Israel, the opportunity for young guys to thoroughly immerse themselves in a hockey milieu is difficult, to say the least. Sure, Israel has an embryonic hockey culture – of a sort – if you're lucky enough to live somewhere around the country's two rinks in Metulla and Ma'alot, in Israel's far north.

Kids in that neck of the woods are able to get on the ice a few times a week, but games that mean anything are few and far between.

So, for the Israeli national junior team, a trip to Canada is like a visit to hockey heaven. There are rinks everywhere, hockey on TV, lots of teams to play, a Hall of Fame to visit, and, can you believe it, a backyard rink where you can play in the open air.

Soon after arriving for their week-long visit to the icy north, the junior puck handlers laced up their Tacks and enjoyed a couple of hours of shinny on the backyard rink at the home of Michael Budman, one of the principals behind Roots and a supporter of the Israeli hockey program.

The boys were smiling ear to ear when they came off the ice, clearly reveling in their hockey road trip experience. There to greet them was Ottawa Senators assistant coach Roger Neilson, who has operated his hockey school in the Canada Centre rink in Metulla for several years, developing personal relationships with many of the sabra skaters along the way.

Neilson, who has visited Israel on several occasions and who ends his night at the office with a check of the latest Internet news stories from the Holy Land, drove down from Ottawa during the Olympic break to visit with the Israeli youngsters.

"It's great for the kids, to see all those Canadian hockey things," said Neilson.

"The kids in Israel were surprisingly competitive. In the games, they really go at it. Obviously they don't have the skill of the Canadian kids, but they have more than you'd expect."

In past years, several of the better Israelis skaters have made the trek to Lindsay, Ont., to take part in Neilson's summer hockey school. One of them was Matan Nemenov, a hockey enthusiast if ever there was one. His brother, Shalev, is a member of the junior team. Matan loves the game, but where a Canadian teen of his ability would continue in junior hockey, Matan's life took a different turn.

Neilson shakes his head as Shalev explains that his brother is now a Cobra helicopter pilot in the Israeli Defence Force. There's not much time in his schedule for hockey right now.

But for Shalev, 17, and Matan before him, hockey is the greatest game. "It's fast, it's physical, it's smart," he said. What's more, "I love these guys," pointing to his teammates around him who are busy chowing down on pizza and watching Olympic highlights on TV.

Hof Eden, also 17, hails from kibbutz Snir, near Mount Hermon. He's been skating for 10 years at the rink in Metulla and playing hockey for seven years.

As for Shalev, hockey for him "is a big part of my life." A Pittsburgh Penguins fan who idolizes Jaromir Jagr (now with Washington) and Mario Lemieux, Eden enjoys "the adrenaline and the fun. I love it and I'm good [at] it."

* * *

There are certainly plenty of good senior hockey players in Israel, many of them transplanted Russians. One of them is Eddie Revniaga, 29, a member of the country's national team. Revniaga, who helped coach the juniors in Canada, hails from Riga, Latvia. Prior to emigrating to Israel six years ago, he played for Riga Dynamo, the city's top team, on the same squad as current NHLers Sandis Ozolinish (Carolina Hurricanes) and Sergei Zholtok (Minnesota Wild). When Revniaga, a right winger, was on the team, Dynamo finished second in the national under-18 tournament, losing to Traktor Chelyabinsk.

When Revniaga moved to Israel, he thought he'd have to give up hockey for good. But when he heard of the rink in Metulla, he moved north to nearby Ma'alot. In 1997, he suited up for the first time for Israel's senior team and helped them in later years to International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Pool D gold and silver medals.

Still, in Israel the regular season lasts only 16 games and he would love to play much more.

Tournaments are what makes the season worthwhile and the trip to Canada was "very exciting. I can tell you we made many preparations to come and play good," he said.

* * *

Sergei Matin is a Russian oleh who has moved from playing on Israel's senior national team to coaching the team and running the country's hockey federation – small as it is.

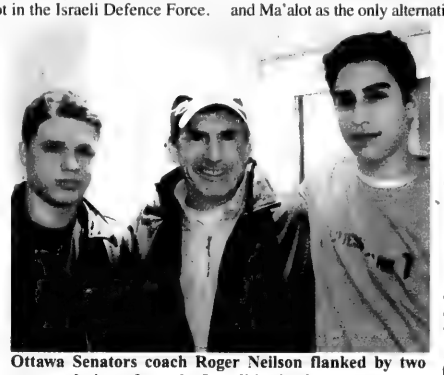
As president of the Israel Ice Hockey Federation, he is in charge of organizing the national program and trying to find the cash to make it run.

Recent years have been lean, with the program's budget slashed from $120,000 (US) five years ago to about $25,000 (US) this year. The federation gets a small amount from the country's sports lottery and an even smaller sum from the Ministry of Education.

A $25,000 grant from the Edward Bronfman family foundation will make a huge difference to the program, he said.

But even with it, Israeli hockey faces serious problems, number 1 among them being the shortage of rinks.

In the early 1990s, skaters could play in four or five rinks in the Tel Aviv/Jerusalem/Haifa triangle. Although they were tiny and had "boards" made of cinder blocks, they were convenient and offered what would turn out to be plenty of ice time. Things took a turn for the worse in the last few years when the rinks in central Israel were closed, leaving the ones in distant Metulla and Ma'alot as the only alternatives.



Ottawa Senators coach Roger Neilson flanked by two young admirers from the Israeli junior hockey team.

"It's a very difficult situation for us at the moment," he said.

The hockey federation is working to correct the problem, and Matin is hopeful an Olympic rink will be constructed in central Israel within two years. (Similar hopes were expressed by hockey spokespeople several years ago, with no result.)

Meanwhile, the national senior team is gearing up for an International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) Division II, Group A tournament in Cape Town, South Africa, from March 29 to April 7. Israel will face off against teams from Turkey, Australia, Belgium, Estonia and South Africa.

Two years ago, Israel won a gold medal in D Division play but instead of advancing to the C Division, it remained in the newly-created Division II after the IIHF reorganized. Last year, Israel won a silver medal, losing to Romania, which advanced to Division 1.

Prior to this year's IIHF tournament, the senior team expects to bolster its lineup with North American "ringers," adding as many as nine or 10 players. Matin expects Israel to compete for the gold medal, though it will be very difficult to beat Estonia. "But we'll try to beat them."

The juniors, meanwhile, will re-enter international tournament competition next season.

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Hapoel stun Parma in UEFA Cup clash

By ELI SHVIDLER
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARMA, Italy — Hapoel Tel Aviv again made history on Feb. 28 when it stunned Italian Serie A side Parma AC 2-1 in the away leg of their fourth round UEFA Cup clash. The team now advances to the final eight of the prestigious annual tournament.

Hapoel, which has already progressed further than any other Israeli team in a European club competition, went ahead 1-0 in the 33rd minute when striker Milan Osterc exploited a lapse in the Parma defence and slid the ball into the back of the net from 12 metres out.

Hapoel midfielder Istvan Pischont put the game almost out of reach when he scored in the 55th minute to put the Israelis up 2-0. In the closing stages of the game, Parma pulled to within one goal.

With both sides failing to score in the first leg at Bloomfield in Tel Aviv a week before, Hapoel needed either a win or a scoring draw to progress to the last eight. Parma had to win outright, or in a penalty shoot-out, to get through to the next round.

Some political odours

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

It's little wonder we're cynical about politics. Well, some of us are.

Example: Herb Gray, the Jewish former deputy prime minister, served as a loyal Liberal MP and in several unglamorous cabinet posts for nearly 40 years. He was stolid but reliable, a team player, durable, faithful to a fault, the ultimate Grit good soldier. He was once termed the Quiet Consigliere.

For his troubles, Gray was sacked from government with all the ceremony of a boil lancing. While Preston Manning was feted and lauded in the House of Commons for his nine years in Parliament, Gray was forced to resign his seat by the time the House reconvened from its Christmas break, precluding a proper send-off. One day, he was the number two man in government – the highest position ever attained by a Jewish politician in this country, the winner of 13 straight elections – and the next, he was shipped off to a backwater called the International Joint Commission, which monitors U.S.-Canada cross-border environmental issues.

Gray's treatment was disgraceful, and I imagine most MPs know it. The deputy PM had just returned from Israel, where he was busy defending this country's sometimes shaky relations with the Jewish state, when he was summoned that same night to 24 Sussex Drive to be told that John Manley would be getting his job. Sorry old boy, but that's politics. Apart from a few canned platitudes from Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (outside the House, not once inside), there was nothing for a man who served his country through eight prime ministers and some lean years on the Opposition benches. Chrétien was rumoured to have offered Gray a Senate seat, which Gray turned down. A rather lame sop came from Gov.-Gen. Adrienne Clarkson, who awarded the departing Gray the title of Right Honourable. It'll look good on letterhead, but it won't hide the fact that Gray was treated miserably, and that he didn't deserve it.

I wonder whether the Jewish community, especially in his home town of Windsor, will step into the vacuum and stage an event that would afford Gray a proper curtain call.

Another example: Ontario's Progressive Conservative party has been aggressively, and successfully, recruiting Jewish members ever since it introduced the much-awaited tax credit for private school tuition. The Tories had a point: We gave you what you wanted (or a version thereof); now join up.

In a very strange twist, observant Jewish party members not only won't be able to reward the Conservatives, but they also won't be able to choose Premier Mike Harris's successor. That's because the vote to replace Harris, as has been amply reported on these pages, takes place on a Saturday.

No problem, pronounced the party. There's provisions for proxy voting. Just get a fellow party member from your riding to vote for you.

No go. A proxy vote is strictly un-halachic, several rabbis agree, because one cannot ask someone to perform a task that is off-limits to Jews on Shabbat.

This mess is not entirely the party's fault, although it could be fixed with advance polls. The PC executive has turned that idea down but insiders say it's not too late to reverse it and live up to the Tories' lofty standards of inclusion.

All this makes me wonder about two things: Where were Canadian Jewish Congress and Ontario's various rabbinic groups to tell the Tories months ago that a proxy vote was a non-starter for Jews? And, should the Jewish community be so chummy with PC leadership candidate Jim Flaherty, who has implied that Aboriginals are not real people and called for the criminalization of homelessness?

Forget Denmark. Something is rotten in Ottawa and Queen's Park.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

Teacher recruitment and retention is the main topic at every Jewish education conference these days. While communities across the continent are opening new day schools, it is apparent that there is a serious shortage of qualified teachers.

In 1973, when I had just become the director of the new Jewish teacher training program at McGill University, my lay chair asked me at a meeting when we could start measuring success. With all of the chutzpah of youth, I said: "When you want your son to be a Hebrew teacher!"

Later that year, following a talk on the status of teachers, a retired Yiddish teacher told me of her pre-war graduation from the Yiddish Lehrerseminar in Vilna, the "Harvard" of eastern European teachers' seminaries. She was from a wealthy Vilna family, but upon graduation was sent to a shtetl to be an alephbais teacher, where the abject poverty shocked her. Every week, however, the community ensured that she had the food she needed and when the cloth merchant arrived in town, bought her fabric for a new dress. She then said to me: "If this community had treated me with the same respect and equality for the last 20 years, I would be a very wealthy woman!"

Our teachers must be given the highest respect because of the sacred task they perform, but they must also earn that respect by being well-trained, highly skilled and totally dedicated to the art of teaching.

While we in Toronto have much to do in this aspect of Jewish education, we can be very proud of the fact that so many of our teachers and educators are native to our own community, were raised in our best schools, and have chosen education as their vocation.

This is no accident. It is the product of community priorities such as the York University Jewish teacher education program, the BJE's Midrasha, academic Jewish studies at two great universities, and a variety of smaller programs in various ideological settings.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish news Crossword Puzzle

(Answers to the crossword are on page 56.)

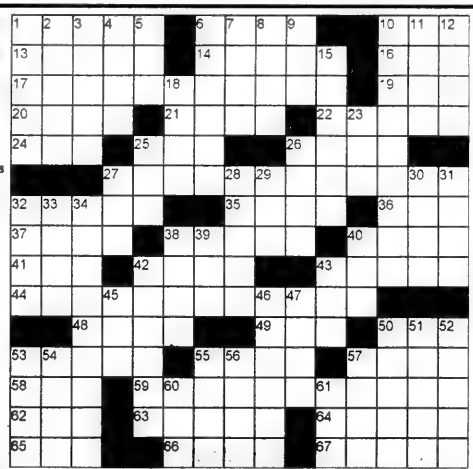
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Shamir defeater
6 The *St. Louis*, for example
10 Laurence Tisch once owned it
13 Role for Linda Lavin
14 ___ space
16 Gold, to Sephardim
17 Newsman portrayed in "The Insider"
19 ___ Abner
20 "Oh, sure!"
21 Matzah ball soup, perhaps
22 Women's lib or civil rights
24 Knight's title
25 It's precious
26 Apple resident
27 *Eichmann in Jerusalem* author
32 Certain sect member
35 Hebrew lesson bit
36 "Rocky ___"
37 Wallach and Whitney
38 Kasparov-Karpov results, often
40 "Woe ___!"
41 Not Pac.
42 Monica Lewinsky's is big
43 Composite family plant
44 1975 Woody Allen movie
48 Irish new age singer
49 Playwright Burrows
50 Show for Stan Getz
53 Lacking oomph
55 Marx or Malone
57 A for Freud
58 Ending with Zion
59 Israel's president
62 State where many retire to: abbr.
63 "___ Rae"
64 Sportscaster Musberger
65 Adorer
66 It's semiprecious
67 Hes

Down

1 "Analyze This" director Harold
2 Latin for "elsewhere"
3 "Easy Rider" rider
4 Rapper who starred with Kevin Pollak in "Ricochet"
5 ___ Jerusalem
6 Like Holocaust memorial services
7 Hawaiian dance
8 Like Primo Levi: abr.
9 Chest muscle, for short
10 Ann Landers or Abigail van Buren
11 A mohel does it
12 Foot part
15 Paul Simon output
18 "So be it!"
23 Lionel Richie's "You ___"
25 Son of Jacob and Zilpah
26 Yom Kippur and others
27 Casual shaloms
28 Oscar or Emmy
29 Reporter's query
30 Ten-center
31 Wedding cake feature
32 Be a good doctor
33 Voice variety
34 Jonathan of "Brighton Beach Memoirs"
38 One of Jon's "SNL" colleagues
39 Free (of)
40 Ending for Jew
42 One of Hoffman's Chicago cohorts
43 Had some challah
45 Compass pt.
46 Q-tip target
47 Not just ready and willing
50 Third in a series
51 Nonsensical
52 Englishmen
53 Little fight
54 *Cuba o Hispaniola*
55 *Show Boat* composer
56 Israel's is famous
57 5th century B.C.E. scribe
60 Bronx ___
61 Louis Gerstner's company



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This Week

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Jewish MPs create new organization. *Page 6*

Israel & the Jewish World

Terror puts United States and Israel on the same page. *Page 54*

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Zakhar Sherman combines classical past with the present. *Page 64*

Sports

The winners of our second annual *CJN* chess challenge. *Page 73*

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PM affirms support for Israel

Foreign Minister's remarks stir controversy

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Speaking directly to Israeli President Moshe Katsav, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien last week condemned terrorism in unequivocal terms and affirmed Canada's long-standing friendship and support for Israel.

"Let me reaffirm tonight that there is no justification whatsoever for acts of terror against innocent civilians. Canada condemns, without equivocation, the use of violence for political objectives by any state or group," Chrétien said to Katsav, the special guest of the Canada-Israel Committee's 17th Parliamentary Dinner.

"We have called on [Palestinian Authority Chairman] Yasser Arafat to live up to his responsibility and to take strong action against extremist groups," Chrétien said.

On a day when Israel was hit by several terrorist attacks, Chrétien told the more than 1,500 people assembled in Ottawa's Congress Centre that "Canada understands how difficult it is for Israelis to hear calls for patience and restraint. It is very hard to talk about peace in the face of fresh grief and fresh attacks by suicide bombers, but we must continue to talk about peace because there is no alternative for peace."

Continued on page 42

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Israeli President Moshe Katsav share a pleasant moment at the 17th CIC Parliamentary Dinner. *[Canadian Press photo]*

Israel united despite pain

Exclusive interview with President Katsav

Please see related stories on pages 4, 10 and 11

At the conclusion of the CIC Parliamentary Dinner last week, Israeli President Moshe Katsav returned to his suite at Rideau Hall, where he spoke in Hebrew with *CJN* editor Mordechai Ben-Dat in an exclusive interview.

Born in Iran in 1945, Katsav came to Israel with his parents in 1951. The eldest of eight children, he grew up in a *ma'abara*, the new immigrant tent camp that eventually evolved into the city of Kiryat Malachi.

Katsav has a degree in economics and history from Hebrew University. A man of wide political experience, Katsav was first elected to the Knesset on the Likud list in 1977 after a successful career in municipal politics.

From June 1996 to July 1999, Katsav served as minister of tourism, minister in charge of Israeli-Arab affairs and deputy prime minister.

On Aug. 1, 2000, he was sworn in as the eighth president of the State of Israel.

* * *

Mr. President, can you please tell us about the morale of Israelis.

"The people of Israel are pained; we are suffering. Each day we absorb heavy blows and the spilling of more blood. It has lasted now for a year-and-a-half. It's only natural that people raise questions; have doubts. They feel great disappointment and anger toward the Palestinian leaders. But all in all, there is a sense of unity that pervades our society because we recognize we have no choice."

Are Israelis able to reach out to the Palestinians?

Continued on page 43

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Vayikra
Candlelighting: 6:05
Havdallah: 7:10

Canadian killed in Atzmona terrorist raid — please see page 51

The News in Brief

CANADA

Fitch Promoted

OTTAWA — The highest-ranking Jewish member of the Canadian Armed Forces has been promoted. Maj.-Gen. Ed Fitch was promoted from brigadier-general, meaning he wears two maple leaves on his uniform, up from one. Fitch is project manager for the Forces' Land Force Reserve Restructure, which oversees the restructuring and modernization of the army reserves.

ISRAEL

Conversion Order

JERUSALEM — Israel's interior minister has refused a court order to recognize non-Orthodox converts. Eli Yishai of the Shas Party said he would go to jail rather than implement the High Court of Justice ruling, which ordered the interior ministry to register Israelis who had Reform or Conservative conversions as Jews on their national identification cards.

Conductor's Plans

JERUSALEM — Conductor Daniel Barenboim plans to lead performances in Jerusalem and Ramallah. Barenboim told a news conference last week that he hoped to succeed where politicians have failed by creating an opportunity for dialogue through music. His plans to meet with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat while in Ramallah prompted accusations that Barenboim is insensitive to the pain of Israelis.

WORLD

Irving Broke

LONDON — Holocaust denier David Irving has been declared bankrupt. A British court took the step last week after Irving failed to pay legal costs to an American professor and her publisher. In 2000, Irving lost a high-profile libel suit he brought against Deborah Lipstadt and her publisher, Penguin Books, after she called Irving a Holocaust denier in her book, *Denying the Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory.* At the time, the court ordered Irving to pay Lipstadt and Penguin's legal costs, estimated to be as high as $3.3 million (US). Irving failed to make an interim payment. The bankruptcy order clears the way to seize assets to settle unpaid debts.

Argentine Jews

BUENOS AIRES — The North American federation system has pledged $35 million (US) to help Argentine Jews immigrate to Israel. The funds, which the United Jewish Communities plans to raise and distribute through the Jewish Agency for Israel, come as an increasing number of Argentine Jews seek to flee a deepening economic crisis.

Massacre Marked

MINSK — The 60th anniversary of a Nazi massacre in Belarus was commemorated last week. Over 1,000 mourners and government officials laid flowers and wreaths at a memorial to the 5,000 residents of the Minsk Ghetto who were killed on March 2, 1942. The slayings marked the start of a rampage in which more than 100,000 Minsk Jews were killed.

Jewish Exhibit

VILNIUS — An exhibit documenting the history of Lithuanian Jewry will tour the country after opening last week at the State Jewish Museum here. The display, which details the region's Jewish past since 1370, is slated to be shown in at least eight Lithuanian cities during the next year.

Matzah Ado...

BUDAPEST — Hungarian Jewish leaders are importing matzah in an attempt to avoid repeating last year's shortage, when the country's 100,000 Jews were saved by a last-minute shipment from the Jewish state. Some 15 to 20 tons of matzah, double the normal amount, is coming from Israel.

New Haggadah

NEW YORK — The Judaica Press has published a Haggadah with a new translation and full transliteration. It's described as perfect for those with little or no knowledge of Hebrew. For details, visit judaicapress.com or call 1-800-972-6201.

Porn Charges

ATLANTA — An Atlanta-area rabbi has pleaded guilty to having child pornography on his temple computer. Rabbi Juda Mintz, 59, faces more than two years in prison for possessing at least 10 computer files containing photographs of minors engaging in sexual acts. Mintz allegedly had the files while serving as spiritual leader of Mount Freedom Jewish Centre in Randolph, N.J. According to his lawyer, Mintz now works as a clerk in a convenience store.

Jewish Remains Found in Tasmania

HOBART, Tasmania — Workers excavating a building site last month in Tasmania exposed the remains of some of the 90 Jews buried there between 1828 and 1872.

The site in Hobart, the capital of Tasmania, an island off Australia's southern coast, was last used as a Jewish cemetery 130 years ago.

None of Hobart's Jewish population of about 100 is descended from those buried in the Harrington Street cemetery. Apartments were built over the cemetery site after the land fell into state hands in 1945.

The Tasmanian government's housing commission, which is redeveloping the block of land, made clear that the remains must be treated with dignity and handled only by religious Jews. The government has offered to contribute a small coffin for each set of remains, and a ceremony is being planned for the reburial.

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Chai Lifeline to open its first Canadian office

Provides services to seriously ill Jewish children, families

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Chai Lifeline, an international, non-profit organization that provides vital services to seriously ill Jewish children and their families is set to open its first Canadian office in Toronto.

Through its regional offices across the United States, and in England and Israel, Chai Lifeline maintains a network of psychosocial support programs that include medical referrals, emotional support groups, bone marrow drives, trips and holiday festivities, recreational activities and toy drives.

As well, it runs Camp Simcha, a kosher, residential summer camp for seriously ill children, and the Stella K. Abraham Respite Center, a country getaway for Jewish families coping with catastrophic illness.

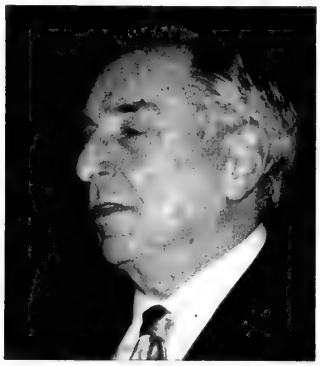
Featured at a recent dinner to kick-off Chai Lifeline in Canada, were Rabbi Simcha Scholar, founder and executive vice-president of Chai Lifeline, and Toronto Argonauts owner Sherwood Schwarz who is on the organization's board of directors.

Several members of the Toronto Argonauts Football club also turned out to support the project. They included president Michael "Pinball" Clemons; general manager Paul Masotti; Dan Ferrone, vice-president operations and special projects, and a former offensive lineman; receiver Andre Talbot; and kicker Noel Prefontaine.

Rabbi Scholar, who started Chai Lifeline in 1986 in New York as a community project to help eight seriously ill children go to summer camp, said the camp can now accommodate about 300 children – many are Canadian – who usually attend for two weeks.

Rabbi Simcha Scholar

One Camp Simcha camper who spoke at the dinner said he was introduced to Chai Lifeline after being diagnosed with leukemia about two years ago.



Sherwood Schwarz

"Even though my friends and family were very supportive, I felt alone and isolated.

Continued on page 6

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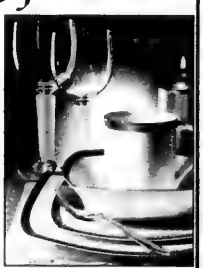
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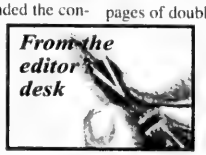
Greater Toronto Area

Testimonies of support

There were many moving "testimonies" last week of Canadians' support for Israel at the two-day Canada-Israel Committee gathering in Ottawa. I make note here of three them, which in my opinion, were among the most poignant.

• People from one coast to the other and from all walks of life attended the conference. That they would set aside the time, the resources and in many cases even the income, to travel such very large distances, whether from Vancouver or Halifax, or indeed any point in between to be in Ottawa, is deserving of high praise.



• Students from middle school, high school and university were highly visible at the event. Like spicing that is felt as well as seen, they enlivened the proceedings; they elicited from the meetings a fuller, deeper, more "piquant" flavouring than would have otherwise been felt. The student presence was yet another reason we older folks could feel great pride.

So noticeable were the students' contributions to the two-day event that at the Parliamentary Dinner itself, both the National Chairman of the CIC, Joseph Wilder and the Israeli Ambassador to Canada, Chaim Divon, singled them out for special praise.

• The downtown business section of Ottawa and the approaches to the downtown area were festooned with Israeli and Canadian flags. It was an-out-of-the-ordinary but deeply comforting sight. They fluttered and snapped side by side on every street corner. And against the pale blue of the late winter sky, the deep reds, deep blues and deep perfect white of the two countries' flags were a radiant symmetry of colour and poise that touched the emotions.

* * *

Not surprisingly, many speeches were delivered over the course of the two days. The speech that captured most of the headlines was the one delivered by Foreign Minister Bill Graham to a luncheon gathering Wednesday afternoon. Graham spoke for nearly half an hour, delivering a message of some 16 pages of double-spaced text.

Reportage of the speech, however, could be studied in political science classrooms as a paradigm of the way in which reality occasionally bears little resemblance to perception.

The media seized on two items from the minister's 16-page pre-distributed text: one sentence that he actually spoke and two sentences that he did not.

The sentence he spoke was a note of caution, and a mild one at that, directed to the government of Israel. "Innocent civilian casualties, no matter their background or religion, are not justifiable and compromise Israel's image as a vital and compassionate nation."

The two sentences that were in the written text but which the minister omitted in the oral presentation were examples of the Israeli policy that might "compromise Israel's image," namely the demolition of houses and incursions into refugee camps.

The fact that the minister refrained from citing the two examples could have been reasonably interpreted as an attempt to "soften" the message to Israel. It is clear that the media interpreted the omission that way because they descended upon him, after the speech, with boisterous aggression at the media scrum, challenging him to explain it.

The ensuing inaccurate media portrayal both of the speech and of its reception by the audience focused on the minister's statement of caution.

Ignored by the media were the speech's two key features:

• It was overwhelmingly positive toward Israel.

• What irritated most listeners was the minister's total silence on Canada's vexing, generally anti-Israel, voting record at the UN and affiliated agencies.

A speech that captured no headlines at all was the response by Israel's President Moshe Katsav to the thoughtful, eloquent and highly informed toast to the people of Israel by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson at the state dinner in the president's honour Thursday night.

The following are excerpts from his remarks:

"I would like to thank you, the Governor General of Canada, Madam Adrienne Clarkson, for your warm and friendly welcome. My visit to Canada is an expression of the strong friendship that exists between the people of Israel and the people of Canada.

"The common values between Israel and Canada were recently demonstrated during the Durban Conference in South Africa when a meeting against racism became a meeting against Jews and Israel. Canada took a leading role in this struggle...

"Canada is appreciated by the Israeli society and you are one of our best allies... The two countries have mutual values and mutual goals...

"Your Excellency... I have learned a lot about Canada, your achievements, values and culture.

"I love Canada. I admire your spirit and your dedication to human values.

"I would like to raise a toast to you, to the great Canadian people, and to the friendship between Canada and Israel. I hope that my visit further enhances the excellent relations between our two states. *L'chaim*."

—MBD

* * *

The full text of the Governor General's remarks is reprinted on the Perspectives page of this issue.

SeeJN

BBYO BEAUHEART BALL:

BBYO Greater Toronto Area Council recently held Beauheart Ball 2002. Over 100 BBYO members attended the annual event. Seen (from left, front row) Daniel Zinman and Stephanie Fenyes, the ball's co-ordinators; (back row) Andy Fenyes, BBG N'Siah; Steven Harnett, newly elected Beau; Tamar Tepper, newly elected Sweetheart; Kevin Goodman, AZA Godol.

Saudi plan could mean peace with Syria: expert

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel and Syria may well resume bilateral talks if Saudi Arabia's peace proposal gains momentum, says Moshe Maoz, one of Israel's leading experts on Syria.

Syria shows no interest in resuming negotiations, which broke off two years ago after both sides came tantalizingly close to signing an agreement, noted Maoz, a Hebrew University historian.

Syria's current policy is that Israel's dispute with the Palestinians must be settled before talks with Israel can begin again. "The Syrians regard the Palestinian question as a priority, and they mean it."

Besides, Maoz pointed out in a recent interview, Israel and Syria are just too far apart on key issues. "The gap between [Israeli Prime Minister] Ariel Sharon and [Syrian President] Bashar Assad is very huge."

But if the Saudi plan takes off, Israel and Syria could well find themselves talking again, said Maoz, who was here on a lecture tour sponsored by Israel's consulate.

Saudi Arabia has floated a plan that would offer Israel full normalization with the Arab world in exchange for a full Israeli pullout from lands captured in the 1967 Six Day War.

The plan, described by the Saudis as a vision rather than a blueprint, has yet to be formally presented.

Maoz said that Assad wants peace, but only on his late father's terms: a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"I doubt very much whether Sharon will buy the Syrian terms," said Maoz. "Sharon might give the Syrians two-thirds of the Golan, but that's only a hunch."

However, if the Saudi initiative is accepted, if the United States can provide attractive incentives to Israel and if Syria agrees to a demilitarization of the Golan, Sharon may rethink his position.

"Sharon is not an ideologue," Maoz said. "He's very pragmatic."

Assad, he explained, desires peace for a variety of reasons.

Syria wants to be removed from the U.S. list of states sponsoring terrorism so that it can attract American and overseas investment capital. "For this, Assad needs peace with Israel."

Syria's economy, he noted, is much smaller than Israel's, and the Syrian middle-class yearns for stability, which would come with peace.

Syria also realizes that it is no match for Israel militarily.

"The balance of power favours Israel," said Maoz, whose forthcoming book is entitled *Modern Syria: Political and Socio-Economic Development*. "Israel is 100 times stronger than Syria."

"The Syrian army is very weak," he added. "The only thing they have are long-range missiles, and they're meant for deterrence rather than attack."

And if Syria regains the Golan, Assad, who succeeded his father almost two years ago, will bolster his legitimacy.

Maoz said there is little support in Israel for relinquishing the Golan.

"At most, 50 per cent of Israelis support a complete withdrawal in return for peace. But, as you know, things could change. Remember Sinai and Sadat?"

Before Anwar Sadat's historic trip to Israel in 1977, Israel opposed a pullout from the Sinai Peninsula. After his visit, Israel and Egypt launched talks that eventually resulted in a full Israeli withdrawal from Sinai.

Moshe Maoz

Maoz said that Syria expects no less than what Egypt obtained in exchange for a peace treaty with Israel: a total withdrawal.

Recalling Israel's talks with Syria in 1999 and 2000, Maoz said that the fundamental stumbling block was a small strip of territory in the northeast corner of the Sea of Galilee about seven kilometres long and from 100 to 200 metres wide.

Israel refused to give it up, while Syria demanded it.

Ehud Barak, then Israel's prime minister, passed up the chance to make peace with Syria over this pivotal issue.

Nor was Barak interested in an idea, floated by British journalist Patrick Seale, to turn that section of the Sea of Galilee's shoreline into an international tourist area under joint Israeli-Syrian sovereignty.

"It was a missed opportunity," said Maoz, who served as one of Barak's advisors during this period. "Barak thought he wouldn't be able to muster domestic support for this sort of a withdrawal."

If Israel and Syria had reached a deal, Maoz speculated, the Palestinian uprising may never have erupted.

An agreement would have enabled Israel to make a phased, orderly withdrawal from its self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon.

Instead, Israel withdrew hastily, under fire from Hezbollah. The Palestinians concluded from this episode that they, too, could mount a successful resistance to Israel's occupation.

The Syrians, he said, have no interest in inflaming Israel's tense border with Lebanon.

"Syria will keep a tight lid on Hezbollah," he said. "Syria doesn't want to give Israel a pretext to attack. Syria got the message last year when we bombed two of their radar stations in Lebanon. And the Syrians know we could bomb their barracks and bases in [Lebanon's] Bekaa Valley."

Syria will occasionally tolerate a token shelling by Hezbollah of Israeli positions in the Shabaa Farms area, but no more than that. (The Shabaa Farms area is located on the disputed border between Lebanon and the Golan.)

Maoz does not foresee an improvement of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's testy relationship with Syria.

"The Syrians don't like Arafat. He signed the Oslo accords behind their backs. Arafat wants independence from Syria. Syria wants to control him. That's the story in a nutshell. I doubt Arafat will be going to Damascus any time soon for talks with Bashar."

Israel has reason to be concerned by the rapprochement between Syria and Iraq. But they are not likely to form a military alliance against Israel, he observed.

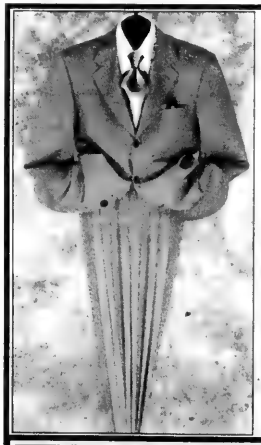
Maoz, who wrote a biography of Hafez Assad, has little respect for his son and successor, Bashar.

"He shows no leadership qualities. He just survives. The military controls him. He doesn't have his father's qualities, his toughness, his deceitfulness, his sense of timing, his strategic thinking. Hafez Assad was an experienced leader. Bashar is a spoiled child."

PURIM TYKES AT REENA:

Costumed children from Aish Hatorah's Sweet Beginnings program paid a special Purim visit to Reena's Battle Centre next door in Thornhill, where they entertained clients in Reena's program for older adults with developmental disabilities.

[Barry Shainbaum photo]



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Rules: To be eligible to win a pair of tickets to **Mayumana**, please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:
From what city did Mayumana originate?
(Hint: the answer is printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)
All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Wed., Mar. 27/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Mon., April 1/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*
Send your response to: Mayumana Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: Mayumana Contest, 416-391-0949.
Employees and family members of The Elgin Theatre or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

Greater Toronto Area

Jewish MPs create new organization

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — As a longstanding advocate of human rights with a client list that includes Natan Sharansky and Nelson Mandela, Irwin Cotler is sensitive to the issues of racial discrimination.

In the past, he has come to the defence of individuals who have been victims of hate crimes, but today he believes there has been a shift on the international scene in which the State of Israel has become the quintessential "Jew," subject to racist and differential treatment.

At a meeting in Israel earlier this year, Cotler and a group of Jewish parliamentarians from around the world, concerned about what Cotler calls "the new anti-Semitism expressed as a universal phenomenon," created the International Parliamentary Assembly of Jewish Members and Former Members of Parliament and Legislators (IPA).

The assembly has been mandated to promote human rights and tolerance, combat racism and anti-Semitism, urge conflict resolution through peaceful means and promote model legislation on anti-terrorism and anti-racism.

It will also establish a clearing house amongst members, facilitating the exchange of information and updating members on related developments around the world.

The assembly was created at a gathering in Israel of Jewish parliamentarians at the 6th International Conference of Jewish Ministers and Members of Parliament, an event co-ordinated by the Israeli Knesset, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Jewish Agency and the Israel Forum, a non-profit volunteer organization that works to strengthen Diaspora-Israel ties. Senator Jerry Grafstein and retired senator Sheila Finestone joined Cotler and legislators from the United States, the Czech Republic and South Africa in proposing the creation of IPA.

"Setting up a parliamentary assembly is reflective and representative of our common heritage and tradition," Cotler explained. As the process of globalization continues, the assembly marks an expression of multiculturalism and the Jewish identity on the world stage, while maintaining a commitment to democracy, human rights and the rule of law.

The approximately 65 Jewish parliamentarians who attended the conference agreed racism in the Diaspora has become a serious problem, said Cotler, MP for the Montreal riding of Mount Royal.

"There was a clear consensus that a world conference against racism [in Durban, S.A.] had turned into a conference of racism against Israel and the Jewish people," he said.

In addition, concern was voiced over a recent meeting of the Geneva Convention's contracting parties, who singled out Israel as the first state in 50 years with an indictment read against it, he said. Such a meeting was never convened to address the mass murders and killing fields of Rwanda, Cambodia or Bosnia, he added.

The UN Conference on Human Rights, he continued, "singled out Israel, and the real human rights perpetrators got exculpatory immunity."

The UN has never even been critical of China or Iran, he pointed out.

The world bodies violated the principles of universality and equality for all nations, he continued. "This is really a manifestation of anti-Jewishness, which undermines the entire regime of international law.

"As parliamentarians, we felt it deeply that the struggle against racism had undermined the United Nation's authority and diminished the whole regime of international human rights law."

In addition to launching the assembly, the conference passed a resolution that called upon "our nations' Red Cross/Red Crescent societies to… withhold annual dues from the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies until such time as time as the federation admits Magen David Adom to full membership."

The exclusion of Magen David Adom is "an historic wrong" that must be corrected. Such a step would enhance humanitarian relief, Cotler stated.

While Cotler declined to describe the exclusion for over 50 years of the MDA from the Red Cross/Red Crescent societies an example of modern anti-Jewishness, he said there have been many manifestations of such activity in recent years. The modern phenomenon has spun off from politically incorrect "classical anti-Semitism." Instead discrimination and the denial of national peoplehood and particularity is aimed exclusively at the Jews.

Cotler believes the Palestinians, with whom Israel has been at conflict for more than 50 years, "have mainstreamed their case and cause in the human rights culture. When that cause began to assume anti-Jewish dimensions, that also began to make its way and be mainstreamed into the human-rights culture."

Advocacy for genocidal anti-Semitism is current in Hamas and Islamic Jihad propaganda and their founding charters call for the destruction of Israel and the killing of Jews, who are referred to as descendants of apes and monkeys, Cotler said.

That demonization is characteristic of Nazi propaganda, yet "I don't see anything in the media that holds them to account."

Cotler points out part of IPA's mandate is a "combat the scourge of racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia and the denial of the Holocaust."

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Chai Lifeline to open in Toronto

Continued from page 3

I didn't even want to go to camp, but people from the organization encouraged me. It was the best thing I ever did. I was emotionally uplifted.

"The connection and bonding with counsellors and other sick children gave me the strength to face my treatments. By opening an office here, other children can benefit like I did."

Chai Lifeline, which runs on a budget of about $11 million (US), and serves about 3,000 families, is an "absolutely special organization," said Rabbi Scholar.

"It runs the gamut of Jews in the community from ponytails to *payot*. Illness is something that brings people together; a mother is a mother, a child is a child, and pain is pain.

"I've seen chassidic men talk with unaffiliated women; we've bridged the gap in the community," he said.

When a Toronto committee asked him to help open an office here, he jumped at the chance, said Rabbi Scholar. "The fact that they want the office here means that there is something very special about the Toronto community.

"I came because I believe there are hundreds of families who need our programs. This event is the springboard; I believe people really want Chai Lifeline open here."

Schwarz, who lives in New York, was the organization's first dinner honoree in 1986. He said his first visit to Camp Simcha was an "incredible experience.

"I saw ill children having a wonderful time. They were together with other children who were going through the same thing, and who all understood each other. No one was different.

"I'm thrilled to see a Chai Lifeline office open in Toronto. It's a pleasure to participate in the project."

For more information on Chai Lifeline, call 416-741-2727.

MDA foreign affairs co-ordinator killed in ambush

Volunteer visited The CJN in November

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Palestinian intifadah has been raging for 17 months, creating a steady stream of casualties. For many Canadian Jews, news of Israeli fatalities and injuries is troubling, even shocking, but nothing compares to the feeling when one of the dead is someone you know personally.

Staff at *The CJN* and volunteers with Canadian Friends of Magen David Adom (MDA) were saddened to hear that Yochai Porat, MDA's co-ordinator of foreign volunteers, was killed last week in an ambush.

Porat, 26, visited *The CJN* in late November while in Toronto to publicize the work that Magen David Adom accomplishes under trying conditions. Not only does the agency, the Israeli counterpart to the Red Cross, provide most of Israel's ambulance and blood services, but its drivers serve people on both sides of the Green Line, including Arabs.

Porat was here as part of a North American trip to recruit volunteers and help raise funds to replace the 57 ambulances destroyed (at that time) by Palestinians.

Ambulance personnel serve as "first responders" to horrible events, like the Sbarro Pizza bombing in Jerusalem, he explained.

Last week, Porat was killed while providing first response to comrades shot by a Palestinian sniper. Porat was on reserve army duty as a medic when he responded to the sniper attack about 1.5 kilometres from Ofra on the West Bank. He was one of 10 Israelis shot by the sniper in the attack.

He was killed, according to an Israel Foreign Ministry obituary, while trying to help his wounded comrades.

In his brief visit to *The CJN* newsroom, Porat was warm, personable and down-to-earth, and he seemed to accept the dangers of his job without flinching. A senior medic, he worked as a first responder in the Jerusalem area, facing danger repeatedly.

During his 10-year stint as a volunteer with Magen David Adom, he helped save people wounded in terror attacks, including the Dolphinarium night-club bombing in Tel Aviv, and those injured at the Versailles banquet hall disaster in Jerusalem.

Last month, he had a more pleasant task, thanking U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, who had distributed diplomas to student volunteers during a visit to Israel.

A Sgt. Maj. in the Israeli reserves, Porat was buried in the Kfar Sava military cemetery. He is survived by his parents, a brother and a sister.

Yochai Porat (to Rodham's Clinton's right) welcomed Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton to Israel last month and thanked her for distributing diplomas to his student volunteers. [Photo courtesy Magen David Adom]

Shira Honig, a *CJN* copy editor, met Porat briefly.

"I hardly knew him, but what I did know I remember well because of the circumstances in which we met. It was after his *CJN* interview and he needed a way to get to his next appointment. I was in a hurry to get home. So we decided to get a cab together and as I ran down the stairs to call one, I tripped and fell. I later found out that I had sprained my foot, but at the time, all I knew was that I was in a lot of pain.

"As I hobbled to a colleague's car [for a lift part way to a subway station], Yochai told me his glasses were broken and he was having trouble seeing. We were laughing, but between the two of us, we managed to hail a cab. He checked my foot – I was so happy he was a medic – and then we talked about his visit to Chicago as part of his recent tour across the United States and about music. He said he loved the saxophone.

"I can't wrap my head around his death. I still see him sitting next to me in the car."

More information about Porat can be found at the MDA Web site: www.magendavidadom.org.

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Islamist Web site removed

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The presence in Canada of a Web site that threatened attacks against the United States should not come as much of a surprise, since "there are a fair amount of Hezbollah supporters" in Canada, according to an expert on radical Islam in North America.

Extremist Islamic groups pose "a danger to all Canadians, in terms of what these groups can do," said Steven Emerson, author of the recently released *American Jihad: The Terrorists Living Among Us*.

The Investigative Project, a Washington, D.C.-based organization headed by Emerson, recently discovered that the Web site of a hardline Iranian Islamic group, Ansar-e-Hezbollah, was hosted on a server operated by GT Group Telecom Services, a Toronto Internet service provider.

The company removed the Web site once Emerson's findings were published in the *National Post*.

However, last week, the BBC reported that the leader of Ansar-e-Hezbollah has promised to create a new Web presence.

Hamid Ustad vowed to relaunch the site, which had been used to recruit volunteers to carry out worldwide suicide attacks. The original one was created in response to U.S. President George W. Bush's denunciation of Iran, along with Iraq and North Korea, as part of an "axis of evil," the BBC reported.

The Ansar-e Hezbollah site invited prospective martyrs to register for suicide attacks in the event of a U.S. military strike against Iran, reported BBC analyst Sadeq Saba.

Ansar-e Hezbollah is one of the most extreme Islamic groups in Iran, with suspected links with hardliners in the Iranian leadership.

It has been reportedly resorting to vigilante tactics on Iranian university campuses, using clubs and chains on students who had demanded reform, while police authorities turned a blind eye.

McGuinty criticized for stand on education tax credit

TORONTO — In a rare joint declaration, Canadian Jewish Congress and the Islamic Society of North America-Canada have issued a letter criticizing Ontario Liberal leader Dalton McGuinty for promising to rescind the provincial education tax credit for independent schools.

The two organizations say they are disappointed at McGuinty's stand, particularly since he has never come up with his own plan for funding independent religious schools, even though Roman Catholic schools receive full government support.

"We are disappointed because you and the Liberal party have acknowledged the discrimination of the past, but your only proposal is to perpetuate it," the letter states.

The letter also asks McGuinty, "If denominational education at public expense was good enough for you, why isn't it good enough for us?"

Ed Morgan, chair of Congress' Ontario region, said the two community organizations quickly drafted the letter after McGuinty's comments at a Liberal fund-raiser were published. McGuinty said he would eliminate the education tax credit, enacted under the current Tory government, that allows families to claim tax credits for private school tuition. The credits max out at $3,500 per student in five years.

McGuinty's proposal "impacts on minority rights and he should be more sensitive to that," Morgan said. — P.L.

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Kosher Gourmet Gala raises $70,000 to feed hungry

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Here's a tried and true recipe for success from the kitchens of Mazon Canada.

Start with one large, elegantly-appointed concert hall, blend in a multiplicity of delicacies prepared by 32 kosher caterers, add a team of dedicated volunteers, toss liberally with wine and desserts, and garnish with a "marketplace decor."

Then, to kick it up to notches yet unknown, offer guests a surprise draw with prizes ranging from a day at the spa to botox injections.

What you'll have in the end, besides a relaxed reveller and a wrinkle-free gourmand, is the fourth annual Kosher Gourmet Gala. Sponsored by Mazon Canada, a 16-year-old agency that raises money for organizations that feed the hungry, the gala was the most successful yet, raising $70,000. The funds are earmarked for the agency's May round of allocations, when they will be distributed along with other funds to dozens of grassroots Canadian hunger-relief organizations.

The gala continues to be a very popular community event, with a sold-out crowd of 780 gathering this year at Roy Thomson Hall, said Jacqueline Kott-Wolle, executive-director of Mazon.

"Mazon Canada focuses on food-centred events to heighten awareness within the Jewish community of the need to address hunger," said Susan Davis, the event's chair. "It is an enduring Jewish ethic to remember suffering in the midst of happiness. Our Kosher Gourmet Gala does just that, and something more, because it allows its supporters to address the suffering as well as remember it while partaking in the evening's offerings."

These volunteers helped make the Kosher Gourmet Gala a success.

In addition to raising funds, the event showcased the range of kosher products available in the city, all of which were donated by caterers and suppliers.

Participants paid $50 a person, though premium "category donations," such as "sponsor," "patron" and "friend" started at $250.

Mazon has maintained its volume of donations in difficult economic times, although the number of category donations seems to have dropped a little, Kott-Wolle indicated.

The last two rounds of allocations in 2001 were off from previous years. In its fall distribution, Mazon allocated $292,995, down from $348,730 the year before. In its spring round, it gave out $207,250, down from $325,402 in 2000. Mazon allocated a total of $500,245 in 2001, down from $674,132 the year before.

Unusually high contributions in earlier years helped boost the corresponding allocation figures, Kott-Wolle said. A single donor gave $200,000 to Mazon and that sum was spent over several allocations. The same contributor gave another $70,000 last year, she added.

Meanwhile, Mazon continues to raise its profile round the country. Five years ago, the organization could boast 3,000 names on its mailing list. This year, the number soared to 8,000.

The strength of the organization remains in Toronto and Montreal, though some efforts have been made to encourage satellite offices in other Jewish communities. Organizers fret over whether to pursue that course more vigorously. Such an effort would require time and resources and cut back on the funds available for allocation, Kott-Wolle said.

Montreal, meanwhile, continues to lead the way with its big-event programming. The Montreal Food Fest, that community's gala event, attracted 1,000 people and raised about $210,000.

Kott-Wolle attributed the success of the Montreal event to that community's experience in organizing large galas and to the greater number of participants who purchase premium category tickets. "They have a really active team of committee members pushing for more money," she said.

Mazon also raises funds from the sale of place cards and greeting cards, from a voluntary tithing of a portion of the food bills from simchas, like weddings and bar/bat mitzvahs, and from the sale of Mazon loot bags for kids' parties.

In its last round of allocations in the fall of 2001, Mazon supported dozens of organizations from coast to coast with sums ranging from $500 to $6,000. Among the recipients were: Medicine Hat and District Food Bank ($4,000); Jewish Child and Family Services, Winnipeg ($3,600); Food Bank Moncton ($1,500) and Tomchei Shabbos, Toronto ($6,000).

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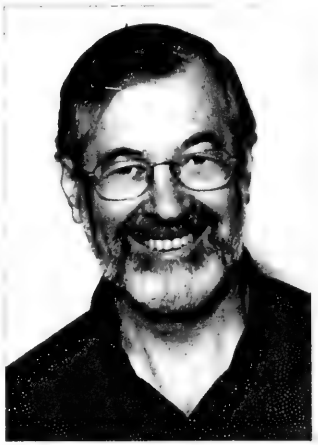


Srul Irving Glick

TORONTO — The music of 17th-century Italian composer Salamone (Shlomo) de Rossi and Srul Irving Glick, one of Canada's most prolific and acclaimed composers, will highlight the Fourth Annual Spring Gala Concert of Music at Beth Tikvah Synagogue, Sunday, March 17, at 8 p.m.

"Salamone Rossi is a genius and what is remarkable is that he was a religious Jew who in 1623 wrote a large body of Jewish music using Hebrew texts," says Glick, the composer-in-residence at Beth Tikvah, where he has also been choir director since 1969.

"[Rossi] wrote in the prevailing style of the late Renaissance and the music is written with a complete understanding of the Hebrew text and with superb musical technique."

The first half of the program will feature a lecture on Rossi by Glick, followed by a performance of Rossi's music, consisting of six pieces for strings and six choral pieces. The second half will feature Glick's *Music for Passover* for choir and string quartet.

Glick will conduct the concert, which will feature the Beth Tikvah Choir and special guests the Festival String Quartet.

Rossi, an observant Jew born in Mantua, Italy in 1570, became well- known for his contribution to the development of the trio sonata and chamber duet.

Through his connection with the Gonzaga court, he published his first work, the *Canzonette for Three Voices*, in 1589, followed by madrigals and sinfonias, all at a time when Jews wore yellow badges and lived in the ghetto.

He later lost favour with the court because he was Jewish and joined Jewish theatrical troupes that played a significant role in theatrical life, not only in the ghetto but also in the wider Christian community.

Rossi is known for *Hashirim Asher liSh'lomo* (The Songs of Solomon), a collection of 33 polyphonic settings of Hebrew psalms, hymns and synagogal songs.

Title-page of Salamone de Rossi's *Hashirim Asher liSh'lomo*.

Glick says, "I relate to this music on the level of Monteverdi or Bach. I always found it difficult to find repertoire that I truly enjoy conducting and Rossi is one of those people who continuously refreshes me."

Glick, 67, who has been battling multiple myeloma, a virulent form of bone and blood cancer, for 3½ years, says he belives his "work as a composer prolongs my life. It is both healing and prayerful and rewarding."

Speaking of his career as a composer, conductor, teacher and lecturer, Glick says, "The measure of a great piece of music is the fact that the listener is deeply moved by it.

"To me, it is incredibly gratifying – the personal contact – the letters and calls I receive from people who love my music."

Glick's compositions have been performed throughout the world. He has also received numerous awards including the prestigious Ateret Kavod Award (Crown of Honour) from the United Synagogue of America and the Yuval Award from the Cantors Assembly of America for his "lifelong commitment to the composition of music that captures the heart and touches the soul." He was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1994.

Glick says he is aware of pain, suffering and the evil in the world, but he chooses to stress the positive. "One can see the world in darkness or turn it to see the light and beauty, with the realization that every moment is precious."

Despite his ongoing chemotherapy, Glick is working on a number of projects, including the *Seven Tableaux from Song of Songs* for the Victoria Scholars Choir, conducted by Jerzey Cihochi, which will be performed June 16 at the Toronto International Choral Festival.

Tickets for the Beth Tikvah concert are $10 in advance and $15 at the door. For tickets, call 416-221-3433, ext. 0, or fax, 416-221-1602..

Greater Toronto Area

Mezuzot fund-raiser to aid victims of terror

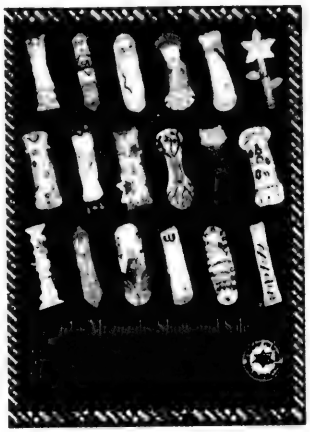
By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Prayers for peace sometimes come in different shapes and sizes.

Over the past few months, close to a thousand participants – from 18 different organizations and from more than half the Jewish schools in the city – have been creating mezuzot out of clay that will be sold at a Kids for Kids fundraiser on March 31.

Kids for Kids is an organization centred in Israel that encourages Jewish youth around the world to help children who have been left orphaned, maimed and traumatized as a result of terrorism.

Initially, D'vorah Hoffman, a Kids for Kids volunteer, hoped to have 613 mezuzot available for sale.



"I chose that number because there are 613 mitzvot," Hoffman said in an interview. But, she said, the community's response has been "amazing" and she now has more than 850 mezuzot for the sale. Hoffman has also involved schools in Memphis and Detroit in the project.

The project began when Hoffman wanted to find some way to help out with the current situation in Israel. At the same time, she felt there was a need to teach children here about tzedakah and the importance of giving.

Hoffman studied art at the Ontario College of Art and over the past few years has used art as a way to teach children and adults with learning difficulties.

Drawing on her skills as a teacher and ceramic artist, she decided to approach schools and offer kids the opportunity to make mezuzot in their art classes. As the schools began to respond positively, she found the only constraint was her time.

In each classroom, Hoffman has tried to integrate different educational goals.

"Teaching art is like teaching philosophy," she said. "It's about reaching personal goals and being satisfied with your own work."

It was also important for her to be able to teach kids about the importance of tzedakah and the quality of giving.

Unfortunately, "we're raising our children to be park bears," she said. "Everything is always given to them and they're never actually involved in the act of giving."

Kids don't usually have the money to donate themselves, Hoffman said, noting that "this project allows them to give of themselves in a direct and meaningful way."

After producing a mezuzah, each child has to price their own piece.

"They need to put a worth on their work and effort – which is part of the educational process," she said.

All the pieces will be collected and sold at the sale at Shaarei Shamayim Synagogue. The mezuzot will be shown from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and the sale will run from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Saturday, April 13, 2002
8:15 p.m.
Holy Blossom Temple
Sunday, April 14, 2002
8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.
Inn on the Park
pursue brilliance
the best of Hebrew U
is coming to Toronto
A night and day of learning with world-renowned professors from the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Saturday Evening Lecture – Free of charge
8:15 p.m. – Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst Street
Keynote speaker: Professor Steven M. Cohen
Introduction by: Professor Sara R. Horowitz
Changing Contours of Jewish Identity in North America
Sponsored by Robins Appleby & Taub LLP
Sunday All-Day Conference – Pre-Registration required
8:45 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. – Inn on the Park, 1100 Eglinton Avenue East
Professor Menahem Ben-Sasson
Jewish History
Sponsored by Charles and Marilyn Gold
Dr. Meron Medzini
Politics
Sponsored by Stephan and Sophie Lewar
Dr. Tova Hartman Halbertal
Women's Issues
Sponsored by Beverley and Sam Cohen
Professor Emanuel Sivan
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Assessing Canada-Israel relations

Last week's two-day congress in Ottawa sponsored by the Canada-Israel Committee, culminating with the 17th Parliamentary Dinner, was an appropriate occasion to briefly assess Canada-Israel relations. By any measure, the two-day gathering was a great success and the bilateral relationship that it highlighted is very strong.

The most obvious measure of the conference's success was the rather overwhelming fact that more than 1,500 people attended the dinner. It was a very poignant, palpable demonstration of the astounding support by Canadians – not all of them Jews, and a great many of them Canadian parliamentarians, senators, civil and public servants, judges and other officials – for Israel and its more than half-century struggle for an enduring, secure and peaceful place in the Middle East.

There were other demonstrations of that support as well such as:

- the very holding of a state dinner in honour of the president of Israel – and through him, the people of Israel – in the midst of Israel's most perilous and troubled times in nearly three decades, and
- the unequivocal, unambiguous statement by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien concerning Israel's future: "There can be no lasting peace in the Middle East without a full guaranty of a safe and secure Israel."

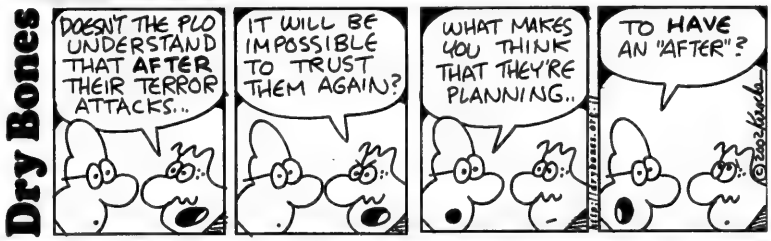
It is important to point out that there are indeed variances between Canadian and Israeli foreign policy in the Middle East. Could anyone reasonably expect that there would not be? Could anyone reasonably expect that there should not be? The two nations are distinct sovereign countries with different histories, different images of themselves, different interpretations of geo-political situations, different places in the globe and different roles in the global arena.

Canada fully understands and accepts Israel's right to defend itself against its enemies. The foreign minister was very clear about this. At the same time, however, Canada appears to have doubts over some of the methods of self-defence Israel employs. The foreign minister was equally clear on this. But, contrary to the impression conveyed by the press during the conference, neither in the foreign minister's speech Wednesday afternoon nor in the prime minister's speech in the evening, was there any comparison of moral equivalence between the terror committed by the Palestinians and the self-defence practised by Israel.

Regrettably too, the subject of Canada's disturbing voting record at the United Nations was essentially overlooked at the conference, due in large part to the distraction generated by the media coverage of Foreign Minister Bill Graham's presentation. However, Canadians may now have a new standard by which to measure future Canadian voting at the UN in the form of the commitment made by the prime minister during his dinner address: "Canada will oppose the effort to undermine the legitimacy of Israel at the United Nations or at any other international forums." In all, it is fair to say, relations between Canada and Israel are strong, though with room, still, for improvement.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.


Dry Bones
DOESN'T THE PLO UNDERSTAND THAT AFTER THEIR TERROR ATTACKS..
IT WILL BE IMPOSSIBLE TO TRUST THEM AGAIN?
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT THEY'RE PLANNING..
TO HAVE AN "AFTER"?
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Chrétien inappropriate speaker

The Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) was mistaken when it selected Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to be the keynote speaker at the 17th CIC Parliamentary conference held in Ottawa to honour the President of Israel Moshe Katsav.

It is an undeniable affront to the State of Israel and the Jewish community. For the past several years, the federal Liberal cabinet and its backbenchers have acknowledged and supported United Nations resolutions tabled and convened by an absolutely anti-Semitic coalition of Arab States that vilify the State of Israel.

Albert Stal
Toronto

* * *

Save the children

Suicide bombers are the vilest of villains. Their continuing acts of violence, perpetrated literally on innocent children of Israel, rip at our hearts.

In the past few years, in almost epidemic proportions, Israeli parents have been forced to mourn beyond our wildest nightmares. How can there be anything but disbelief as Israeli children are brutally murdered by demonic ideologues, invisible cowards covering their faces with the blood of others, who blaspheme the name of God in the name of "freedom"?

The system that educates suicide bombers feeds on ignorance and deifies murder. Is it not time for Arab parents to recognize that they have been manipulated and cheated by leaders who radicalize their children to become suicide bombers? All must be done to save the children who are the targets of killers and the children who are targeted to become killers.

Enlightened parents do not look at children as tools of war.

Randy Spiegel
Toronto

* * *

Reader applauds America

I am a Canadian, a Jew and an infidel, and on behalf of many other Canadian infidels and Jews, I would first like to thank the Americans for Afghanistan. We are in awe of the clean, swift action that you took against the terrorists.

I also want to thank the Americans for trying to clean up the Middle East mess. We've pretty much gotten the message that the Palestinian terrorists are spiritual brothers to the terrorists of Sept. 11. They are religious fanatics whose mission is to destroy Jews and infidels. What they do is stroll over to Jerusalem and kill people.

In the fullness of time, I expect that the Canadians in power will do the right thing and give the Americans a hand. We are a cautious bunch. In a year or two, we might speak out against Palestinian terrorism, and, in due course, we might send some soldiers into "Palestine" to rout out the terrorists and confiscate the nail bombs and grenades and guns and missiles.

And then we can look forward to some really productive Palestinian-Israel peace talks. That is, if there still is an Israel.

Nomi Kaplan
Vancouver

* * *

Reader objects to letters

Is it not time for *The CJN* to declare a moratorium on those self-congratulatory letters deserving the Israelis' gratitude to Jewish tourists? Israelis don't owe us anything, and I doubt many of them would think of two weeks in five-star hotels as the ultimate expression of patriotic fervour. Yes, there's something to be said for not cowering before terrorists and some Israelis may have said so, but basking in their compliments strikes me as unseemly.

Isaac Alalouf
Mount Royal, Que.

* * *

Holocaust studies important

I applaud the schools in North America and abroad who teach Holocaust studies ("Polish schools begin teaching Holocaust studies," *CJN*, Feb. 28). It's very important to spread awareness of anti-Semitism and racism. I also agree with Mr. Trojanski, who said in the article that students who have known the horrors of the Holocaust through their families or otherwise are more likely to be well informed and tolerant of this horror. He poses a very important question: "What can be done to prevent [the Holocaust] from happening again?" The answer is nothing, unless all nations wholeheartedly agree to cease hate, fear, torture and discrimination.

I'm sorry if I seem somewhat of a pessimist. My heart goes out to all Holocaust survivors and to Mr. Trojanski.

Gigi George
Toronto

* * *

We must care about ourselves

I agree and share Gail Asper's sentiments regarding the community's response to anti-Israel reporting (*CJN*, Feb. 21).

I have always taken it upon myself to address outrageous and offensive lies and distortions pertaining to Isrel and the complex Middle East conflict through letters to MPs, government ministers and newspapers.

The point is, if we don't care about ourselves enough to stand up and be counted, who will?

One doesn't have to be very knowledgeable to see through lop-sided reporting.

Jan Fine
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

'Our Canadian ties to Israel run deep'

Realization of an unselfish ideal is inspiring

The following is the address delivered by Governor General Adrienne Clarkson at the state dinner in honour of Moshe Katsav, president of the State of Israel, and Mrs. Gila Katsav, at Rideau Hall, Thursday, March 7.

President Katsav, it is a pleasure to welcome you and Mrs. Katsav to our home at the residence of the Governor General of Canada, Rideau Hall.

We are pleased to welcome you, the head of state of a democracy, to our country, which is, we are proud to say, also a well-functioning democracy. Democracies not only permit but also encourage the public exchange of ideas about civil society. And it is because of this democratic tradition that my husband, John Ralston Saul, regrettably is not able to be with us tonight. He is in Vancouver hosting the LaFontaine-Baldwin Lecture, commemorating the beginning of responsible government in Canada. The lecture is given this year for the first time by our Aboriginal leader, Georges Erasmus. Only such an important commitment could have prevented my husband from participating tonight in welcoming you here.

Governor General Adrienne Clarkson

I think this kind of functioning democracy, which Israel and Canada both enjoy, has its advantages and disadvantages, depending on your point of view. The advantage is a free society in which people are open and able to discuss things, quarrel with each other and raise their voices, always knowing that they have recourse to elections to decide who will represent them.

The other side of democracy is that it is notoriously inefficient and takes a long time and sometimes people become impatient with it. But you know, just as we know here in Canada the words of Winston Churchill: it is still a better system than any other that has been invented.

The Talmud says: "In Jerusalem, the men of discrimination did not sit down to dine in company until they knew who their companions were to be." I know a bit about who you are. I know that you arrived in the new state of Israel as a young boy in 1951. And that your family was sent to an immigrant tent camp in what is now Kiryat Malachi. And that, 18 years later, you were elected mayor of that settlement, the youngest mayor ever to be elected in Israel. In 1977, you were elected to the Knesset, of which you have been a member for 25 years. And now you are president of the State of Israel. That's not bad for a boy from Yazd in Iran.

I, too, as you know, am an immigrant. So we have much in common in our backgrounds. I came to this country when I was three years old, and received my education through the grace of a public education system which sets out to make all our immigrants citizens of our country. As I often have said, this place, Ottawa, where I came as a child, was a cold, white place in a cold, white country. In my lifetime, in the past 60 years, it has become a place of enormous diversity and energy and a successful experiment in the new kind of pluralist country that Canada has since become.

Four years ago, CBC Radio's Writers and Company broadcast an Israeli Writer's Series called "Writing a Nation: Israel at 50." There we heard for ourselves the diverse and extraordinary novelists, poets and essayists who make up your cultural fabric – a Druze poet, an ultra-orthodox woman who writes intimate fiction under a pseudonym, a Sephardic novelist originally from Iraq, an outspoken Arab poet and editor. And what unites them is that they are all part of today's Israel.

If you were to stay with us in Canada for just a while, Mr. President, you would see a similar type of diversity of people who are creating our literature and our art and our music. They are writing in either English or French, although their mother tongue may not be either.

It's only when they go outside Canada that people ask them why they are Canadian, when the obvious fact is that they have chosen to be Canadian.

The key role of the literature of immigrants in a diverse society is to make voices heard that are "ex-centric" – off the centre – and therefore to give greater voice to everyone. I think this gives Canada its strength, and I'm sure it gives Israel its strength, too. It is an essential part of the process of accommodation and understanding that marks a stable and successful multicultural society.

Canada is still in evolution, even though we are an old country, nearly 400 years in the making. I like to remind people of this, especially those in Europe who say, "You're such a young country." We are a country that, as the Ottawa writer, Daniel Poliquin, says, preceded the Third Republic in France and Garibaldi's Italy.

I know that you have also been a country which has absorbed [immigrants] and changed culturally, depending on the kind of waves of immigration that you have received. For the last 30 years, a large Sephardic constituency came to add itself to the older Ashkenazim group and brought to Israeli society different influences and experiences based on their lives of Jews emigrating from Arab and Muslim countries of North Africa, the Levant and countries to the east.

What is interesting is that your language of Hebrew has become such an important and flexible language. For people who think of it as an ancient language in which ancient books were written, we realize that, from some 8,000 words in biblical times, modern Hebrew vocabulary has now expanded to more than 120,000 words.

Your outstanding author, Amos Oz, considers the revival of the Hebrew language as one of Israel's grandest achievements, along with the creation of the kibbutz. And he says: "Modern Hebrew is like Elizabethan English. It's a marvellous instrument. I've even been able to invent new words where none existed before by joining certain words."

This idea of the flexibility of language should indicate also a suppleness in cultural acceptance and understanding. Certainly, the burst of creativity in the creation of a language is quite remarkable, and you are to be heartily congratulated for it.

The creation of Hebrew into a modern and flexible language is only one of the great achievements of civilization with which the Jewish people have been intimately bound up. In that remarkable intellectual talent of Israelis, there are achievements in science and technology, in agriculture, in making the desert a fertile place, in making it sing through the virtuosity of musical artists such as Pinchas Zukerman, musical director of our own National Arts Centre Orchestra.

However, I can't discuss Israeli contributions to civilization without talking about, as Amos Oz did, the kibbutz. Because the kibbutz is one of the great gifts of Israel to all those who believe in the instinct of humanity to co-operate. The idea of the kibbutz, the idea that there is a different way of organizing society and creating co-operation among people who aren't related, is indeed a very progressive step.

This realization of an unselfish ideal – that people can work together in as unselfish a way as possible and create together something much bigger than themselves – is one which the whole world admires, even if it does not always want to emulate it. And it has inspired young people of all nationalities around the world. Many of our young people, non-Jewish as well as Jewish, have gone to Israel to experience life on the kibbutz.

Our Canadian ties with Israel run even deeper than that. They are found in economic and commercial affairs, in culture, in social and familial relationships. Ties that arise from the private philanthropy of Canadians – the Birthright Israel Foundation, co-founded by Charles Bronfman; the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; the Asper Centre for Entrepreneurship in Jerusalem.

I mention only these ties out of the many, but they symbolize the fact that, for Jews here in Canada, Israel is an important pole star. And for non-Jewish Canadians, too. It has to do, as we all know, with the Holocaust and the dreadful events of 60 years ago, the terrible suffering inflicted on the Jewish people that will last forever in our collective memory and that can never be denied.

It is this empathy which makes us all wish that there can be lasting peace in the Middle East. We are now in the first week of March. As always, the approach of Easter for Christians and the approach of Passover for the Jews are intertwined in our shared hope for rebirth. It is no accident that spring finds Passover and Easter together. This is an ancient understanding of what spring means – hope, new vitality, the life returning to a dormant winter land. It is a fundamental part of both religious traditions.

Today, in a disturbing time of escalating violence in the region, new initiatives have been mooted. I hope you will, for the sake of your people and for the peace of the world, examine them closely with "creative thinking" and attempt to do something with them which can help all to live in peace.

It was a Spanish Jew, born in Granada 950 years ago, who wrote treatises in Arabic and poetry in Hebrew, weaving together Jewish religious and Arabic secular elements. He, too, was a refugee, and his name was Moses Ibn Ezra. His *Wine Song for Spring* is particularly apt for us at this time: "The hills have put on turbans of flowers, and the plain has robed itself in tunics of grass and herbs; it greets our nostrils with the incense hidden in its bosom all winter long."

And that hidden incense of peace is what we hope will be released and breathed by all in the Middle East. Desmond Tutu, the Nobel Peace Prize winner, who lived through the darkest days of apartheid in South Africa, was asked at a particularly difficult time how he could be so optimistic. He replied: "But you see, I am not optimistic. I am hopeful." And that is what we must all be – hopeful.

Mr. President, I would like to propose a toast to hope and to the warm friendship that Israel and Canada share. And to all the newly arrived people, the refugees, the immigrants, in our respective societies: that they may have the opportunities that you and I have enjoyed and have brought to fruition. To Canada and Israel.

Jewish humour: Some post-Purim thoughts

Just as the festival of Purim loomed on the horizon, my mail brought me the copy of a lecture on humour given last November at the Leo Baeck Institute in New York by Harvard University's renowned Prof. Ruth R. Wisse as the 2001 Leo Baeck Memorial Lecture. Its title was *Some Serious Thoughts About Jewish Humour*.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

In her talk, Wisse notes that Jewish jokes frequently make fun of our own condition, which is to say that they perceive Jews to be suspended between heaven and earth, reality and hope. Often our situation is such that there seems to be no way out, but somehow we will find a way of laughing at ourselves that makes almost everything bearable.

That is not to say that we do not laugh at our enemies. We do that too. It was certainly necessary during the thousands of years of exile when our very security always seemed to hang in the balance. No wonder that Purim became the great release for our anxieties.

I clearly remember the Nazi days in Berlin. I can still see the Gestapo officer sitting in the last row of our synagogue, watching what was going on and recording what the rabbi said from the pulpit. One wrong word, or even wrong tone, might be catastrophic, which made the usual serious atmosphere of a service quite a trial for those who led it.

But on Purim it was different. That was the time when we could best our persecutors. The rabbi and cantor put the reading of the Megillah up front as Jewish tradition demanded, and it was our custom – as it still is today – to twirl our graggers when the name of Haman was mentioned.

I have heard a lot of noise in North American synagogues, but none can approach what happened in those Nazi days in Berlin. For Haman became Hitler in our minds, and to make fun of this monster right in front of the Gestapo gave us satisfaction that we could get nowhere else. It was the ultimate exercise in making a joke of our enemy, especially because our situation was so desperate.

Wisse's lecture is thoughtful, as one would expect of her, and she includes examples of jokes that illustrate the variety of Jewish humour.

If you are interested in obtaining the lecture in pamphlet form, which is only 18 pages long, you might want to ask the Leo Baeck Institute how to go about obtaining it. Call (212) 744-6400 or e-mail dthorne@lbi.cjh.org. It is worth the effort.

Where are the nice, single, Jewish men?

With all the weighty issues we have had to face recently, and with winter around us for too long, I believe we can allow ourselves a few lighthearted moments.

I decided to spend my much-needed university reading week back home in Toronto. I have theorized that Torontonians my age can go two ways when it comes to their feelings about their home town. There are those who travel far and wide but always have that stereotypical Torontonian blood in them. These are the people who will get back from university on a Thursday afternoon and will not hesitate for so much as a minute to make plans to go out that very night to the local hotspot. Then there are others (like me) who come home to see my waiting family and some of my friends, but really do not have the endurance for the frenetic pace of Toronto.

Darcie Richler in Halifax

But I do enjoy visiting T.O. – to an extent. I love to see the family dog. Also, it is refreshing to go shopping and bump into no less than 10 people from my past life and drive in parking lots that are more dangerous than the Autobahn.

There are times, however, when after being away from it for a while, Toronto becomes just too much for me. It can be traumatizing to be far from my beautiful city on the coast. While away from it this time, I was promptly reminded of two things for which I am thankful.

First, I was quickly reminded of the reasons why I go to school in Halifax. While undoubtedly, every city has its *mishugas*, I am still glad to be on the East Coast. Halifax is a city that has everything you can possibly need (although at times, you have to look for it a little harder) but without the madness of Toronto. People are polite. They are not overly aggressive when they drive and they smile at you as you are walking down the street, for no other reason than to be nice.

During the past week, I spent time with some men in their mid-20s who provided me with some good humour and reminded me of something else: long-term relationships are good for you.

But hanging out with these members of the opposite sex also prompted a question. Where are the nice, single Jewish guys in Toronto? My brother, whom I thought was the only one, was married 1½ years ago. (Moms, you are not allowed to nominate your sons for this title, as you probably do not see their quirkiness or alternatively, you do and think it is cute.)

I sat around a table in Toronto with a bunch of Jewish guys – handsome, I might add – who inquired about some of my female friends and encouraged me to introduce them. The problem is that while some of these people (who shall remain nameless to protect the guilty and my friendships with them) claim they want to find nice girls, they are not living by that message. They spend their nights at the current places-to-be, looking for girls who sneak in with IDs that are not quite accurate. Although my heart has told me to be more understanding, I have run out of patience. Honestly, what do these guys really expect? They say that they want to meet nice girls, but frankly, guys, actions speak louder than words.

Yes, I know in my head that these males exist everywhere; they are not native to Toronto. However, while in Halifax, I do not see this side of them, because the spirit of the city, to me, is different.

I have a great group of single, Jewish female friends at Dalhousie who are beautiful, educated, intelligent, funny and down-to-earth. Many of them are hoping that once back in Toronto, they will find their "dream men." I am worried. If you are a nice, single Jewish male in Toronto, or at least think that you are, we want to meet you. We know that you're out there somewhere, and we're willing to pay a high reward to see one in the flesh.

A new chapter awaits

With March already halfway through, the end of the school year is in sight. Though Camp Massad has been my summer home, yesterday I finally realized that I wasn't going back.

There comes a year for every camper when the phrase "time to move on" comes to life. This is the summer where I officially move into alumni status, a term I have been dreading for years.

Bryan Borzykowski in Winnipeg

This year marks Camp Massad's 50th anniversary, which was commemorated on Saturday, March 2, with a gala dinner that attracted about 200 alumni, including David Gale, host of WTN's *Loving Spoonfuls*, and Lesley Corne, a singer and actress, who hosted the event.

Gale, who attended Massad and was part of the administration, poked fun at our camp and reminisced about his days there. While I have no doubt that this event was nostalgic for everyone there, I, too, was feeling this nostalgia even though I have only been away from camp for six months now.

I saw the glimmer of youth in all 200 people that night. It was a moment when everyone was 18 again, and it was the first time I felt a part of that company, thinking back to just a few months ago when all that mattered was Camp Massad.

But there comes a time when you have to move on, and it made sense that the time for this would be this summer. I am moving to Toronto next year and I also have plans for a possible trip to Europe. One cannot go to camp forever, but I am already appreciating everything that camp has meant to me and how it affects everyone who attends the little Lake Winnipeg paradise.

You can sense the self-pity, but that is not the point of this article. The awareness of the end of my camp era is just a part of a larger picture, which is the realization that a new chapter in my life is going to be taking place. It is anxiety coupled with excitement sprinkled with some sadness and understanding that whatever I have done in my previous 22 years, I can never get back.

I guess it all points to growing up, and in a few months I will be out on my own and joining the "real world." When all of you made that big leap from your parent's home to another city, did you feel like this? Was this impending change as conscious to you as it is to me right now?

I was going to save all this talk until the end of the year, but with the camp dinner bringing back memories of innocence and visions of real adulthood, in conjunction with the foreseeable end of the school year, now seemed the right time to relay all these thoughts.

While there may be nervousness coming through in this article, the anticipation of starting a new chapter in my life has an overwhelming excitement to it. While paying rent will be an arduous task, I am looking forward to being self-sufficient (well, somewhat!), and I am excited about becoming Jewishly independent. Right now, I go to synagogue more because my family wants to go than because I want to go, and there are other things that I do or don't do because of my family. While living at home doesn't stop me from doing what I want Jewishly, it will be much different when I don't have my parents saying that we should go to synagogue today.

I am ready to find out what it means to be Jewish for myself, and being on my own will help me explore this religion and eventually develop something I will be comfortable with (that could mean being Orthodox or something else, but at least I will come to that conclusion).

These last few months in Winnipeg will be interesting and exciting ones, but it will difficult to leave camp, my home and my childhood behind.

E-mail me at cjnbryan@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Arab-Israeli normalization is a dead letter

Normalization, that buzz word inextricably associated with two watershed achievements of Mideast diplomacy – the 1991 Madrid conference and the 1993 Oslo peace process – is as dead as the dodo. The high hopes created by the prospect of Israel and its Arab neighbours resolving their bitter differences through peaceful means have been crushed, for now at least, by the pincers of Arab hostility to Israel and the current Palestinian uprising.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Facilitated through the medium of a multilateral negotiating track, normalization was designed as a framework for integrating Israel into the Middle East and as a forum for airing mutually relevant issues.

The first multilateral talks took place in Moscow in 1992. The participants – Israel, 11 Arab countries, the Palestinian Authority, the United States, Russia, the European Union, Canada, Japan, China and Turkey – were organized into five working groups, covering regional and economic development, arms control and regional security, refugees, water resources and the environment.

Boycotted by Syria and Lebanon, the multilaterals enjoyed a brief existence, fading out in May 1996 after only seven sessions. Though given a fleeting respite in January 2000, the multilateral track sunk under the weight of Arab resistance to normalization. The outbreak of the second intifadah in September 2000 doomed it.

Outraged by Israel's use of force and reacting to a wave of anti-Israel revulsion not seen in Arab capitals in decades, Arab states froze bilateral relations with Israel.

It was an incremental process. On Oct. 22, 2000, less than a month after the eruption of the Palestinian rebellion, the 22 member states of the Arab League condemned Israeli "atrocities," and decided to freeze all but political contacts with Israel. The Arabs said contacts would not be resumed until Israel made tangible progress toward a final settlement with the Palestinians.

On May 20, 2001, shortly after Israel deployed F-16 fighter jets in the West Bank for the first time since the Six Day War, Arab League foreign ministers ratcheted up the pressure. They recommended severing political links with Israel until it ceased all military operations.

On May 27, the Organization of the Islamic Conference passed a resolution cutting all political ties with Israel. When Arab foreign ministers met again on Aug. 22, they urged Arab nations to refrain from opening new contacts with Israel and to boycott Israeli goods produced in Jewish settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On Dec. 21, Arab League foreign ministers convened yet again, calling for a boycott of Ariel Sharon, Israel's new prime minister.

Prior to these deliberations, several Arab states – Morocco, Tunisia, Oman and Qatar – suspended low-level relations with Israel.

Last August, the Arabs tightened the screws when Ahmed Khazaa, commissioner-general of the Damascus-based Central Office for the Boycott of Israel, suggested that a renewal of the blacklist might force Israel to implement United Nations resolutions, particularly one calling for an Israeli pullout from the territories. Khazaa followed this up with an announcement that his agency would boycott several American, European and Asian companies doing business with Israel.

Shortly afterward, Saudi Arabia placed a German company on the boycott list after it supplied the Saudis with wheat fibre from Israel. Two months ago, Syria blacklisted two Greek ships on suspicion of visiting Israel in violation of boycott regulations.

Prior to these developments, Israel's exports to Arab countries had been on the upswing. In August 2000, a month before the intifadah broke out, the Manufacturers Association in Israel reported that exports had increased by 37 percent in the first half of the year, rising to $62 million (US).

The degree to which the Arab world has abandoned normalization since the intifadah is clearly evident in Egypt and Jordan – the only Arab states, apart from Mauritania, with embassies in Israel.

Egypt, which in 1979 was the first Arab country to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, recalled its ambassador from Tel Aviv in November 2000. Mohammed Bassiouny has yet to be replaced. (Egypt pulled its ambassador out of Israel during the 1982 Lebanon War, and a new envoy did not return until 1986.)

In recent months, Egyptian officials from President Hosni Mubarak on down have escalated their anti-Israel rhetoric, in the spirit of Egypt's cold peace with Israel. But they have resisted calls from Arab nationalists and Islamic fundamentalists to cut relations altogether.

Mubarak, however, has blasted Sharon, saying he neither trusts nor can work with him. In one bitter diatribe last July, he described Sharon, whom he has refused to meet, as a man "who knows only murder, aggression and war."

Egypt's foreign minister, Ahmed Maher, who visited Jerusalem in January in a vain effort to arrange a ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians, has been just as verbally abusive. Rapping Israel for its policy of killing Palestinian militants, Maher referred to Sharon's government as a "gang of assassins."

In the face of these onslaughts, Israel has not remained silent. It has accused Egypt of encouraging Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to reject former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak's terms for an end-of-conflict settlement. In addition, Israel claims that Egypt torpedoed a compromise resolution that would have enabled Israel and the United States to remain at last summer's UN anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa.

The ongoing intifadah has also affected commercial relations. Egypt cancelled plans to ship gas to Israel through a proposed new pipeline and arrested an Egyptian businessman who wanted to build a resort in the Sinai in partnership with Israeli entrepreneurs.

Hosni Mubarak

In a separate development that also augured badly for normalization, Egypt succumbed to pressure from the Federation of Egyptian Chambers of Commerce and cancelled a Euro-Mediterranean economic conference in Cairo to which Israel had been invited.

Such is the poisonous atmosphere in Cairo today that J. Sainsbury, a British firm, dropped plans to expand its supermarket chain in Egypt. This happened after its shops were subjected to a consumers boycott in the mistaken belief that J. Sainsbury is Jewish-owned.

Meanwhile, Egypt's state-controlled press escalated its anti-Israel and anti-Semitic rhetoric. Two examples will suffice. Last April, a doctored photograph of Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in an SS uniform appeared on the front page of the opposition newspaper *Al-Arabi*. Then *Al Akhbar* published a column in which an Egyptian writer claimed that Nazi Germany's persecution of Jews "was not enough."

Tensions have eased of late. Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer met with Mubarak in Cairo and Egyptian television carried an interview with the president of Israel, Moshe Katsav.

Otherwise, the picture is grim.

Jordan, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994, has been affected by the anti-normalization trend as well. Although Jordan has appointed a new ambassador to Israel, he has yet to be sent to Tel Aviv.

Normalization in Jordan, such as it was, probably reached its peak at the October 1995 Mideast economic conference in Amman. King Abdullah II, King Hussein's successor, is a proponent of cordial relations with Israel, but he is constrained by demographics: two-thirds of Jordan's population consists of Palestinian refugees, who are extremely antagonistic to Israel.

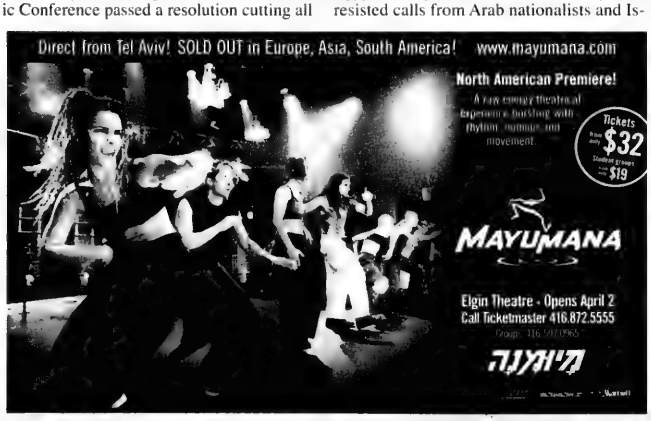
The anti-normalization movement was gaining momentum in Jordan long before the intifadah erupted. Its growing popularity prompted the prime minister to describe it as inimical to Jordan's interests.

Yet, on the eve of Israel's general election last year, Jordan's foreign minister declared that he would be unable to defend relations with Israel if Sharon swept into office. As a result of this gaffe, Jordan's relationship with Israel has cooled.

Nonetheless, King Abdullah II wants to serve as an intermediary betweeen Israel and the Palestinians. Recently, he called on Arab League members to recognize Israel, and normalize relations, in exchange for an Israeli withdrawal to the pre-1967 lines and Israel's recognition of an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud of Saudi Arabia floated a similar idea in *The New York Times* last month. It remains to be seen whether he will raise that proposal at an Arab League conference in Beirut at the end of March.

Since a full withdrawal is unacceptable to Israel's current government, normalization is likely to remain a dead letter for the unforeseeable future.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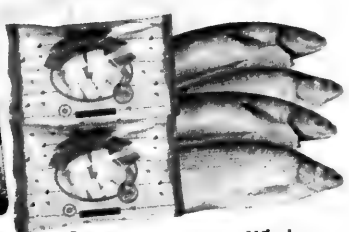

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PASSOVER IN MOROCCO

By JUDY BART KANCIGOR
Special to The CJN

For old movie buffs, the phrase "Take me to the kasbah" evokes images of Humphrey Bogart, dank, foggy alleys and foreign intrigue. But when Kitty Morse takes you to the kasbah, it's bustling souks (markets), lush oases and the scent of orange blossoms.

For 15 years the Casablanca-born author of nine cookbooks has been leading sell-out tours of Morocco, visiting ancient ruins, historic cities, quaint ports and picturesque resorts, sampling the exotic tastes of her native cuisine, and offering culinary demonstrations at her family home, a restored pasha's residence.

If a trip to Morocco is not in your budget this year, take a virtual tour with Morse's latest cookbook, *The Scent of Orange Blossoms* (Ten Speed Press), which she co-authored with her friend, Fez native Danielle Mamane.

The pair met when Morse's tour group was staying at the Palais Jamai Hotel in Fez that houses Mamane's boutique.

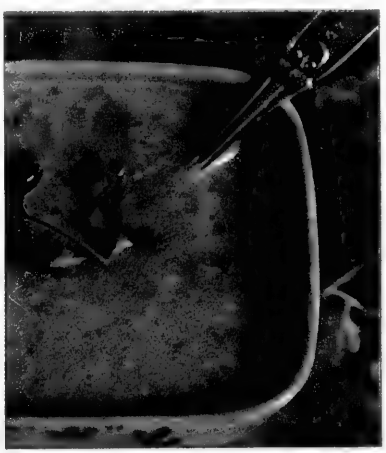
"We started to chat and realized that one of my best friends in Casablanca in high school was one of her roommates in Paris," Morse recalls.

Mamane invited Morse to her home for dinner, and a friendship was forged as the dishes of Mamane's Sephardi kitchen reconnected Morse with the Jewish culinary traditions of her mother's family.

"I got to thinking, this cuisine has historical value, cultural value," says Morse. "It's a precious treasure."

The book is filled with nostalgic references to the Moroccan Jewish community's glorious past, with treasured family photos from both authors, and precious letters from Mamane to her daughters, written by her originally in French and translated by Morse, evoking cherished traditions of

Continued on page 19



Fava bean soup shouldn't be missed.

Passover Food Ideas

More Moroccan recipes for the seder

Continued from page 18

Shabbat and holidays past, as well as life in the mellah or Jewish district.

For Moroccan Jews, as for Jews everywhere, Passover is one of the most important holidays of the year.

Morse recreates her great-grandmother's Passover Fava Bean Soup, a Sephardi family staple, combining potatoes, turnips and onions with the fava beans and packed with cilantro. It is served with what Morse calls "the colourful armada of cooked or raw salads of Passover," such as Danielle's Roasted Bell Peppers below.

A custom unique to the Jews of Morocco is the feast of La Mimouna, held on the last evening of Passover, when Muslim families bring a lump of starter dough to their Jewish friends, marking the end of the leaven-free week of Passover.

Morse calls Currant Preserves (Mrouziya) "one of the gastronomic highlights" of the feast.

PASSOVER FAVA BEAN SOUP

For Sephardim, permitted to eat fava beans, this dish is a staple. Frozen baby lima beans can be substituted for the favas, if you prefer.

4 lbs. fresh beans, peeled and shelled
1 potato, peeled and quartered
1 turnip, peeled and quartered
1 onion, quartered
6 cups beef stock
1½ cups loosely packed cilantro leaves, plus additional for garnish
2 tsp. salt
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper

In a large saucepan, combine the fava beans, potato, turnips, onion, and 2 cups of the stock. Bring to a low boil over medium heat. Cover and cook until the turnips are tender, 25 to 30 minutes. Allow to cool.

In a blender or food processor, purée the cooked vegetables and their cooking liquid in batches with the remaining 4 cups stock and the 1½ cups cilantro until smooth. Return the mixture to the saucepan. Season with the salt and pepper and heat through. Ladle the soup into individual bowls, garnish with the cilantro leaves, and serve hot. Serves 4.

DANIELLE'S ROASTED BELL PEPPERS

Danielle's daughters always request a pound or two of their mother's twice-cooked peppers whenever she visits them in Paris. Use them as a relish or as a filling for sandwiches.

5 red bell peppers (about 2 lbs.)
3 tbsp. extra virgin olive oil
4 cloves garlic, thinly sliced
½ tsp. salt

Preheat the broiler and line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Cut the peppers along the grooves into 5 or 6 lobes. Place, skin side up, on the prepared baking sheet. Broil until the skins blister evenly, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a bowl and cover tightly with plastic wrap. When cool, peel and seed the peppers.

In a large skillet, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook, stirring occasionally, until it turns golden, 3 to 4 minutes. Add the peppers and fry for 3 to 4 minutes on each side. Transfer to a colander to drain.

Arrange the peppers on a serving dish as if they were petals of a flower. Sprinkle with the salt and the fried garlic. Serve at room temperature. The peppers will keep for up to a week in an airtight container in the refrigerator. Bring to room temperature before serving. Serves 4.

CURRANT PRESERVES

1 lb. dried black currants, rinsed quickly under running water
1¼ cups sugar
⅓ cup water, or more
juice of ½ lemon
½ tsp. ground cloves
15 walnut halves

In a large, nonreactive saucepan, combine the currants, sugar, and ⅓ cup water over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the mixture begins to bubble gently, 8 to 10 minutes. Add the lemon juice and cloves. Decrease the heat to low and cook, stirring occasionally, until most of the water has evaporated. Add water, a tablespoon at a time, if the mixture becomes too dry. It should thicken and turn the colour of dark caramel. This process may take 30 to 40 minutes.

Reserve 5 or 6 walnut halves for garnish. Combine the remaining nuts with the currant mixture and remove from the heat. Allow to cool and store in a tightly sealed container in the refrigerator.

Reheat the mrouziya over low heat for 20 to 30 minutes. Pour the warm preserve into a festive compotier, and garnish with the reserved walnut halves. Serve in individual saucers and savour with a small spoon. Serves 12.

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Norene Gilletz's Passover food tour

By NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

Passover is just around the corner, bringing with it the annual challenge of what to prepare for the seders and everyday Passover meals. The decision of what to serve each year is always a dilemma.

I have several friends who are extremely organized. They keep copies of their menus in a special Passover file so they have a record of the dishes that their family and friends enjoy, along with comments such as, "Uncle Jack loves my sweet and sour meatballs, but cousin Sarah has decided to become a vegetarian!"

For a change, I thought it would be fun to have an imaginary progressive Passover dinner tour. We will visit the kitchens of three Jewish cookbook authors who are my personal friends and finish the tour in my kitchen. Even though we live (and cook) in different cities, we are all connected via our common culinary cord. Here is a sampling of some of our tried-and-true recipes for you to enjoy. So hop on board the magical matzah for a delicious culinary tour!

*****

First stop is Philadelphia, Pa., at the home of Ethel Hofman. She is a cookbook author extraordinaire, syndicated columnist and kosher food consultant. Ethel has been my mentor and friend for nearly 20 years. We've shared many wonderful meals, food stories and culinary bits of wisdom over the years. She has been a special source of inspiration and encouragement.

Ethel grew up in the only Jewish family living on the Shetland Islands, north of Scotland. In that remote corner of the world, she learned first-hand from her late mother how to work with local ingredients to prepare traditional Jewish dishes, yet still follow kosher guidelines.

Ethel recommends that if you have family members who don't eat red meat, this turkey recipe is a fine choice for a gala main course. Vegetable oil can be substituted for the chicken fat to keep cholesterol levels down. This simple, delectable dish is just one of the 350 recipes from Ethel's excellent cookbook, *Everyday Cooking for the Jewish Home*.

ETHEL'S PESACH-STUFFED TURKEY BREAST

½ cup crumbled matzah
2 tbsp. schmaltz or vegetable oil
1 medium onion, chopped
1 Granny Smith apple, chopped
1 large green bell pepper, cut into ¼-in. dice
2 tbsp. chopped fresh cilantro or parsley
1 tsp. salt
¼ tsp. pepper
2½ lb. boneless turkey breast
2 tbsp. oil
paprika

Preheat oven to 375. Cover matzah with warm water and soak for 5 minutes to soften. Drain and set aside. Heat schmaltz in a large skillet. Add onion and apple. Cook over medium heat until onion is softened and translucent, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat.

Stir matzah, bell pepper, cilantro, salt and pepper into onion and apples. Spoon stuffing into centre of turkey breast. Bring ends together and fasten with metal poultry picks. Brush turkey breast with oil and dust with paprika. Place in a roasting pan and cover with foil. Roast in preheated oven for 1 hour, basting often with pan juices.

Turkey is done when juices run clear when pierced at thickest part with a fork. Let stand 5 minutes. Slice and serve hot. Makes 8 servings.

* * *

Second stop is Potomac, Md., at the home of Sheilah Kaufman. Sheilah has authored 22 cookbooks and will have two new books out this year. She proudly says that "fearless, fussless, easy, elegant" cooking is her trademark. (This is also the name of one of her more popular books.) Sheilah says her recipes must be able to be made ahead of time and frozen, with a short preparation time, and they must taste fabulous. She loves to share her recipes and love of cooking with friends and family. When she visited me a few years ago, she completely took over my kitchen and cheerfully prepared some of her scrumptious specialties for us. You can be sure that she will always be a welcome guest in my home.

When I told her that I was writing this special Passover article, Sheilah said "Of course I'll send you a recipe!" So enjoy this easy dish from Sheilah's newest cookbook, *Sephardic/Israeli Cuisine*, which is due out in April.

Sheilah writes "Leeks are one of the oldest known vegetables and are much loved by Middle Eastern people. This wonderful dish from Isabella Sciaky is served for Passover and Rosh Hashanah and can be adapted as a dish for Chanukah by leaving out the meat. Enjoy."

Continued on page 24

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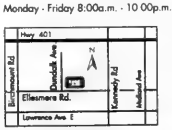

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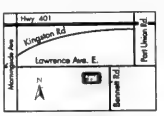

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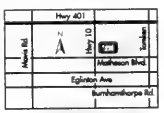

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Passover Food Ideas

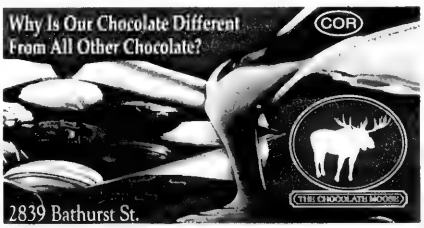
Norene Gilletz's Passover food tour

Continued from page 22

SHEILAH KAUFMAN'S MEAT AND LEEK PATTIES
(KEFTIKAS DE PRASSA, KEFTIKAS DE PUERO)

8 very thick leeks, whites only with a little green, roots removed
½ lb. ground beef, ground twice
3 large eggs
1 tsp. salt
freshly ground pepper
matzah meal
oil for frying
lemon slices, for garnish

Slice leeks in half lengthwise and wash thoroughly to remove all the sand. Chop the leeks and place them in a saucepan with enough cold water to cover. Bring to a boil, cover, and cook the leeks until they are tender, about 4 to 5 minutes.



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Drain the leeks and let them cool. Squeeze out as much water as possible, but leave just a little water so the keftikas will not be too dry. Place leeks in a meat grinder or food processor and grind them (twice through a meat grinder). (Do not put the leeks in the refrigerator until you have ground them since it will be impossible to grind them after refrigerating.)

Combine the leeks, meat, eggs, salt, and pepper to taste and add enough matzah meal to form into patties (keftes). They should be about walnut size, then flatten them with your hands.

In a large skillet or fry pan, heat the oil (enough to at least cover the bottom of the pan) and fry until they are brown on each side. Drain well on paper towels. Serve with slices of lemon. Makes 8 to 10 servings as a side dish.

Variation: Venoutcha Benaroyo from Bulgaria made these for Passover for the lunch following the seder night. In Ladino, they are called *albondigas de prasa*. In her version, she uses a pound of ground meat with the leeks and seasoning (no other ingredients). The patties are then dipped in eggs and matzah meal and fried.

* * *

Third stop is Fullerton, Calif., at the home of Judy Kancigor. Judy is a cookbook author, columnist and cooking teacher. The colourful dish Matzah Schalat, a delicious kugel-type pudding, comes from her nostalgic cookbook *Melting Pot Memories*. If you are interested in genealogy, you'll love the stories, humour and recipes found in this wonderful book.

Judy writes: "Last year, when the Food Editor of the *Los Angeles Daily News* came to photograph this recipe, she suggested putting the mixture in a springform pan. The results were dramatic! Triple this recipe if you are using a 9- or 10-inch springform pan or a 9 x 13-inch baking dish. If you only have a 9-inch springform pan, you will have some left over to bake in a separate dish for a delicious preview!"

JUDY'S MATZAH SCHALAT

3 individual matzot
3 eggs, separated
½ cup sugar
2 tbsp. margarine, melted
rind of ¼ of a lemon, grated
1 tsp. cinnamon
½ tsp. vanilla
¼ cup white raisins (or dried apricots, slivered)
2 medium apples, sliced thin
fruit for garnish (pineapple, strawberries, blueberries, mandarin oranges)
margarine and cinnamon (for top)

Crumble matzah and soak in cold water until soft. Drain thoroughly. Beat egg yolks with half the sugar. Add margarine, lemon rind, cinnamon and vanilla and mix. Stir in raisins and apples. Beat egg whites, add remaining sugar slowly and beat until stiff. Fold in. Pour into well-greased baking pan. Decorate top into pretty design with canned sliced pineapple, strawberries (fresh or frozen), blueberries and mandarin oranges. Dot with margarine slivers and cinnamon. Bake at 350 for 1 hour. Can be frozen.

An elegant variation: Triple the recipe above. Lightly grease the inside of a springform pan. Pat pineapple rings dry with paper towels, then press pineapple against the sides of the pan. Place strawberry slices or canned cherries in the middle, then put blueberries and mandarin oranges in a pretty pattern around the pineapple rings. Pour the batter in slowly so as not to disturb the fruit. Bake as directed above.

*****

The final stop on our culinary tour is Toronto, Canada, in my busy kitchen.

Here is a quick and easy recipe from my low-fat, healthy cookbook *MealLeaniYumm!* Not only is it among my personal favourites, I have also received many compliments for this chicken recipe from readers near and far.

It comes from my friend Gloria Schachter of Montreal, who tested and proofread many of the recipes in *MealLeaniYumm!* Over the years, we've enjoyed many culinary discussions (and meals) and have remained close friends even though we now live in different cities.

Gloria and I collaborated to produce this moist and luscious chicken dish, which can be multiplied easily for a crowd. I'm sure you and your guests will enjoy this – it's a winner!

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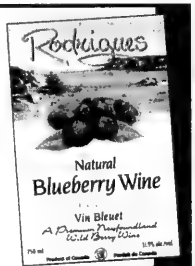

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Passover Food Ideas

Seder Sephardi style

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

Sephardi Jews do not differ from Ashkenazi Jews in the basic tenets of Judaism, but there are some differences in their practices, particularly for Passover.

The differences reflect the customs of the Jews who lived in a specific area.

Ashkenazi Jews lived primarily in eastern Europe; Sephardi Jews, many of whom were descendants of Jews who lived in Spain and Portugal before the expulsion of 1492, emigrated to countries where they incorporated the practices of their Diaspora culture – India, the countries of North Africa and others.

Some of the differences in customs are seen at the seder table where, for example, lettuce rather than horseradish is used for bitter herbs. In addition, some Sephardi authorities permit rice to be eaten at Passover.

Ruby Ezekiel who came from Calcutta, India, explained that in their tradition, the items for the seder are placed on a large copper tray and covered with a silk cloth. The charoset is made with date juice, called hallek, which gives the brown colour of mortar and a sweet taste.

The Four Questions are not asked by the youngest person but are chanted in unison. Before the chanting, the leader asks the youngest member who carries the afikoman, "Whence have you come?" "From Egypt" is the reply. "Where are you going?" "To Jerusalem." "Do you have provision for the journey?" No answer is given, but the child points to the afikoman which has been placed on his or her back.

Ezekiel also told of how Sephardim usher Passover out on the evening following the conclusion of the festival with a picturesque ceremony in the home. Members of the family greet each other with the words "*sant-el-khadra*" Arabic for "a year of good fortune," as they lightly stroke each other with green leaves or a vegetable and offer blessings and good wishes.

Here are some Sephardi recipes from Ezekiel for Passover or all year round.

VEGETABLE PILAU (RICE)

- 1/2 cup 2-inch carrot sticks
- 1/2 cup 1/2-inch potato cubes
- 1 cup 1-inch cauliflowerets
- 1 cup shredded cabbage
- 3 tbsp. oil
- 1/2 cup sliced onion
- 1/2 tsp. crushed fresh ginger root
- 1/2 tsp. crushed garlic
- 1/2 tsp. ground turmeric
- 1 tsp. salt, or to taste
- 2 cups raw rice, well rinsed and drained
- 3 1/2 cups water
- 1/2 cup chopped ripe tomato
- 3 whole cloves
- 1 cinnamon stick, 3 inches, broken into half
- 4 cardamom pods, cracked
- 2 tbsp. raisins (optional)
- 12 almonds blanched and halved (optional)
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh coriander

Cook the carrot sticks in boiling water for 2 minutes. Remove and set aside. Cook the potato, cauliflower and cabbage separately for the same length of time. Drain each vegetable well.

Heat the oil in a pan and brown the onion until a light brown colour develops, about 3 minutes. Add the ginger root, garlic, turmeric and salt, and stir for 1 minute.

Add the rice and stir well to coat the grains with the flavourings, about 2 minutes. Add the cooked vegetables, water, tomato, cloves, cinnamon and cardamom. Bring to a boil; add the raisins and almonds, if using. Turn the heat to low, cover the pan and cook for about 15 minutes. The water should be completely absorbed and rice dry.

At this stage, sprinkle with the coriander. Stir the rice to fluff it up. Cover the pan and let the mixture rest for 10 to 15 minutes more. Serve warm. Serves 6.

Continued on page 26

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Soup

Chicken Soup with Mini Matzo Balls,
Carrot and Leek Threads

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Black Olives, Woodland Mushrooms
And a Lemon Garlilc Vinaigrette

Main Course

Choice Of:
Herb Infused Grilled Chicken Breast
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Au Jus
OR
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Passover Food Ideas

Sephardi seder

Continued from page 25

VEGETABLE SOUP (SOUPE AUX LÉGUMES)

½ kg. meat chopped into pieces
3 medium potatoes
4 stalks of celery
3 carrots
2 turnips
1 zucchini
2 leeks
1 onion
½ cup fresh coriander (cilantro), chopped
3 or 4 soup bones
3 to 4 litres of water

Spices:
¼ tsp. turmeric
½ tsp. pepper
2 to 3 tsp. oil
salt to taste

Rinse, peel and chop all vegetables. Place vegetables, water meat and bones into a large pot. Boil for about ¼ hour. Purée all or part of the soup. Add coriander, spices and oil and simmer for an additional 15 minutes. Serves 8.

Continued on page 27

Cream of any vegtable soup — ***The Kosher Palette*** **Wimmer press**

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Passover Food Ideas

Try some seasonal vegetables

Continued from page 26

AROOK (RICE BALLS)

Arook means "veined" in both Hebrew and Arabic (from Baghdad) since the ground chicken appears as "veins" running through the rice.

½ cup raw rice
2 cups water
2 tsp. salt, or to taste
½ lb. boneless chicken, chopped fine
½ tsp. ground turmeric
½ tsp. crushed fresh ginger root
½ tsp. crushed garlic
¼ tsp. garam masala
1 tbsp. chopped fresh mint, coriander or celery leaves
1 egg beaten
2 tbsp. plus 2 tsp. corn or peanut oil

Rinse the rice under cold water. Bring 2 cups water to a boil with 1 tsp. salt, add the rice and cook rapidly for 5 minutes. Drain the rice and set aside.

Mix the warm rice with the chicken, remaining salt, turmeric, ginger root, garlic, garam masala, mint, egg and 2 tsp. oil.

Moisten your hands with cold water. Scoop up 2 tbsp. of the rice mixture and shape into a ball 2 to 2½ inches in diameter. This can be done by rolling the ball in a circular motion in the palm of your hand. Shape all the rice balls. Place the rice balls in a baking pan well coated with 2 tbsp. oil. Bake at 375 for 30 to 35 minutes. Do not turn the balls; let them bake to a light brown with a firm top. Serve warm. Makes 8 balls.

Variation:

A ½ lb. of boneless fish such as flounder, cod or haddock, chopped fine, can be used instead of the chicken. With the fish, use chopped mint or parsley. With the chicken, coriander or celery are preferable.

Note: The arook can be made a day or two in advance.

Raymonde Alloul, who was born in Marrakech, Morocco, and her daughter Francine Goldrich, who was born in Casablanca, told *The CJN* that the Sephardi custom in their region was to not eat rice for Passover.

But there is a lot of emphasis on using lamb. One of their favourite dishes is *truffes*, a mushroom dish. She says it is their custom to prepare many seasonal vegetables at Passover.

Goldrich spoke of some of their rituals such as *bebelo*. The head of the house holds a vase of fresh flowers over the head of each member of the family as the *Ha Lachma Anya* is recited.

On the last night of Passover they celebrate La Mimouna – the breaking of Passover. Family members and friends visit one another and an elaborate table is filled with sweets, such as la Moflete, a traditional dish which is a flat crepe served with honey and butter.

A typical seder meal would include vegetable soup, pastelles — a potato dish, lamb with prunes and onions, and tongue with capers.

Here are Goldrich's recipes for Moroccan vegetable soup and a mouton (lamb) dish.

LAMB WITH ONIONS AND PRUNES (MOUTON AUX PRUNEAUX ET OIGNONS)

3 to 4 lb. lamb pieces
2 lb. bag onions
1 cup prunes, pitted
1 cup raisins
¼ cup oil
1 cup water
1 tsp. cinnamon
1 tsp. sugar
½ tsp. ginger (powder)
¼ tsp. nutmeg
¼ tsp. turmeric
¼ tsp. salt

Rinse lamb pieces and pat dry. Seaon with spices and sugar. In a large pot, add oil and water, alternate layers of onions, seasoned meat, raisins and prunes. Cover and bring to a boil, then cook on low heat for 2½ hours.

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Prepares for Passover

700 LAWRENCE Ave. West
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Prices effective thru Saturday, March 30, 2002
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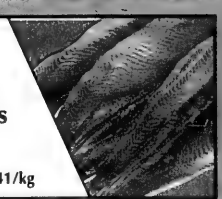
Frozen
4.99 22 oz.

Croyden House • Instant Chicken Soup Mix
2.19 5 oz.

Manischewitz Cranberry Juice Cocktail
1.69 32 oz.

Gold's Beet Borscht
1.79 32 oz.

Fresh Rainbow Trout Fillets
6.99 lb. 15.41/kg



Fresh Horseradish Root
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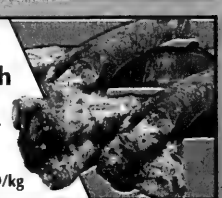

Evian Spring Water
18.99
CASE of 12 x 1.5 L bottles

Migdal Cheese Slices
108s
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Western Creamery Sour Cream
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Western Creamery Cream Cheese
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1.99 250 g

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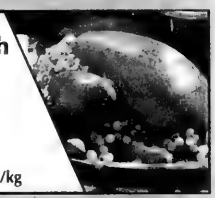
1.99 lb. 4.39/kg



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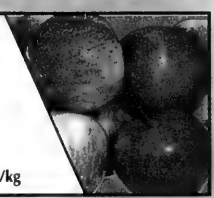
Product of U.S.A.
Extra Fancy
1.29 lb. 2.84/kg



Fresh Whole Dressed Whitefish
2.49 lb. 5.49/kg

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7.99 lb. 17.61/kg
Cut from Canada AA or Higher Grade Beef

Passover Food Ideas

Kashruth Council recipes for Passover

The Kosher Information Service of the Kashruth Council of Canada, affiliated with the Vaad Harabanim of Toronto and the Jewish Federation of Greater Toronto, publishes a COR holiday information and recipe pamphlet for each major holiday.

The following are recipes from the Passover 2002-5762 pamphlet.

If you wish to be placed on the COR mailing list to receive information throughout the year, call the Kashruth Council 416-635-9550, fax 416-635-8760 or write to 4600 Bathurst St., Suite 240, Toronto, M2R 3V2. There is no charge.

Here is a sample from this year's COR Passover flyer.

PUREE OF PARSNIP AND CARROT SOUP

3 tbsp. oil
2 onions, chopped
3 parsnips, peeled and chopped
3 carrots, peeled and chopped
6 cups pareve chicken stock *or* 3 cans condensed clear chicken soup with 3 cans water
½ cup chopped flat leaf parsley
1 tbsp. dried basil
salt and pepper to taste

Heat oil in a large saucepan; sauté onions for 5 minutes; add the parsnips, carrots, liquid, parsley and basil. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20-25 minutes or until parsnips and carrots are soft. Add salt and pepper to taste and puree in blender or food processor until smooth. Heat and serve with toasted matzah farfel (see recipe below). Serves 6-8.

Variation: Garnish with lemon slices.

TOASTED MATZAH FARFEL

2 cups matzah farfel
2 egg yolks, beaten
½ tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350. Combine ingredients. Spread out on foil lined cookie sheet and bake until golden, about 20-25 minutes. Serve with your favourite soup or salad. Yield 2 cups.

FRUIT STUFFED CHICKEN BREASTS

6 chicken breasts, at least 1½ inches thick. Cut a pocket in each breast without cutting all the way through.
1 cup crushed toasted matzah farfel (crushed in blender or food processor to resemble crumbs)
1 small orange, sectioned and diced
1 small apple, peeled, cored and chopped
¼ cup raisins
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. nutmeg (optional)
1 cup chicken stock
½ cup dry white wine

Toss all ingredients together except for the chicken, stock and wine. Cover and let stand for 1 hour. Stir before stuffing the breasts. Spoon some of the stuffing into each breast and skewer together.

Preheat oven to 350. Place chicken breasts in a shallow roasting pan. Pour chicken stock and wine over the chicken breasts. Cover and bake for 20 minutes. Uncover and bake until chicken is brown. Serves 6.

Continued on page 30

Tsuris-Free Passover!

Prepared delicious *kosher for Pesach* foods & desserts are just a phone call away!

Passover orders must be placed by March 22nd

❑ Seder Plate .....7.00 ❑ Charoseth-1/4 Ltr. 2.75

APPETIZERS

❑ Gefilte Fish Roll-10 portions .....28.50 ❑ Chopped Liver-/lb. 8.00
❑ Gefilte Fish Sweet or Salt & Pepper .....3.75 ❑ Poached Salmon-/portion 8.50
❑ Chicken & Meatball Fricasse-/ltr. .....12.50 ❑ Crepes - Mushroom or Ratatouille-/doz. ..24.00

SOUPS & SALADS

❑ Chicken/ltr.. 7.50, Puree of Vegetable/ltr. ..8.50 ❑ Marinated Vegetable Salad-/lb. 8.75
❑ Matzah Balls-1 doz. .....7.00 ❑ Coleslaw-/lb. 4.75
❑ Parslied Egg Noodles-1/2 lb. .....6.00 ❑ Dressings-/ltr. 9.00

ENTREES

❑ Stuffed Half Boneless Chicken .....12.00 ❑ Whole Roast Turkey-/lb. 10.75
❑ Chicken Breast (wing on) .....9.50 ❑ Sliced Brisket of Beef-/lb. 19.75
❑ Glazed Cornish Hen .....13.00 ❑ Filet of Beef-/lb. 21.50
❑ Whole Roast Chicken .....16.00 ❑ Stuffed Veal Roulade/portion 12.75
❑ Boneless Chicken Fingers-/lb. 13.75

SIDE DISHES

❑ Potato Pudding-12 portions .....14.00 ❑ Fried Cauliflower-/lb. 8.75
❑ Rissole Potatoes-/lb. .....6.00 ❑ Carrot Tzimmes-/ltr. 9.75
❑ Matzah Farfel Pudding-12 portions .....18.00 ❑ Grilled Vegetables-/portion 4.75

DESSERTS

❑ Hazelnut Mocha Torte-serves 18-20.....40.00 ❑ Mandelbroit-18 pieces 21.00
❑ Frozen Lemon Torte-serves 12-14 .....35.00 ❑ Chocolate Chunk Cookies- 18 pieces 18.00
❑ Chocolate Fudge Torte-serves 10-12 .....34.00 ❑ Lemon Bars-18 pieces 14.00
❑ Apple Crisp-serves 10 .....20.00 ❑ Coconut Macaroons-18 pieces 16.00

Glatt Kosher COR 184

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Our deli meats & smoked fish are available at your local supermarket

Kashruth Council recipes

Continued from page 29

Note: Leftover stuffing: Place in lightly greased baking pan or lightly greased muffin tins and bake for 15 minutes.

MASHED SWEET POTATO PUFF

*6 medium sweet potatoes
1 tsp. salt

Cook potatoes in their skins in boiling salted water until tender. Drain.

In the meantime, prepare filling:
2 tbsp. oil
½ lb. mushrooms, sliced
½ cup celery, chopped
½ cup red or green pepper, diced
1 garlic clove, minced (optional)
½ cup chicken stock, hot
2 eggs, beaten
¼ tsp. pepper
2 tbsp. margarine
garnish: chopped fried onions.

Heat oil, add vegetables: sauté for 10 minutes, set aside.

Preheat oven to 350. Peel and mash potatoes with potato masher or mixmaster on the lowest speed. Gradually add chicken stock as needed and continue beating until light and fluffy; add eggs, pepper and margarine. Lightly grease an 8x8-inch baking pan or pie plate. Place ½ of the potato mixture in the pan. Fill centre with the vegetable mixture; cover with remaining potato mixture. Sprinkle top with chopped fried onions. Bake for ½ hour. Serves 6-8.

*Note: Yukon Gold potatoes are good if you don't like sweet potatoes.

SPONGE CAKE FRUIT TRIFLE

Prepare 2 days in advance of serving.

1 sponge cake or macaroons
liqueur or orange juice
jam
fresh or canned fruit, drained
custard (see recipe)
toasted slivered almonds (optional)

Custard:
2 cups water
1 cup sugar
¼ tsp. salt
5 tbsp. potato starch
3 egg yolks, beaten
5 tbsp. lemon or orange juice

Place water, sugar, salt and potato starch in saucepan. Blend well, stirring constantly over low heat until mixture boils. Slowly add beaten egg yolks and continue to cook 2 minutes more. Remove from heat and add juice. Mix well, cool.

Layer ½ the cake slices in the bottom of a large attractive glass bowl or trifle bowl. Sprinkle with liqueur or orange juice. Spread a layer of jam, fresh fruit, ½ of the custard and almonds. Repeat layer. Refrigerate for at least 24 hours to allow flavours to blend. Serves 10-12.

Note: If not using almonds, garnish with your favourite fruit before serving.

COCONUT MACAROONS

5 egg whites
½ tsp. salt
juice and rind of 2 lemons
1½ cups sugar
1 cup matzah meal
2 cups shredded coconut

Beat egg whites with salt and juice and rind of lemon until soft peaks form. Gradually add sugar, beat until stiff and of meringue consistency. Fold in matzah meal and coconut.

Preheat oven to 325. Line a cookie sheet with foil (shiny side up). Brush lightly with oil and dust with matzah meal. Drop by teaspoonful 1 inch apart. Bake for ½ hour. Increase heat to 400 for a few moments until macaroons are brown. Yield 2-2½ dozen.

Please note: All processed ingredients and wines have to be marked "kosher for Passover."

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PASSOVER 2002 TAKE-OUT MENU

APPETIZERS, SOUPS & SALADS	UNIT PRICE
Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls	$6.45/Litre
Butternut Squash & Apple Soup (parve)	$6.95/Litre
Potato & Leek Soup (parve)	$6.45/Litre
Gefilte Fish with Horseradish	$12.95/lb
Sweet & Sour Meatballs	$11.95/lb
Mushroom Crepes	$1.75/Each
Vegetarian Crepes	$1.75/Each
Beet Salad	$4.95/lb
Sundried Tomato Vinaigrette	$4.50/Jar
MAIN COURSE	
Roast Brisket of Beef w/Mushroom Sauce	$22.00/lb
Maple Soaked Chicken Breast (7 oz. serving)	$9.95/Each
Lemon Chicken Breast w/Sauce (8 oz. serving)	$9.95/Each
Herb & Balsamic Grilled Chicken Breast	$9.95/Each
Chicken Fingers (served w/plum sauce)	$14.95/lb
Honey Herb Grilled Salmon (6 oz. per serving)	$9.99/Each
Honey Herb Grilled Salmon (3 oz. per serving)	$5.49/Each
SIDE DISHES	
Stir Fried Vegetables (3-4 servings per lb)	$8.95/lb
Eggplant Lasagna	$10.99/Each
Potato Vegetable Kugel (uncut: 4-6 servings)	$8.99/Pan
Cauliflower Kugel (uncut: 4-6 servings)	$10.99/Pan
Sweet Potato Kugel (uncut: 4-6 servings)	$9.99/Pan
Broccoli Kugel (uncut: 4-6 servings)	$10.99/Pan
Roasted Root Vegetables	$6.95/lb
Herb Roast Potatoes	$4.95/Pan

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Call Mona at Lorac Wine 416-783-2516 for a list of their new selections

DESSERTS	
Poached Pears with Brandy (Litre Jar)	$9.99/Each
Apple Cranberry Crisp	$9.99/Each
Peach Preserves (Litre Jar)	$9.99/Each

Payment: Cash or Cheque Upon Pick-up:
Order Cut-off Date: 3:00 PM Friday, March 22, 2002
Pick-up Times: 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM Wednesday, March 27, 2002

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A Happy & Kosher Pesach

Glatt Kosher Stroli's COR 18

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CUTOFF DATE MARCH 20/02

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Appetizer	Price/Quantity	Serves
Chopped Liver	$6.99	4
Baked Salmon (mustard sauce)	$35.99/kg	
Gefilte Fish (sweet)	$18.99/kg	
Gefilte Fish (salt & pepper)	$18.99/kg	

Soup	Price/Quantity	Serves
Vegetable Soup	$4.99/Ltr.	3
Chicken Soup	$4.99/Ltr.	3
Matzah Balls	$5.99/Dozen	
Yam & Pear Soup	$6.99/Ltr.	

Salads	Price/Quantity	Serves
Beet Salad	$12.99/kg	
Cucumber Salad	$12.99/kg	
Potato Salad	$3.89	3
Coleslaw	$2.89	3
Creamy Eggplant	$4.99/Large	
	$2.49/Small	
Ratatouille	$14.99/kg	
Bok Choy & Mushrooms	$18.99/kg	
Marinated Eggplant	$15.40/kg	

Kugels	Price/Quantity	Serves
Potato Kugel	$5.49	6/8
Apple Kugel	$7.95	6/8
Carrot Kugel	$5.49	6/8
Veggie Kugel	$7.95	6/8

Side Orders	Price/Quantity	Serves
Zucchini Lasagna	$12.99/kg	
Stir Fry Vegetables	$14.99/kg	
Parisienne Potatoes	$8.99	8
Potatoes & Onions	$8.99/Large	
	$4.49/Small	
Deep Fried Zucchini/Eggplant	$13.95/kg	
Red Horseradish	$2.99/Large	
	$1.99/Small	
Carrot Tsimmes	$4.89/500 gms	4
	$8.49/Ltr.	8

Meat/Poultry	Price/Quantity	Serves
Chicken Fricassee	$10.99/Large	4
	$5.59/Small	2
Stuffed Cornish Hen	$8.95/Each	
Meatballs	$9.99/Dozen	
Meatloaf	$13.99/kg	
Chicken Schnitzel	$32.95/kg	
Stuffed Chicken Ballentine	$6.00/Each	
Veal Cutlets	$38.95/kg	
Veal Chops	$34.95/kg	
Prime Beef	$39.95/kg	
Beef Ribs	$20.95/kg	
BBQ Wings	$13.99/kg	
Veal Neck Roast	$35.99/kg	
Roast Chicken	$13.99/kg	
Famous BBQ Chicken	$13.99/kg	
Roasted Glazed Duck	$35.00/Each	
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All prices on this page effective until April 5th, 2002.

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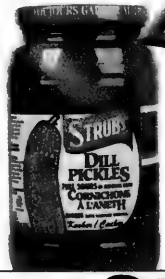
Midnight Madness Sale!
Saturday, March 23rd
8 p.m. to Midnight

New Square Chilled Orange Juice **2.79** 1.89 L

Clover Leaf Albacore White Tuna flaked or solid **1.99** 170 g

Strub's Red Horseradish 250 mL **.99**



Strub's Full Sour Dill Pickles **2.49** 1 L

Mother's Soft Margarine selected **2.99** 2 x 8 oz. sleeve

Ostie's Macaroons **3.49** 10 oz.

Smithfield Cream Cheese **1.49** 227 g

Gold's Duck Sauce **2.79** 567 g

Bnei Darom, Yavne or Beit Hashita Cucumbers in brine **1.69** 540 g

Croyden House Instant Chicken Soup Mix **1.99** 5 oz.

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Evian Spring Water **15.99** Evian Spring Water **3.99** Evian Spring Water **1.49**

ENTER TO WIN EVIAN FREE FOR ONE YEAR!*

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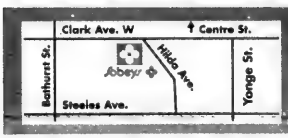

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CHAG SAME'ACH

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SAMPLE MENUS TO CHOOSE FROM...

MENU #1
Sweet & Sour Meat Balls
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Lockshen Pudding
Potato Pudding
Carrots Tzimmes
New Dills, Cole Slaw
Sweet Peppers
Honey Cake
Chocolate Cake
Cookies
Macaroons
Seder Plate
Charoses
$249.00* for 10 people

MENU #2
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Chicken Soup & Matzo Balls
Roast Chicken
Roast Brisket of Beef
Apple Farfel Pudding
Pan Roast Potatoes
Carrots Tzimmes
New Dills, Cole Slaw
Sweet Peppers
Lemon Roll
Chocolate Cake
Macaroons
Cookies
Seder Plate
Charoses
$285.00* for 10 people

MENU #3
Low Fat Menu
Gefilte Fish & Horseradish
Cabbage Borsht
Whole Roast Turkey (precarved) or Baked Chicken Breast
Farfel & Mushrooms
Green Beans Almondine
Cole Slaw
Cucumber Salad
Sweet Peppers
Fresh Fruit Salad
Cookies
Seder Plate
Charoses
Only 20g Fat per person
$299.00* for 10 people

*Plus Applicable Taxes

ADDITIONAL MENU SELECTIONS

MEAT DISHES
Chopped Liver
Cabbage Rolls
Veal Roast
Flunken in Borsht
Cornish Hen
Roast Duck
Turkey Breast
Lemon Chicken Breast
Baked Chicken Breast
BBQ Chicken Wings
Honey Garlic Wings
Chicken Fingers
Knishes
Kishke

VEGETABLE DISHES
Vegetarian Loaf
Matzo Lasagna
Grilled Vegetables
Stir Fry Vegetables
Apple Farfel Pudding
Farfel & Mushrooms
Latkes
Green Beans Almondine
Broccoli & Mushrooms
Handmade Noodles

SALADS
Coleslaw
Pickled Beets
Tossed Salad
Cucumber Salad
Chef Salad
Fresh Fruit Salad

DESSERTS
Apple Crumble Cake
Chocolate Cake
Chocolate Brownies
Honey Cake
Lemon Roll
Macaroons
Mandelbroit
Passover Cookies

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Passover Food Ideas

Kosher products and services

The following products and services are under the Passover supervision of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth of the Kashruth Council of Canada when bearing the COR "kosher for Passover" label.

Baked goods available — Hermes Bakery; Park Avenue Gourmet Products; Sobeys (Clark store); Sweet York Desserts.

Beverages* — Coca-Cola; Canada Dry Ginger Ale.

*Note: The Kashruth Ontario Sephardim [KOS] has approved Diet Coke, which contains aspartame (kitnyos derived), for use by the Sephardi community.

Fruit salad and frozen ice desserts — Amber Foods Ltd.; Marcee's Sweets: sorbets, cholev Yisroel ice cream; Metropolitan Ice Cream: sorbets.

Honey and sugar — Billy Bee Honey Products Ltd.; Redpath Sugar.

Margarine/oil products — Vegarine (pareve).

Nuts and dried fruit — Parnoosh Dates; Royal Nuts (variety of nuts available); Wholesome Farms Nuts (variety of nuts available).

Salt — The Canadian Salt Company Ltd. (Windsor Salt); Sifto Canada Inc.

Dairy products — Cheese Lovers hard cheeses; Great Canadian hard cheeses; Kofman-Barenholtz Foods: Galilee hard cheeses; Lana Brand: cream cheese, cottage cheeses, sour cream, skim yogurt, table yogurt; Neilson: milk; Mandels Brand light cream cheese; Western Creamery: Birds Hill sour cream, buttermilk, pressed cottage cheeses, cream cheese (regular, with green onions, light and bakers), sour cream, Yoggi, yogurt. Parmalat 2 per cent, 4-litre milk.

Pickled and marinated products — Feature Foods Ltd.; Strub Brothers Ltd.

Fish products — Central Epicure: chopped fish, all regular fresh and smoked fish; Feature Foods Ltd.; Strub Brothers Ltd.

Fish markets — Gershon's Fish Market, 3019 Bathurst St.; Sobeys (Clark), 441 Clark Ave. W.; The Fish Emporium, 3462 Bathurst St.

Caterers and take-out foods — Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am, Miriam's Table; Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda, Zuchter Berk Creative Caterers; Beth Sholom, GMB Culinary Productions; Beth Tzedec, Caterers York Ltd.; Shaarei Tefillah, Rose Lazar Catering Services; Ely's Fine Foods; Fine Touch Catering; Hartman's Kosher Meats; L'Echaim Caterers; Malmar/Tastefully Yours Catering; Perl's Meat Products Ltd.; Sobeys (Clark store); Strolis Glatt Kosher Food Products.

Butcher shops, poultry and delicatessen products — The butcher shops listed below conform with the rigid specifications and kashrut requirements set by the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth. The Kashruth Council is the only supervisory organization to extend its services to chain store supermarkets. This provides additional sources of meat supply for the consumer:

Continued on page 33

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Nortown

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PASSOVER MENU 2002

We will have an additional selection of prepared foods available at our deli counter. If you wish to place an order a valid VISA or Mastercard number will be required. Orders will be charged to that credit card. A minimum order of $95 is required. Please place your orders by Friday, March 22nd.

SALADS
Coleslaw (reg.) $3.99 lb.
Creamy Coleslaw $3.99 lb.
Potato Salad (Reg) $3.99 lb.
Potato Salad (Mini Red) $4.99 lb.
Cucumber Salad $4.99 lb.
Israeli Salad $5.99 lb.
Creamy Eggplant Salad $7.49 lb.

OUR SOUPS (1 LITRE JARS)
Clear Chicken Soup $6.49 jar
Chicken Soup with Matzo Balls $6.49 jar
Matzo Balls 75¢ ea.

APPETIZERS
Chopped Liver $6.99 lb.
Chopped Liver w/Egg $6.99 lb.
Gefilte Fish - Sweet $3.69 ea.
Gefilte Fish - Salt & Pepper $3.69 ea.
Gefilte Fish Loaf - Sweet $8.99 lb.
Gefilte Fish Loaf - Salt & Pepper $8.99 lb.
Kishka $4.99 lb.

SIDE DISHES, ETC...
Carrot & Pineapple Tsimmis $5.49 lb.
Small Potato Latkes 75¢ ea.
Large Potato Latkes $1.69 ea.
Large Potato Vegetable Latkes $1.69 ea.
Parisienne Potatoes $4.99 lb.
Roasted Potatoes with onions & roasted tomatoes $5.99 lb.
Garlic Mashed Potatoes $4.99 lb.

PUDDINGS - KUGELS

	Bulk	Pkg.		Bulk	Pkg.
Potato	$5.49 lb.	$6.99	Apple & Raisin farfel	$5.49 lb.	$6.99
Sweet Farfel Pudding	$5.49 lb.	$6.99	Mushroom & Green Pepper	$5.49 lb.	$6.99

MAIN COURSE

BEEF
Roast Brisket – Whole $8.99 lb.
– Sliced $10.99 lb.
Sweet & Sour Beef Meatballs $7.99 lb.

CHICKEN
Boneless Chicken Breasts
Lemon $9.99 lb.
Honey Mustard $9.99 lb.
Apricot Cranberry $9.99 lb.
Chicken Marbella $7.49 lb.
Whole B.B.Q./Roasted $3.99 lb.
Stuffed Squabs - Potato $5.99 ea.
Chicken Cutlets/Fingers $9.99 lb.
Chicken Meatballs $7.99 lb.

VEAL
Roasted Veal Shoulder $12.99 lb.
Veal Meatloaf $6.99 lb.
Veal Cutlets $9.99 lb.

TURKEY
Roasted Turkey
– Whole $5.49 lb.
– Carved $6.99 lb.
Smoked Turkey
– Whole $5.49 lb.
– Carved $6.99 lb.

DUCK
Roasted Ducks $17.99 ea.

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892 Eglinton Ave.W. 416 - 789-2921
303 York Mills Rd. 416 - 447-0310
The Promenade Mall 905 - 889-1610

Passover Food Ideas

Recipe ideas for Passover from *The CJN* staff

With their usual good nature, *CJN* staff members responded to our call for favourite Passover recipes:

GRANNY MEHR'S TZIMMES
(submitted by Gloria Clamen)

One of my favourite recipes for Passover this is from *The Kinnereth Cookbook*. Always a hit! And it lasts several days and tastes more delicious each day.

3 lb. flanken
2 sliced onions
5 lb. carrots cut into coins
5 sweet potatoes, peeled and quartered
1 cup brown sugar
1 tbsp. salt

Topping:
8 large potatoes
2 eggs
salt to taste
2 tbsp. oil

Use a pot that can cook on top of stove as well as in the oven. Cook meat and onions in large roaster, covered with water, on top of stove, for 1 hour. Add sliced carrots. Cook covered for 1 hour.

Add sweet potatoes, salt and sugar. Bake in moderate oven for another hour. This can be done in advance and refrigerated. The next day, preheat oven to 350 and reheat tzimmes while preparing potato topping.

Peel and grate potatoes. Drain. Add salt, eggs and oil. Spoon over tzimmes and bake for 1½ hours uncovered until well browned. Tzimmes improves with age. Simply add a little water each time before reheating.

VEGETABLE BAKE
(submitted by Beverley Bergman)

⅓ cup water
8 oz. broccoli, chopped
1 onion, chopped
1 large carrot, peeled and finely chopped
2 stalks celery, chopped
8 oz. tomato sauce
dash of pepper
¼ tsp. each garlic powder and parsley
½ cup matzah meal

Steam broccoli, onions, carrots and celery in water for 15 minutes. Add spices, 6 oz. of tomato sauce and matzah meal. Mix well. Press into small casserole dish. Bake at 375 for 15 minutes. Serves 6.

PAREVE PASSOVER MUSHROOM SOUP
(submitted by Louise Wolman)

3 onions, sliced in rings
1½ lbs. mixed mushrooms (e.g. button, shataki, oyster, Portobello), sliced
chicken soup base (pareve)
at least 6 cups water

Sauté onions and mushrooms until brown (you can add a little wine). Add chicken soup base and water. Simmer for ½ hour, covered. Sprinkle chopped shallots before serving.

Kosher products and services

Continued from page 32

This required seal of ritual slaughter, as well as a kashrut certificate, guarantees the observance of the laws of kashrut.

Kosher food and novelty stores — Balloon Bash, 7077 Bathurst St.; Basically Bulk, 3181 Bathurst St.; Baskets n Stuf, 6237 Bathurst St.; Chocolate Charm, 3541 Bathurst St.; Happy Days Gift Baskets, 248 Steeles Ave.; Kosher & Natural Gift Baskets, 3413 Bathurst St.; Kosher City Plus, 3468 Bathurst St.; Kosher Food Warehouse, 75 Doncaster Ave.; The Chocolate Moose, 2839 Bathurst St.; The Kosher Grocer, 3041 Bathurst St.

Airline meals — All meals served on the airlines during Pesach are specially sealed and stamped "COR Kosher L'Pesach." Kosher for Passover meals must be requested by your travel agent or airline in advance.

Wines — Wines, brandies, liqueurs and other such beverages certified by recognized rabbinical authorities are permissible. The label must indicate that the bottle has been prepared "Kosher L'Pesach."

Galilee Wine Company, 416-783-2516; Mazel Wines, 416-631-8071; N.M. Grafstein Sacramental Wine, 416-256-0440; WineWorld, 416-487-7147.

Public/private institutions — Kitchens of the institutions listed below have been prepared for Pesach by mashgichim under the direction and inspiration of the Rabbinical Vaad Hakashruth in accordance with the requirements for Passover.

Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care: Baycrest Hospital, Baycrest Terrace, Jewish Home for the Aged, Joseph E. & Minnie Wagman Centre; The Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living: Association of Jewish Seniors (it is providing a second seder on March 28); Lincoln Place Nursing Home; The Mount Sinai Hospital (Kosher L'Pesach meals on request), call Dept. of Nutrition 416-586-5025; Terrace Gardens, 3705 Bathurst St.

Hotel for Passover — Americana Hotel, Niagara Falls, Ont., for information call 416-256-1812.

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HAOLAM OR LIEBER JELLO 3 OZ. 1.19

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OSEM PARVE CHICKEN SOUP MIX 400 GM. 3.49
KETCHUP ALL BRANDS 28 OZ. 2.79
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7 OZ. PLASTIC CUPS 100 PACK 1.99
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Elli Podolski ז"ל

May the families be spared further sorrow

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Help a nation witness miracles

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

Through A Sephardi Window

It happened in a patient lounge of Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem. It was late evening. The lights had been dimmed, the last of the visitors had been sent home and the flickering glow of a television set was the sole movement evident in the corridor.

This was the rehab floor. Here, long-term elderly patients bonded with each other as they faced a similar fate, learning to cope after a stroke. A circle of about a dozen of them sat in silence in their wheelchairs as the television droned on.

Then the commotion began. All of a sudden, a 15-year-old boy, the only youth in a ward of seniors, struggled to stand up. "Nurse! Nurse!" came the urgent and repeated cries from the astonished onlookers. As the nurses ran to see what was happening, the excitement intensified.

"Get him a cane!" one person demanded.

"No, a walker," another shouted.

"Just help him!" someone else protested.

By now, even the nurses were screaming as well. Everyone was shouting for the boy to take a step. The entire floor came to life. Patients came out of their rooms to see and cheer; those who were immobile in their beds called out, demanding to know what was happening.

What was happening was a minor miracle. Three months ago, this boy was celebrating a friend's birthday on Ben Yehuda Street in Jerusalem when the first of two bombs went off, killing, maiming and terrorizing a nation. He had flown through the air, landed and had never since risen. Either due to neurological damage or sheer shock, his poor brain would not communicate with his arms and legs.

After three frightful months of futile physiotherapy and contemplating the rest of his life as a quadriplegic, the boy's brain and body were now, thankfully, co-operating. Family members who had just gone home were immediately called and couldn't come fast enough. Within 20 minutes, family, neighbours, school chums, doctors, nurses and therapists – simply everyone – came to see and celebrate.

While all were beyond themselves with emotion, the boy, with the help of his walker, could not be stopped, as if he couldn't believe he was actually walking. He would slowly reach the end of the hall and return again and again. His face had a look of concentration and astonishment. He was totally oblivious to the partying around him and would simply not stop.

I share this story with you because it is so difficult for us in North America to grasp the scope of individual human suffering resulting from terror. Also, because as a nation, we too, like this hapless boy, have been shocked and paralyzed by Palestinian terrorism.

But a couple of important points to consider – we will come out of this. Remember, this is far from being our first crisis. Secondly, all Jews must consider themselves personally in the crisis and ask themselves what they can do to alleviate it.

A few suggestions: Politically, you can help by debating, defending and showing staunch solidarity with both the Israeli people and the government. Familiarize yourself with the situation. Read and think. Do not accept anti-Israel propaganda from the media – fight it, protest it, write a letter or cancel a subscription. Do not despair and join the dangerous and delusional ranks of the political left.

Economically, you can help by buying Israel Bonds, buying Israeli produce and products, contributing to your Israeli charities and doing everything in your power to boost the economy. In terms of moral support, you can send condolence notes to families of bereaved civilians and soldiers. (Names and addresses can be obtained from the Internet or the Israeli Consulate.) And you can also help spiritually by praying to God, saying Tehillim, doing mitzvot and going to synagogue.

Perhaps, then, more miracles will happen.

The era of the court Jew

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Roots & Remembrance

The phrase "court Jew" is sometimes facetiously used today to describe the powerful underling of a major political or business leader who acts obsequiously and with excessive discretion because he is Jewish.

If the original Hofjuden or court Jews of 17th- and 18th-century Europe were sometimes embarrassed by their Hebraic blood, it was because they entirely lacked the civil rights that we take for granted. Jews back then were excluded from many professions and guilds, and barred from many cities; in places that permitted them, it was usually under the burden of heavy taxes and expensive letters of protection.

After the Thirty Years' War, princes and regents of the German, Austrian and other territories across Europe found they could revitalize their war-depleted treasuries by striking bold alliances with select Jewish businessmen who had vast international trading networks and ready access to Jewish credit at their disposal.

The court Jews were suppliers of essential munitions and provisions to armies engaged in battle: one of the most famous of the breed, Samuel Oppenheimer – known as the Judenkaiser, or "Jewish emperor" – was instrumental in saving Vienna during the Turkish siege of 1683.

Purveyors of commercial goods, bankers, financial agents and even minters of state currency, the court Jews became involved in political affairs and court intrigues, and were sometimes sent as diplomatic couriers on secret missions.

As historian Selma Stern points out in her classic 1950 work, *The Court Jew*, these powerful historical figures often interceded politically as so-called *shtadlanim* (intercessors) to gain rights and privileges for the Jewish community. Stern calls the court Jew "the first fully recognizable personality to emerge in modern Jewish history."

Stern presents colourful profiles of such characters as Oppenheimer, his nephew Samson Wertheimer, Moses Benjamin Wulff and Jud Suess. She points out that, like the rabbinical families of Europe, many Hofjuden families intermarried and formed dynasties. For instance, Oppenheimer's son Wolf married a daughter of Leffman Behrens, court Jew of Hanover, whose cousin, Behrend Lehmann, was court Jew of Halberstadt.

A uniquely valuable source of information is the 17th-century diary of Glueckel of Hameln, whose husband Haim Hameln was a business partner to his cousin, Jost Liebmann of Hamburg. Haim's sister married Leffman Behrens, and Glueckel's sister married Mordecai Gumpel of Cleves, court Jew of Brandenburg and father of Elias Cleve Gomperz, founder of a powerful banking house.

Numerous descendants of court Jews, including the Rothschilds, became mighty financiers, and some would play pivotal roles in the rise of industrialism and the railways.

As Stern shows, many court Jews met with a tragic demise, none more spectacularly than Joseph Suess Oppenheimer of Wuertemberg, popularly known as Jud Suess. Having abandoned Judaism for decades, he returned to it at the end of his life, and it was as a Jew that he was imprisoned on trumped-up charges of high treason and hanged in 1737.

The fortunes of many court Jews were wiped out after their deaths, Stern reports. Jost Liebmann's widow, Esther, for example, made claims on the state treasury for monies it owed her husband, and was unjustly compelled to renounce these claims and forfeit another huge sum as penalty.

"The tragic fate... which befell many of the court Jews and plunged them into poverty and despair was caused not by any fault of their own, but by the chaos of the period in which they lived," Stern writes.

The Court Jew brings the era of the court Jew back to life so vividly that it has rarely been out of print. A new edition of her book was recently published by the Leo Baeck Institute of New York.

Jewish Life

Preparing for Passover

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

It's known as the holiday of national liberation. But don't try to convince anyone who spends days, weeks and even months cleaning for Passover.

As you find yourself scouring, mopping and vacuuming, the important thing to remember is that you are not alone... especially if you have a computer nearby. Today, cleaning for Passover on the World Wide Web.

But first, a reminder. There are many excellent articles explaining the whys and hows of Passover cleaning, but for the final word, consult a rabbi.

If the cleaning ritual is new to you, here's a Web site with a not-so-intimidating title: "An absolutely very short guide to keeping kosher for Pesach." **[http://www.wzo.org.il/encountr/kosher.htm]** But if you are looking for more detail, check out "Clean for Pesach and enjoy the seder," edited by Rabbi Moshe Finkelstein. Before he gets into the nitty gritty, Rabbi Finkelstein explains why modern Passover causes such high levels of cleaning angst. In the past, wealthy people who lived in large homes often had many servants to do their cleaning. Poor people who could not afford servants lived in small homes with one or two rooms. "Today, we seem to be caught in a trap," he says. Our homes are larger. Furniture, utensils and clothing are more plentiful. But we don't have the servants to do the cleaning. So the weeks before the holiday are filled with cleaning **[http://www.israelvisit.co.il/top/Clean.htm]**.

Kashrut.com runs one of the most comprehensive preparation sites for the holiday. The site contains articles explaining how to kasher utensils for Passover use and how to survive Passover eve. One article explains why some products that seem to be fresh, natural or additive-free may still need special certification for use on Passover **[http://www.kashrut.com/Passover/]**. Meanwhile, since customs vary between Ashkenazim and Sephardim, the kashrus.org site explains how to kasher utensils for Passover the Sephardi way **[http://www.kashrus.org/kosher/pesachseph.html]**.

If you want to take a break from all the reading, you can listen to a Passover preparation lecture on your computer presented by Rabbi Gershon Bess of Kehilas Yaakov. Rabbi Bess covers everything from cleaning refrigerators to kashering Tupperware **[http://www.613.org/passover/bess/bess.html]**. You can find more Passover lectures elsewhere on the 613.org site **[http://www.613.org/pasclass.html]**.

Sometimes cleaning can actually be dangerous. Professor Yona Amitai, a senior toxicologist at Hadassah-University Hospital in Jerusalem, warns that "the number of accidental poisonings of children from cleaning fluid triples during the two or three weeks before Passover, and poisonings from all other causes doubles, compared to the rest of the year." Amitai urges the public to be especially careful with liquid drain cleaners, and never to mix bleach with acids. He also advises parents to be extra cautious when cleaning out medicine cabinets to ensure drugs do not end up in the hands of children **[http://www.hadassah.org/news/releases/031601a.htm]**.

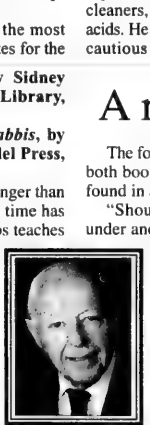
As Passover approaches, we begin to keep track of which rooms are "Pesachtik" (cleaned for Passover) and which are "chametz-tik" (full of crumbs). The United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism Web site has some advice for "Making the Passover changeover": 1. Store Pesachtik food, preferably out of the kitchen to avoid confusion. 2. Clean the kitchen cupboards. 3. Kasher your fridge and freezer. 4. Kasher the stove and oven. Follow the directions until you get to number 14 and start cooking!! **[http://uscj.npil.com/generic415.html]**

In "The Joys (?) of Passover cleaning," Emuna Braverman utters some very controversial words: "I'm beginning to feel like an endangered species, because I like Passover. It's actually my favorite holiday." **[http://www.aish.com/family/heart/The_Joys_($)_of_Passover_Cleaning.asp]** This fact dawned on her after she attended one of those Passover getaways where everything but everything is done for you. "And I learned an important lesson. Studying the ideas underlying Passover was not the true preparation... It was the physical effort that led to the emotional and intellectual preparation. I felt less prepared when I didn't take out my special dishes, when I didn't clean my children's bedrooms... And I felt more alone... So, much as I would like a vacation... I can't wait to start cleaning."

Next week, the cleaning continues.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

A rich selection of quotations



Books
Bernard Baskin

***Pathways to Spirituality*, by Sidney Greenberg, 1st Books Library, 2001.**

***The Wisdom of Modern Rabbis*, by Sidney Greenberg, Citadel Press, 2001.**

Who was it that said: "Stronger than an army is a quotation whose time has come?" The Book of Proverbs teaches that "a word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver." Benjamin Disraeli was sure that "the wisdom of the wise and the experience of the ages are perpetuated by quotations."

Sidney Greenberg is a retired Conservative rabbi who has long been admired for the more than 30 books he has written and edited. These include volumes of sermons, replete with original ideas felicitously expressed and a variety of splendid anthologies.

Pathways to Spirituality is divided into 57 chapters that offer quotations from a rich harvest of Jewish and non-Jewish sources. Most of the selections in both volumes are succinct, ranging from ancient to modern times and tending to enkindle the emotions and stimulate the mind.

The following quotations, culled from both books, attest to the wisdom to be found in apt and sage utterances.

"Should the earth be submerged under another Great Flood, the Jewish people would learn to live underwater." – Benjamin Kahn

"Among all my patients in the second half of life – that is to say, over 35 – there has not been one whose problem in the last resort was not that of finding a religious outlook on life. It is safe to say that every one of them fell ill because he had lost that which the living religions of every age have given to their followers, and none of them has been really healed who did not regain his religious outlook." – Carl Jung

"In all languages of the world, the word 'life' is a singular noun in all languages except Hebrew. In the sacred tongue of our Bible and prophets, life is chai-im. It is a plural form and there is no singular for it in the holy tongue. Why? Because a good life cannot possibly be lived in the singular. It must be in the plural." – Joseph Lookstein

"You cannot kill time without injuring eternity." – Henry David Thoreau

"Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

"Only God can give us credit for the words we do not speak." – Harold Kushner

"The worst punishment one can mete out is to take away someone's faith." – the Baal Shem Tov

"The doctor confronting his patient is having his dedication tested. The lawyer consulting with his client is having his integrity tested. The preacher preparing his sermon is having his honesty tested. The teacher preparing her lesson is having her devotion tested. The businessman on the telephone, the carpenter building a shed, the mechanic under the car, the painter on the scaffold – each is having his character tested. To look upon life as a series of tests means to bring to it at every time the finest of which we are capable." – Sidney Greenberg

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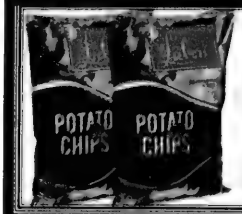

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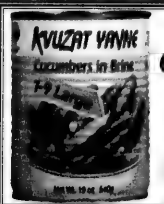

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19 oz tin
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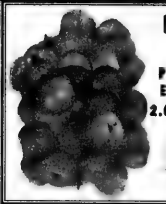

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On Campus

Concordia electoral officer promises clean election

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Concordia Student Union's new chief electoral officer (CEO) has vowed to keep this month's general elections above-board and to restore students' confidence in the process they use to choose their government.

Stephan Herman, who gained experience in running an election by helping Robert Libman in his bid for a Montreal council seat, told a press conference the upcoming election for representatives to Concordia's undergraduate student government will be "the most open, level and transparent" in the school's history.

He said he also hopes to increase voter turnout, which traditionally has been less than 10 per cent.

"Over the last year, the faith of the student body in the electoral process and office of the CEO has suffered numerous blows... We'll do what we can to make it easy and fair for candidates to run and for students to vote," he said.

The voting will take place March 26, 27 and 28, and all undergraduates are eligible to cast ballots. The nomination period was March 4 to March 11.

All elected Concordia Student Union (CSU) seats are open, including the executive, composed of the president and from three to nine vice-presidents, and the 30-member council of representatives.

Students last went to the polls at the end of November, after 3,200 signatures were collected on a petition demanding a byelection for a new CSU executive. The signatories wanted to replace the far-left, pro-Palestinian faction that has dominated the CSU over the past two years.

A moderate slate, headed by Chris Schulz, took the most votes, even though Schulz was briefly disqualified by the former CEO. Schulz never took office because of a CSU judicial board ruling that the results were invalid due to "irregularities" during the election that disenfranchised 300 students.

Since then, the CSU has had an interim executive that the university administration has refused to recognize. The administration has also withheld the CSU's student dues and said it will collect the funds and hold them in trust until the CSU has a "duly elected" executive.

The CEO during the November byelection, Jessica Lajambe, was found by the judicial board to have been incompetent and was dismissed, partly because she was thought to have been biased against Schulz's slate. She was associated with the left-wing faction that has controlled the CSU.

Herman declined to comment on that byelection.

Herman's deputy electoral officer, Youri Cormier, was the sole dissenting voice on the four-member judicial board. He was opposed to annulling the byelection, arguing that Schulz's slate had been hurt by the voting irregularities in November, yet it still managed to take the most votes.

To keep students informed and to encourage them to vote this time, Herman has set up a booth on the mezzanine of Concordia's downtown campus, where he, Cormier or their assistants are available daily for questions. This presence will allow students to observe them "running the actual election, in public, for all to see," Herman said. (There is also a booth at the Loyola campus.)

Herman said he has required all election workers to sign a "declaration of impartiality" that they will not favour any candidate or slate. He has also asked the administration to have the faculty remain impartial during the campaign.

He said he has also instituted new measures to reduce the risk of voter fraud. The identification numbers of students who vote will be kept up to date on an electronic enumeration system.

Herman, 27, a second-year political science student, said this was his first foray into student politics. He was appointed by an ad hoc CSU committee from among seven candidates after the position was advertised on campus.

His budget is just under $15,000.

Although he was named by the CSU, Herman said he has made it clear that their relationship is "arm's length."

"The CSU has been very co-operative. They understood when they hired me that this election would be very clean... As a student, I had never met or even heard of the chief electoral officer before me."

Concordia Hillel president Patrick Amar said he is concerned that the election dates mean Jewish students will have only one full day to vote because of the conflict with Passover. Nevertheless, he said Hillel is strongly urging its members to vote and is once again putting its support behind Schulz's team. Hillel also plans to support certain candidates for council. "We will be looking out for our best interests, as well as those of Concordia as a whole," Amar said.

Herman, who is Jewish, called conflict with Passover an "unfortunate coincidence," noting that CSU bylaws state the annual general election must be held so that "the polling period ends on the last Thursday in March."

About nine per cent of the 23,000 undergraduates voted in the last general election in March 2001. The November byelection drew 14 per cent.

A referendum on a number of issues is usually held along with the election. Herman said any student can propose a question if enough signatures are collected on a petition. Questions must be ratified by the CSU council before they are put to students.

One controversial question passed last year called on Canada to cut ties with Israel if it did not abide by United Nations Security Council Resolution 242.

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On Campus

AEPi conclave features Israeli ambassador

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel's ambassador to Canada, Haim Divon, is the newest member of Alpha Epsilon Pi.

Divon – the keynote speaker at the Jewish fraternity's early March regional conclave in Toronto – was inducted as an honorary "brother" as part of the festivities, following in the footsteps of at least two of his counterparts based in the United States.

Divon spoke to more than 200 students at the Saturday night dinner of the conference, summarizing clearly and concisely the arguments necessary for students to counter anti-Israel sentiment on campus, said AEPi member Alexander Orwin.

The Mega Conclave, also known as the Northeast Conclave, took place at the Days Inn Toronto Downtown, with seminars on the University of Toronto campus. It attracted participants from as far away as Wisconsin, as well as Philadelphia, New York, Chicago and Ohio; and included members from the five largest Canadian chapters, which are based at Ryerson University, the University of Toronto, York University, the University of Western Ontario and McGill University, as well as a handful of smaller chapters.

In all, there are about 400 Canadian members in the 89-year-old fraternity.

As co-chair of the conclave, Jay Klein, a York University student, said his goals were to build unity among AEPi chapters in the Toronto region. There will be more joint programs in the near future, he added.

Sessions at the conclave focused on leadership skills and Israel education, said Klein. The weekend also included the induction of founding members of an Ottawa-based chapter.

Klein's co-chair Ben Reitzes, a third-year commerce and finance student at the University of Toronto, just wanted all the participants to have a good time, he said.

Although Israel advocacy is not part of AEPi's mandate, Reitzes believes the ambassador's participation in the conclave and also the existence of Aish HaTorah-sponsored free trips to Israel for AEPi members (www.jerusalemroadtrips.com) speaks of commitment to Israel.

Divon's talk was well received, said both Klein and Reitzes.

Following the keynote address, the fraternity hosted a party for about 1,400 students.

Klein, who said that party attendance has dropped in the past few years, was particularly enthused about the size of the crowd. "This will revitalize the AEPi party name," he said. "Everyone had a great time."

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The Polish-Jewish Heritage Foundation
invites you to the presentation
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by two York University Professors
Michael Brown, Director of the Centre for Jewish Studies
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This Holocaust and Anti-racism Education Project, brings together university students and faculties from Canada, Germany, and Poland, to explore issues of the Holocaust and racism in the context of contemporary education.
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PM pledges support for Israel

Continued from page 1

Chrétien also repeated Canada's commitment to Israel's security. "Let there be no mistake: as far as Canada is concerned, there can be no just and lasting peace without the full guarantee of a safe and secure Israel."

In his response, Katsav thanked Chrétien and the Canadian government for their friendship and support in the fight against terrorism.

"Terrorism is a growing evil," Katsav said. "It represents a real danger to the Middle East, but also to the whole world. There should be no compromise in fighting terrorism. We have to fight terrorism with determination and co-operation and with no hesitation. No one around the world has immunity from terrorism."

At the dinner, longtime Liberal MP and former deputy prime minister Herb Gray was presented with a lifetime achievement award for his many years of public service.

Visibly moved by the presentation, Gray told the audience the evening was special "because this tribute is being paid to me in the presence of the prime minister of Canada and the president of Israel. Let the relationship between Canada and Israel be an example for the world as we seek for peace for Israel and for all mankind."

Among the dinner guests were Jews from across Canada, MPs and cabinet ministers from both Canada and Israel, and representatives of the Christian groups Watchmen for the Nations, Bridges for Peace and Christians for Israel.

***

The atmosphere at the dinner was in stark contrast to the one surrounding Foreign Minister Bill Graham earlier in the day at a CIC policy conference luncheon.

While his remarks to the gathering were generally supportive of Israel and applauded by the audience, Graham elicited some groans of disbelief and protest when he denied that educational materials for Palestinian children funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) contain racist and anti-Israel content.

Subsequent reports of Graham's presentation focused on harsher comments he had deleted from the text of his speech distributed prior to his address, and on his remark that "Israel's image as a vital and compassionate nation" would be compromised by the mounting toll of innocent civilian casualties among the Palestinians.

Shimon Fogel, the CIC's national executive director, said the media were determined to create a controversy about Graham's reference to Israel's self-defence policies. Fogel said some coverage tried to link Graham and Chrétien's comments to a similar incident in 1988 when then-external affairs minister Joe Clark criticized Israel at a CIC luncheon, while then-prime minister Brian Mulroney later affirmed Canada's friendship at a susequent dinner.

Commenting on Canada's policy toward Israel, Fogel said that "Canada has moved towards a more explicit recognition of Israel's right and obligation to defend its citizens."

In that context, Fogel said, Graham raised the question about the manner in which Israel exercised its right, but never questioned that right.

Fogel added there was no significant gap between Graham's afternoon speech and the prime minister's address later in the day.

Continued on page 43

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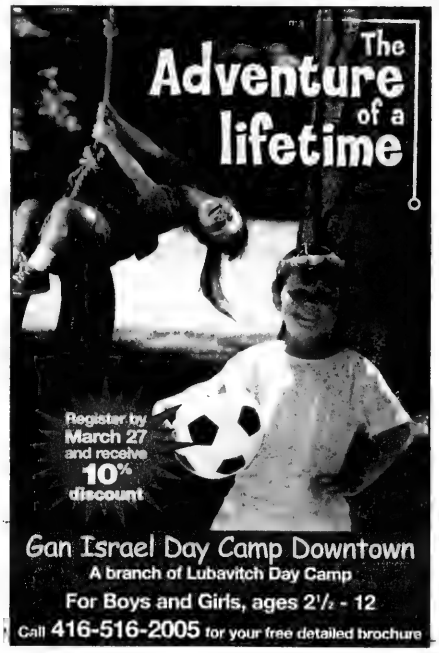
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ש'שאר י'נינו

גידי קורן וחברים

חצעת השלום של סעודיה

לפני מספר חדשים שוחח תום פרידמן, העיתונאי של ניו יורק טיימס, עם יורש העצר הסעודי, שקשל מחלת אביו הוא השליט של מעצמת הנפט. בשיחה זו, שלא היתה לציטוט, אמר יורש העצר לראשונה שסעודיה תתחייב לשלום של כל מדינות ערב עם ישראל תמורת נסיגה מהגדה, הקמת מדינה פלשתינאית, תוך הכרה בשליטת ישראל בעיר העתיקה של ירושלים. תום פרידמן, יהודי חם ומנדולי העיתונאים בכל הזמנים, שאל את יורש העצר אם הוא מוכן להצהיר על תכנית כזו באופן פומבי, ויורש העצר אכן עשה זאת.

התגובות היו מעודדות מכל הצדדים. שרון עצמו שותק, אך עוזריו חביעו אופטימיות. יש כמובן חששות כבדים בחוגי הימין, כי הפתרון המוצע יכלול פינוי כל ההתנחלויות.

בתגובת ימין טיפוסית שמעתי ברדיו את זלמן שובל, שהוגדר כיועץ בכיר לשרון. הוא אמר: מה פתאום סעודיה, שמעולם לא התעניינה בשלום? אולי זה נסיון סעודי לתקן את הרושם שגין לאדן ואנשיו הם סעודים? ממש קשה להאמין שזה מה שמטריד את מר שובל. האם זה חשוב מי יזם את השלום? האם זה חזון להתחשבן עם מי שמוכן להוציא את הענלה הזאת מן הבוץ? כמה ישראלים יצטרכו עוד לשלם בחייהם לפני שיתחילו שני הצדדים במשהו קונקרטי לקראת שלום?

שאלת השאלות שתצטרך להיפתר היא זכות השיבה שהפלשתינאים דבקים בה. זה כמובן יהיה יהרג ולא יעבור עבורנו. הסעודים יצטרכו לעזור לעם הפלשתינאי לרדת מן העץ הזה, בדיוק כמו שהימין הישראלי יצטרך לרדת מן העץ של ארץ ישראל השלמה. ממילא הארץ מחולקת, ואין ישראלים רבים שחיים בתחום הקו הירוק שמסתובבים בגדה או מעוניינים לסכן את חייהם על ישוב יהודי שם. אבל שיישאר ביניהם.

תורים בשגרירויות

אחד המאפיינים של ההרגשה הישראלית היתה תמיד מידת הסיפוק של הישראלים מחיים בארץ למרות הקשיים, ומשאלי דעת קהל רבים לאורך השנים הוכיחו אחוז מאוד גבוה של ישראלים יהודים שאמרו שאין בכוונתם להגר. למי שמנסה להבין כמה חמור המצב הנוכחי בארץ לעצם קיומה כדאי להביא בחשבון את העובדות חבאות:

בחודשים האחרונים מגישים אלפי ישראלים בקשות להוציא דרכונים זרים. מסתבר שמדינות רבות באירופה מוכנות להוציא דרכונים גם לבני הדור השני של אזרחיהם, גם אם לא הם נולדו באותה במדינה. זה נכון לצרפת, אוסטריה, דנמרק ומדינות רבות אחרות. האמירה המקובלת היתה שחטרור הערבי אינו יכול לסכן את מדינת ישראל מבחינה פיזית. התורים הארוכים לדרכונים זרים חייבים להילקח במלוא הרצינות, כי הם מחוים אישור לסכנה חממשית שנשקפת למדינה.

גם על זה צריך לחשוב לפני שמגיבים בביטול על הצעת השלום הסעודית.

The Reader

נראה שאיני יכול להיפטר מהספר המדליק הזה. בשבוע שעבר בישרתי לכם שהספר יצא בעברית. אבל טעיתי בשמו: השם האמיתי הוא "הנער הקורא". ושוב תודה לאירית לפקין.

Iris

זהו סרט על זקנה, על אובדן הכוח, התבונה, והשליטה. איריס, סופרת ידועה ואדם מלא כרימון, שכל כוחה היה במלים ושימוש במלים, מאבדת את יכולת ההבנה. הדיבור והקריאה, וכשיוצא לאור ספרה האחרון אין היא מסוגלת לקרוא אפילו את הכותרת. יש שלקחו את הסרט כמדכא, אך היו כאלה, ואני ביניהם שראו בו את ניצחון האהבה והמסירות. רק לראות את ג'ודי דנץ' שווה את הכל. שוב ושוב ושוב- עליונות הקולנוע הבריטי החזק, הבלתי מזיף. שווה כדי לאפס את התושים אחרי כל הזבל שמנחיתים עלינו על המסך הקטן והגדול. תשע בסולם קורן.

Israelis are united though suffering

Continued from page 1

"We now feel alienated from the Palestinians. How can we not be? Their leaders constantly preach horrible incitement against us. Each child born into their society absorbs, as if it were with his mother's milk, unspeakable hatred towards Israel.

"This is what leads to terror.

"The Palestinians lack an independent press. Their journalism, their reportage reflect only extremist positions toward us. They think of Israelis, of Jews, as cruel monsters. The people are not given any opportunity to learn otherwise.

"Not long ago I invited 17 Palestinian journalists to meet with me. Through them, as it were, I wanted to talk to the 3,000,000 Palestinians alongside us, to show them who and what we are.

"The journalists – from print, radio and television – sat with me for more than 3 hours of long and sometimes hard conversation, questions and answers, interviews.

"Afterwards though, the Palestinian Authority refused to allow even one word of our conversations to appear in print or to be broadcast.

"The journalists were completely censored. This is one of the reasons for our problems. We have no way of talking with the Palestinian people.

"Their leadership suppresses them and brings disaster down upon them. They enjoy no rights, no freedoms, no democracy."

Do you see any chance for peace on the horizon?

"If [Palestinian Authority Chairman] Yasser Arafat doesn't understand that he has to take steps to stop the terror, it will inevitably lead to an escalation of violence. It all depends on what he will do. If he decides to put an end to terror, we can start official negotiations.

"He is now at a turning point between two paths: negotiations or an escalation of the violence. It rests on this one man.

"In essence, one man, Yasser Arafat, is steering the entire region."

In your view, is the recent Saudi peace initiative serious? (Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah outlined a plan to the New York Times *for the Arab world to nomalize relations with Israel in return for a withdrawal to pre-1967 borders.)*

"I cannot tell how serious [Crown Prince] Abdullah is. It might be that he's now getting cold feet. He took an initiative; but an initiative such as this is not introduced in the pages of a newspaper. One normally would find appropriate diplomatic channels to put forward such a plan.

"If he is serious, he should meet with government officials of Israel. If he wanted to, but felt personally unable to to do so, he could use the offices of a third country.

"I have publicly stated that I am ready to go to Riyadh to discuss his proposal. Moreover, I have even invited him to Jerusalem to present his ideas."

Have you received a response?

"No. Their public response has been simply: Take it or leave it. That is not the way to present a serious proposal for peace."

When you travel in Israel, do you see any points of hope?

"Despite the ongoing tragic situation, I am not pessimistic. We do, after all, have common interests with the Palestinians.

"We realize that peace requires a joint effort. As soon as the Palestinians realize this too, there will be peace. There really is no alternative for them.

"For its own viability, if and when it arises, some aspects of a Palestinian state will necessarily have to link its economy and its security with Israel."

Do the Egyptians play a helpful role?

"The Egyptians could do a lot more. They do not assist matters enough. They occupy an important position; [Egyptian] President [Hosni] Mubarak occupies a very important position in the Arab world. He also wields influence on the Palestinian leadership. I commend him for his recent suggestion to the Palestinians to end their terrorist activities. But as a leader of the Arab world, as a man of influence and the head of the country that has already made peace with Israel, he should plainly challenge Yasser Arafat to prove himself worthy of the title leader by bringing an end to the terrorism. If Mubarak were to speak forthrightly to Arafat, I am certain his words would be effective."

And what of other Arab countries – the Jordanians for example?

"The Jordanians are more limited in this area. They have less influence in the Arab world, but they too well understand the current dangers. Terrorism does not only threaten Israel, it threatens other countries in the Middle East as well. Indeed, Yasser Arafat threatens the stability of the entire region.

"He is like an individual who has to be restrained lest he cause harm to himself. His hands have to be tied.

"The free world must tie Arafat's hands; it must stop him from inflicting more harm upon his own people."

Is there a message you wish to impart to Canadians?

"We have a great deal in common with the Canadian people including shared values and beliefs in justice, democracy and morality. We are also both countries of many interwoven cultures.

"The Canadian and Israeli peoples both possess a pioneering spirit and a belief in the importance of ideals.

"I am pleased that the relations and the connections between our two nations are so good, so open and fruitful. And we will continue to foster these relations.

"Canadians recognize the value in mutual arrangements that relate to trade or scientific exchanges and research. They are not simply matters of economic or commercial interest. They are of value intrinsically, for their own sake, as a statement of friendship between our two countries.

'Not business as usual for community'

Continued from page 42

"Graham was called upon to provide some insight into Canada's Middle East foreign policy formulation while the prime minister was addressing the essence of the bilateral friendship between the two countries. The latter provides context to the former."

Graham's address made no reference to Canada's voting record at the United Nations, even though many in the Jewish community consider that voting record to be dubious and perplexing, a fact noted by CIC board member Donald Carr in his introduction to the luncheon.

In his closing remarks, CIC director Stephen Lipper thanked Graham for his support, but implored him to recognize that the situation in Israel is desperate.

"We know that Canada cares about Israel, but this is a unique time," Lipper said. "This community is in pain. We are in very deep pain because Israel is being threatened in a way it has never been threatened before. We look to Canada, a country we love and admire, for a just solution. We need Canada's help and we expect it.

"We hope to leave you with a message that it is not business as usual for this community," Lipper said. "We feel that to ignore the changed situation, which requires a different voting pattern, has been a terrible error on Canada's part. We hope to make changes in the Middle East by working with our beloved Canada because the situation is too important for us not to do something."

With files from Mordechai Ben-Dat and Anna Morgan.

DON'T BE SHY

The Mazel Tov announcements have been expanded in *The CJN*.

WE URGE READERS TO SHARE THEIR MAZEL TOV MOMENTS.

Please send us photos of happy milestone occasions and lifecycle events to:

Mazel Tov Moments, Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, Toronto M3B 3K4

A Bright Light has been turned off forever...

Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel Executive, Board of Directors and Staff bow their heads in grief to mourn the loss of

YOCHAI PORAT,

a 26 year old resident of Kfar Saba who was murdered on March 3rd, 2002 after a sniper opened fire at an IDF roadblock near Ofra.

Yochai, known as the volunteer in charge of the MDA Youth Project jointly led with the Jewish Agency, was a very active and dedicated staff member for more than ten years, achieving the highest possible status as a Senior Medic. He lived with the terrorist attacks on a daily basis in the Jerusalem area and responded immediately to administer to those who were injured.

CMDA is planning the purchase of a standard ambulance dedicated to his memory. If you wish to contribute towards this unique undertaking, please send your cheque payable to TORONTO CHAPTER OF CANADIAN MAGEN DAVID ADOM FOR ISRAEL, 788 Marlee Ave., Ste 312 North York, Ont., M6B 3K1.

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By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, March 18, is deadline for March 28 issue and Monday, March 25, is deadline for April 4. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, March 14

YIDDISH FOLK SONG

A musical lecture in Yiddish and English. The Yiddish Folk Song: Portrait of a People with folksinger **Naomi Bell**, 7:30 p.m., Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W.

STAGED READING

Medina Theatre Ensemble stages a reading of *The Dining Room* written by **A.R. Gurney Jr.**, directed by **Ralph Small**, produced by **Fran Elliot**, 8 p.m. 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building).

LEAP INTO FREEDOM

Lecture on the Spirit and Music of Redemption with **Rabbi Meir Abehsera** and **Rabbi Tzvi Freeman**, at Sephardic Kehilla Centre at 8 p.m. 416-346-0770.

Saturday, March 16

SHABBAT DRASHAH

Canadian Friends of Yeshiva University, Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood and Leon Katz Endowment present scholar in residence **David Schnall**, of the Wurzweiller School of Social Work, giving a Shabbat drashah, afternoon shiur and seudah shlishit dvar Torah at Shaarei Shomayim. 416-789-3213 or 416-783-6960.

Sunday, March 17

SHPEELERS EVENING

The Entertainment and Cultural Connection and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood annual Shpeelers Evening, starring **Leslie Train, Les Aaron, Marty Zaltzman, Josh Charlat, Shayne Train** with special performance by **Gordon Lindsay**, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim.

QUEEN ESTHER'S STORY

Adath Sholom Sisterhood performance of *Queen Esther's Story* by the Adath Sholom Players, directed by **Viki Rumack.** Breakfast included. 9:30 a.m.

UP FROM THE PAGE

Friends of Yiddish presents Yiddish in words and songs, featuring readings by **David Abramowitz** and **Ellie Moidel** and songs by **Lenka Lichtenberg.** 7:30 p.m., B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St.

KIDS EXTRAVAGANZA

Starring Doo Doo and friends, **Craig Douglas, David "Wildman" Nelson, Marcus.** Presented by Shoppers Drug Mart, proceeds to Baycrest Centre Foundation. 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Leah Posluns Theatre. 416-785-2500, ext. 2020.

GALA SPRING CONCERT

Music for Passover by **Srul Irving Glick** with the Festival Spring Quartet and Beth Tikvah Choir. 8 p.m. at Beth Tikvah. 416-221-3433, ext. 0.

PRE-PESACH CRAFT DAY

A day of fun for boys and girls ages 4-9. Presented by Tiferes Bais Yaakov 12:30-3:30 p.m. at Eitz Chaim Patricia Campus, 475 Patricia Ave. 416-785-4044.

SINGLES BRUNCH

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel and the Intersynagogue Singles brunch for singles 35+, with speaker **Susan Jackson.** 416-635-5340.

Monday, March 18

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

For parents and families of lesbians and gays. For information, **Ruth**, 416-763-9111.

Tuesday, March 19

2000 YEARS OF INDIA

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood and Library present **Rochelle**

Continued on page 45

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What's New

Continued from page 44

Carrady speaking on 2000 Years of India Through Jewish Eyes, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 530.

CHUG HATANACH
Meets 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 10 and 11. Led by **Prof. Joshua Langer**.

FILM REVIEW
Adath Israel Sisterhood film review series continues with *Oh Brother, Where art Thou?* facilitated by **Heather Kassel**. 8 p.m.

Wednesday,March 20

ASHKENAZI FOLKPLAY
Prof. Dov Noy of Hebrew University concludes his series on The Folk Literature of the Ashkenazi Jews in Eastern Europe with The Proverb, The Riddle, The Folkplay, 8 p.m. in Lash Miller Chemical Labs, 80 St. George St., Room 161, University of Toronto. 416-978-8118.

JEWISH GENEALOGY
Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) meeting with **Jane MacNamara** of Friends of the Archives of Ontario. Topic: What's in the Archives of Ontario… and How Do I Find It? 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

JEWS OF ALEXANDRIA
The norms and family relationships of the ancient Jews of Alexandria with **Prof. Adele Reinhartz**, 8 p.m. at Temple Har Zion. 905-889-2252.

HUMOUR GROUP
Jewish Jokers and Humour Group monthly meeting. All ages. Irv Helpert 416-661-2541.

Thursday, March 21

THE PATH TO PEACE
U of T's department of political science presents **Prof. Emanuel Adler**, Andrea and Charles Bronfman Chair of Israeli Studies, speaking on Changing Identities: The Path to Peace. 5:15 p.m., Munk Centre for International Studies, 1 Devonshire Pl. 416-946-5617.

NEGATIVE EMOTIONS
Wrestling with Negative Emotions: A Jewish Approach, lecture by **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, 8 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. Co-sponsored by Beth Tzedec and Jewish Health Alliance. 416-781-3511.

MONTESSORI SCHOOLS
Max Dublin, founding director of Montessori Jewish Day School of Toronto, presents a lecture/slide show of Montessori Jewish Schools he has visited in Mexico and the United States, 7 p.m., 585 Cranbrooke Ave. 416-784-5971.

MINI MARKETPLACE DAY
Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary Mini Marketplace Day 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the main floor of the hospital. Dresses, candy, food items, books. 416-586-8290.

And What Else Is New

DISCUSSION & SHABBATON
Temple Har Zion welcomes **Rabbi Lawrence Pinsker** of Darchei Noam Synagogue on Saturday, March 23 for Torah study and discussion with **Rabbi Michael Stroh**. Topic: Do Human Beings Have an Immortal Soul? 9 a.m. breakfast and Torah study, 10:30 a.m. services, followed by kiddush, potluck lunch and discussion. RSVP 905-889-2252 by March 21.

KOLEL HAPPENINGS
Saturday, March 16: Reviving Eden's Debut Event: sounds of Unclefty and Bais Groove at the Capital Event Theatre, 2492 Yonge St. 8:30 p.m.

Sunday, March 17: Pesach Made Easy! A Kolel Learning Fair, at Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning, 1-5 p.m. study, crafts, cooking. Featuring **Prof. Dov Noy**. For details and to register, 416-485-7007. 151 Eglinton Ave. W.

NISHMA EVENTS
Nishma Centre, 322 Wilson Ave. 416-630-0588.

Saturday, March 16, 8:30 p.m., Religiously Incorrect, a panel discussion of topical issues from a Torah point of view, moderated by **Rabbi Benjamin Hecht**, Nishma's founding director.

Wednesday, March 20, 8 p.m., Women in Judaism Project, Women's Exemption from *pru u'rvu* (the command to procreate) with Rabbi Benjamin Hecht. For men and women.

INNER REDEMPTION
Shabbaton March 15 and 16 with Sephardi mystic and healer **Rabbi Meir Abehsera** at Anshe Minsk Synagogue, 19 St. Andrews St., Kensington Market. The rabbi speaks at all 3 Shabbat meals. 416-595-5723.

BIBLE STUDY
Bible study courses at Beit Rayim Synagogue with **Chana Sargon**, Tuesdays 8 p.m., March 19, April 9 and 23, 905-889-5445.

AT AISH HATORAH
Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave. W. 905-764-1606.

Sunday, March 17, 2-4 p.m. Super Seder Sunday. The 15 Steps of the Seder with **Rabbi Mitch Mandel.** Also, projects for children.

Monday, March 18, 8 p.m., Kosher Your Kitchen for Pesach, with **Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz**.

KOL YISROEL
Kol Yisroel Congregation resumes Shabbat services Saturday, March 16, at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Services begin 9:30 a.m. followed by kiddush. 416-630-9444.

HEBREW MADE EASY
Conversational Hebrew using the ulpan method with **Yael Lev**. Day or evening classes, all levels. Special classes for parents with children in Hebrew schools. Spring term starts the week of April 8. Classes are in co-operation with Associated Hebrew Schools. Register. 416-225-6151.

WRITE YOUR MEMOIRS
Holy Blossom Temple Library series of 5 memoir-writing workshops with Toronto journalism teacher **Mary Frances Coady**. Supportive feedback and exercises. First session is Monday, March 18, 10 a.m. to noon. Pre-register. **Anne** 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

COMMUNAL SEDER
At Beth Tzedec Congregation, 2nd night Pesach, March 28, 7:30 p.m. Reserve. 416-781-3511.

AIR MILES TO HEAVEN
New lecture series with **Rabbi Shloime Schwartz**. A strategy for making each day rewarding beyond belief! Sundays at 10 a.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue. 416-226-0111

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch and Learn in Retirement, Wednesday, March 20, at noon focuses on Racism and Anti-Semitism in Canada: Impact of World Events in Our Communities, with **Karen Mock**, executive director of Canadian Race Relations Foundation. Bring your own dairy lunch. 416-789-3291.

Association of Jewish Seniors general meeting, Thursday, March 14, 9:30 a.m., at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Topic: Does Home Care Have a Future? with **Michael Scheinert,** president of Circle of Care… 30th annual 2nd seder Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m., Bernard Betel Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Tickets at AJS, 530 Wilson Ave. or Betel Centre. **Goldie** 416-635-2860.

Cranbrooke Friendship Club presents Charlie Chaplin… and the Jewish Connection, with **Ray Rawlings**, 12:30 p.m. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Lunch. 416-789-5502.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). March 14, video; March 21, free evening for stories and discussion; Get ready for Yom Ha'atzmaut party in April. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Senior's Cultural Club begins weekly meetings Tuesday, March 19, 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. 416-630-9444.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Dance with live band Sunday, March 24, 7:30 p.m. Casino Niagara, March 14; Casino Rama, March 20; Thousand Islands, May 28-31; . 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE
Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

A Gift of Love by **Gloria Temkin**, Tuesday, March 19, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Sleep/Wake Disorders Group meeting, health educator **Sue Merritt** discusses Practical Strategies to Manage Stress and Enhance Sleep. Tuesday, March 19, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Joan Turner**, ext. 126.

Have fun with Yiddish, share stores, jokes, watch videos, speakers, Thursday, March 21, 1 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets Tuesdays 7 p.m. March 19, sing-a-long. **Anna** ext. 110.

Movie, *Forrest Gump*, Sunday, March 17, 2:30 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Downtown Jewish Learning Council presents Intermediate Hebrew II, Tuesdays, March 19-April 23, 7:30-9 p.m. Instructor **Esther Benari-Altmann**. Register.

Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Sallah* (Israel, 1964), Sunday, March 17, 5:15 p.m. (members only) and 7:45 p.m. at Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

March 18, registration begins for spring programs. Health and wellness programs, athletics, aquatics, racquet sports. **Joe Moniz** ext. 492.

Monday, March 18, 7:30 p.m. at Leah Posluns Theatre: Carmelim-Haifa, fun family show direct from Israel. For VIP tickets or to pay by VISA, call 905-780-7553.

Thursday, March 21, 8 p.m. Koffler School of Music and Na'amat Canada present pianist **Alexander Tselyakov** in concert at the Leah Posluns Theatre.

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Mazel Tov MOMENTS

Label the back of all photos and enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return. Send all your photos to *The CJN*, Mazel Tov, 1500 Don Mills Rd., Suite 205, North York, Ont., M3B 3K4.

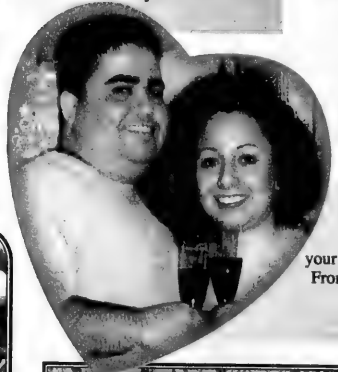
Time has flown by as Joshua Bayer is seven on April 23. You're a treasure. Don't grow up so quick! Love, Mom, Dad, Rebekah too.

Mazel tov to Dana & Hershel Sahian on the birth of Jesse and Josh. Grandparents, Carol & Yoav Sahian, Rhoda Tenenbaum & Ian Ser, Paul & Kathy Moscoe.

Mazel tov to Allan Konikoff on his 80th birthday and mazel tov to Doreen & Allan on their fifth wedding anniversary from the family.

Rob & Jan Murray and Ron & Shayna Maislin announce the engagement of Leslie Ann to Shawn David. An August wedding is planned.

Four generations gather to celebrate the first birthday of Stephanie Slack, daughter of Elaine & Dean Slack.



Congratulations to Jose De Freitas & Theresa Mendes on your recent engagement. From all your friends at *The CJN*

Singers Judy and David helped Aidan Kahane celebrate his fifth birthday.

Happy first birthday Gavin Marcus Klorfine. You are very special and we love you. Bubbie Faygie & Zaidy Irving Noble.

Mazel tov to Jean & Syd Greenstein on your 60th wedding anniversary from your loving children and grandchildren.

Mazel tov on the birth of Nathan and Gabriel Crone. Parents are Danielle & Joseph, brother, Michael. Grandparents, Bela & Jack Crone, Aida Cohen; great-grandmother, Reina Outmezguine.

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Hamilton woman raises funds for Israel's MDA

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — Every time there's bad news from Israel, Hilda Rosen gets on the phone.

While she also calls Israel to make sure her friends there are safe, most of the calls she makes are local: Rosen is raising money in Hamilton for another Magen David Adom (MDA) ambulance, the fourth she has helped fund.

"When things in Israel are bad, that's when people want to help," she said.

"An ambulance can only take one person at a time, so if there's an incident where 30 people are wounded, you need that many ambulances to get everyone to hospital."

In the past six months, MDA, Israel's counterpart to the Red Cross, took care of almost 2,800 casualties – among them six of their own crew members. MDA maintains a fleet of about 600 emergency vehicles, nine of which are protectively reinforced. The organization provides the emergency medical and blood plasma services for all of Israel, and many of their drivers and paramedics are volunteers.

An ambulance costs about $83,000 (Cdn), and since MDA gets only a small percentage of its funding from the Israeli government, it depends on donations at home and abroad to buy its vehicles, equipment and supplies.

According to the MDA's most recent figures, Israel's emergency services are strained: between last September and this month, 74 MDA vehicles were damaged and taken out of service – including two hit by bullets. Other incidents also take them off the road: two ambulances were stolen and five broken into.

Replacing those vehicles is a priority, said Rosen, whose fund-raising is motivated by conversations with friends in Israel about the situation there.

One Canadian friend who works with Russian immigrants in Talpiot, whom Rosen described as "a very upbeat person," said for the first time recently that "there was a lot of fear and people don't want to go out.

"[The woman] said she calls her husband continually at the office to make sure he is OK. She feels no place is safe and that if it weren't for elderly family she has living in Israel, she would seriously considering coming back to Canada."

In her fund-raising efforts, Rosen gets help making calls from like-minded friends Rosslyn Sole, Zehava Chaimovitz and Ronnie Miller.

"We're all working very hard, and if any other community out there wants to be involved and share the mitzvah, we welcome them to join us," said Rosen.

(Last year, *The CJN* reported, Montreal raised funds for eight ambulances for MDA. Toronto bought six, while Vancouver bought two and Hamilton raised funds for one.)

While their latest $83,000 goal is daunting, Rosen said that, so far, she and her team have had a good response from Hamilton donors.

Rosslyn Sole (left) is helping her friend Hilda Rosen raise money to send ambulances to Israel. [Julia Kollek photo]

No one she called on one recent evening turned down her request for funds, she said. "Most people thank us profusely for doing this, because they want to do something to help."

For more information, call Rosen at 905-529-4824.

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The Western-Arab/Muslim divide

Just as the Persian Gulf War of 1991 forced the media to pay attention to the broader Middle East (temporary as that may have been), so too, the events of Sept. 11 and the U.S. campaign against terrorism have also, to a degree, pried open the camera's lens onto areas of the Middle East usually accorded insufficient attention. Many western journalists will be the first to admit that we know far too little about what is happening within the Arab/Muslim world, given the usual intense focus on Israeli-Palestinian affairs.

According to Reports
By **PAUL MICHAELS**

Last week, this column drew attention to a recent CBC Radio documentary's insightful, oddly realistic portrait of the Saudi regime. Late last month, CBC-TV's *The National* aired Terence McKenna's riveting, detailed account of the most likely cause of the 1999 crash of Egypt Air 990 – the suicidal action of the co-pilot – and of the Egyptian denial of this finding. McKenna's summary reconstruction of events resulting in the crash that killed 217 people, including 22 Canadians, was precise and compelling. But it was his equally detailed profile of Egyptians' abject refusal to face the hard evidence (from a U.S. investigation) of the co-pilot's culpability that was truly disturbing.

As McKenna observed: "Over two years after the crash of Egypt Air 990, investigators from the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board [NTSB] have concluded that the Boeing 767 was intentionally brought down by its co-pilot, an act of suicide and mass murder. Here in Cairo and throughout Egypt though, apparently no one believes that."

And not only in Egypt, but in other areas of the Arab world as well. McKenna referred, for instance, to al-Jazeera, the Qatar-based TV network often praised in the West for offering more objective news than one finds elsewhere in the closed, tightly controlled Arab world.

But even al-Jazeera, having conducted its own simulator tests of Egypt Air's last minutes, concluded that the co-pilot, Gamil el-Batouty, could not have caused the plane to crash (even though the evidence clearly reveals that he turned off the autopilot and then forced the plane into a drastically steep dive, repeatedly declaring, "I rely on God").

McKenna went on to deal with the allegation that the Egyptian government deliberately obstructed the crash investigation, even trying "to alter… the conclusion of the NTSB report." Political pressure and the delicacy of U.S.-Egyptian relations have so far prevented the report's release.

If McKenna's documentary leads to any conclusion, it is surely that there is a cultural divide in some important instances between western and Arab/Muslim interpretations of events.

Paul Michaels is director of communications with the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Coast to Coast

Community, politicians rally in solidarity with Israel

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Montreal Jews assembled yet again in grief and anger to rally in solidarity with Israel following a wave of terrorist attacks the weekend of March 2-3 that killed 22, including a family of five.

As at previous rallies, speaker after speaker at the March 6, noon-time event in Dorchester Square denounced the terror as the crowd of about 300 struggled to stay warm on a sunny, yet bitterly cold day.

Thomas Hecht, chair of the Canada-Israel Committee, Quebec region (CIC-Q), called the latest incidents "dastardly," and rejected any "moral equivalence" between terrorist acts and Israeli retaliation.

Speaking prior to the annual CIC conference in Ottawa, Hecht called on Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Foreign Minister Bill Graham to tell Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to "declare war" on the terrorist infrastructure as he committed to do in the Oslo accords.

"For the terrorists, peace is a danger," said Joseph Gabay, Canadian-Jewish Congress, Quebec region (CJC-Q) president. "The battle against terrorism is everybody's business for all countries, all citizens for whom the words liberty and democracy represent real values."

Raymonde Folco, Liberal MP for Laval-West who is Jewish, pledged her government's commitment to peace and to playing any role it can to help end the violence.

"In the name of our government, I stand with you to condemn terrorism in the strongest possible terms," Folco said.

PQ MNA André Boulerice and Liberal MNA Lawrence Bergman both expressed solidarity with the Jewish community.

"The cycle of violence has surpassed anything imaginable," said Boulerice, who referred to "my Jewish community."

"The Israeli people have the right to live, to live in peace, to live their culture, to live their language" in peace and security, he said.

Bergman, for his part, called the terrorist acts "unspeakable."

"Let the world remember that the Palestinians and their Arab partners have declared war on the Jews and the Jewish state for over a century," he said. "Israel will not stand by idly and watch Palestinians take the lives of innocent Israelis."

Orly Pinchuk, a Montreal medic who spent the two last summers volunteering with the Magen David Adom ambulance service in Israel, spoke personally about Sgt.-Maj. (res.) Yochai Porat, a paramedic who was shot by a Palestinian sniper after coming to the aid of three mortally wounded soldiers at a military checkpoint in the West Bank.

Struggling to maintain her composure, Pinchuk spoke about her friend who had helped to train the MDA volunteers and had become close with Pinchuk during her last stay in Israel.

"He was known for his intelligence, his kind heart and his undying devotion to Israel," said a tearful Pinchuk, who had continued to correspond with Porat by e-mail after she left Israel.

"He will be missed by his loving sister, brother, mother and father, hundreds of his students around the world, his co-workers and friends. "He was an inspiration to all of us. He will be missed."

Pinchuk's quiet personal remarks contrasted with the other speakers' comments as they strongly declared their solidarity with Israel.

Israeli Consul General Shlomo Avital said Israel "does not need a morality lesson from anybody" in how it deals with terrorists.

"We will continue to fight terror until we defeat it, and we can assure you we have all the means," he said.

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By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

If you've ever searched for a straightforward how-to book on Jewish matters, you'll know first-hand there's a real dearth out there. Visit the bookstore or library and you'll discover that most literature on marriage, birth, brit milah or how to live a Jewish life is penned by rabbis in a convoluted language that almost always assumes a great deal of reader knowledge.

Anita Diamant

So it's a relief to find works by Anita Diamant, a freelance journalist-turned-author who found herself frustrated by the shortage of Jewish how-to literature 15 years back, and by the fact that most of it did not recognize the range of Jewishness prevalent in North America today.

Diamant's books include *The New Jewish Wedding*, *The New Jewish Baby Book*, *Living a Jewish Life: Jewish Traditions, Customs and Values for Today's Families*, *Life: A Handbook for People Converting to Judaism and for Their Family and Friends*, *Saying Kaddish*, *How To Comfort the Dying*, *Bury the Dead and Mourn as a Jew*, and *How to be a Jewish Parent*.

It all started with her husband Jim, says Diamant, 50.

"I fell in love with someone who wasn't Jewish, and we started studying together," she said in a recent interview from her home in Newton, Mass. "At Jim's conversion classes, I asked a rabbi what I should read, and he said I should write something because there wasn't much out there."

Thus began her series of six Jewish handbooks, which, for the most part, follow the trajectory of Diamant's adult Jewish life from spousal conversion to Judaism to marriage, childbirth, parenting and grieving the death of a parent. This last topic was the most difficult and emotionally draining to write about, she said.

"I had lost my father a year earlier, and it was important that the tone of the book be appropriate to what people in mourning were feeling. When I wrote about sitting shivah, it was like sitting shivah for a month."

Raised in what she describes as an "ethnically Jewish" home in Newark, N.J., Diamant said her handbooks were not written for an Orthodox readership. She and her family are active in their Reform synagogue, and her books accentuate the prevalence of choices when it comes to living Jewishly rather than giving hard-and-fast rules.

"I live in a world where Jews make choices, and it was important to me that my books provide Jewish choices so that once they have some information in their hands, readers can make their own decisions," she said.

Her handbooks remain in print and sell steadily, she added, though "they're very targeted to a niche market."

Since turning 40, Diamant has moved towards fiction, publishing *The Red Tent* in 1997 and *Good Harbor* in 2001. *The Red Tent*, which eventually became a best-seller and today has been translated into many different languages with 1.5 million copies currently in print, is based on the story of Jacob in the book of Genesis, as told through the eyes of his daughter, Dinah. *Good Harbor* is about the relationship between two modern-day Jewish women.

"I think I'm done with the handbooks," she said, "though I'm involved in a project to build a mikvah, and after that I might write a book about it."

About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

Q. I have been told by my doctor to add flaxseed to my diet to reduce the risk of heart disease and cancer. How do I eat flaxseed and how much?

A. I recommend starting with 1 tsp. and working up to 2 tbsp. of ground or milled flaxseed – not whole. It is very easy to add to anything because it has no taste, just a nutty texture. Add flaxseed to salads, soups, yogurt, tuna, muffins or cereal; or sprinkle it on toast with jam, cream cheese or peanut or almond butter (it will stick). It's also great with a peanut butter and jam sandwich.

Q. With Pesach approaching, I am concerned about how to keep my fibre intake up, as I have to forgo my usual high fibre cereal and toast, as well as flaxseed.

A. I get asked this question each year, and it is a good one, but there are a few simple solutions. Eat a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables and drink a lot of water. If you eat matzah, use whole wheat matzah. Try dried fruit – prunes, dates, figs, apples and apricots; drink prune juice or pear juice, if necessary, and try almonds or almond butter as a good source of fibre and a protein rich snack.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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Israeli with Canadian connection killed in terror attack

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An 18-year-old yeshiva student who held dual Canadian and Israeli citizenship was one of five teenagers killed by a terrorist last week in the Gaza community of Atzmona.

Asher Markus had just been dropped off at the community's beit midrash (study hall) when a Palestinian gunman linked to Hamas sprayed the hall with rifle fire, according to his uncle, Howard Markus. Asher, who was enrolled in a one-year, pre-army study program, and three other youths who were studying, were killed. Another teenager was killed when a grenade was tossed into his dormitory. Israel responded with massive retaliation.

According to his uncle, Asher spent many summers in Toronto visiting relatives. His Toronto-born father, Yitzchak, moved the family to Israel in 1979 but made sure Asher returned regularly to keep in touch with family members.

Asher visited Toronto about every two years, said Howard, an archivist with Ontario Jewish Archives. "He was very friendly, very easygoing, a bit introverted."

Like any teenager, he loved sports, and when visiting, would often shoot hoops in the driveway with his cousins. He also enjoyed camping in Ontario's provincial parks and was excited about a family train trip to Hudson's Bay.

The news of his death "was quite a shock," Howard said. "This happens almost every day, but you don't really know what to expect. It's different when it hits home and it's personal."

Asher chose to study in Atzmona because it offered the mechinah program, in which teenagers spend one year studying in yeshiva prior to a three-year tour of duty in the army. Prior to that, he studied at the Himelfarb High School in Jerusalem, an institution in the Mizrachi mold, he added.

According to an obituary posted on Israel's Foreign Ministry Web site, on the day before the attack, Asher's mother asked him to remain at home for one more day, but he told her he had to return to his studies.

Delivering the eulogy, Asher's father Yitzchak said his son chose the academy to become a better person. "My son tried to be good at everything. He went to study the Torah, and to be a good Jew," he said.

Asher, who was buried in Jerusalem, is survived by his father, his mother and two brothers.

IDF IN DEHAISHE: Soldiers on patrol in the refugee camp of Dehaishe after the attack on the yeshiva at Atzmona. [Isranet photo]

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Arafat confinement officially ended

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said Monday after a meeting with Likud ministers the confinement of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat to his compound in the West Bank city of Ramallah was at an end, and the Palestinian leader could now move within areas under Palestinian rule.

In the wake of the arrests, Sharon "decided to no longer restrict the movements of Arafat in the territories of the Palestinian Authority [PA]," the Prime Minister's Office said in a statement.

Sharon's foreign policy adviser, Danny Ayalon, said earlier Monday Arafat still requires Israeli approval to travel abroad.

Israel has kept Arafat under effective house arrest since December, and made his release conditional on the arrests of the killers of cabinet minister Rehavam Ze'evi in a Jerusalem hotel last October.

Three suspects were detained by the PA earlier this year, and Majdi Rimawi, the final suspect on Israel's list, was arrested over the weekend.

On Sunday, Sharon acknowledged Rimawi's arrest, saying the roundup fulfilled the conditions for ending Arafat's confinement.

"People have been arrested," he said. "I have said that after they are arrested, we shall let him out of there."

But PA Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo said Monday the Israeli decision had little significance.

"What is needed from the Israeli government is to stop immediately its crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people and to end the closure that all the Palestinian people have been living under for more than 18 months," Abed Rabbo said.

Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said earlier Monday that he would not rule out a decision to allow Arafat to travel to a scheduled Arab summit at the end of the month, but added there was no reason to make the decision until the conference drew closer.

During the Monday Likud meeting, Public Security Minister Uzi Landau criticized Sharon for his recent about-face on his demand for a week of quiet before negotiating a cease-fire, saying that he did not understand where Sharon was headed.

Meanwhile, on Sunday, the seven far-right National Union-Yisrael Beitenu MKs announced their decision to leave the government. The Knesset faction said its reason to quit was because the government failed to make the decision to topple the Palestinian Authority and "remove Arafat from the area."

Sources in the coalition and the Likud say the now-certain withdrawal of the National Union/Yisrael Beitenu bloc from the government will lead to early elections. Likud sources say the elections will be held no later than early-to mid-2003, about six months before the scheduled October polling day.

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Spanish Jews outraged over plan to honour queen who expelled Jews

By HILLEL LANDES
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

MADRID — Jewish groups are outraged that Spanish bishops have asked Pope John Paul II to canonize Queen Isabella I, who expelled the Jews in 1492 and instituted the Inquisition.

The controversial canonization has essentially been on hold since it was first proposed in the 1950s by a Spanish archbishop.

At a meeting last week, however, the country's bishops voted 60-20 to recommend that the Vatican move ahead with the process for Isabella's beatification, the last step before making her a saint.

Monsignor Juan Jose Asenjo, spokesperson for the Spanish Roman Catholic Church, said the bishops consider Isabella "an exemplary Christian."

He said the recommendation for sainthood should not be seen as an endorsement of her political actions.

Nevertheless, Carlos Schorr, secretary-general of the Federation of Spanish Jewish Communities, condemned the decision.

"As a Jew, I'm not going to interfere with whom the church wants to make a saint," Schorr said. "But I'm surprised that in the 21st century they should want to canonize someone who is known for religious intolerance and all the suffering she caused."

Queen Isabella I and her husband, King Ferdinand, ended seven centuries of Islamic rule in Spain, during which Judaism had its Golden Age, which produced great scholars such as Maimonides and Yehudah Halevi.

The Catholic monarchs gave all Jews the choice of conversion or flight, leading to the infamous expulsion of Spain's Jews in 1492.

They also established the Inquisition, which condemned false converts and heretics to torture and death by burning at the stake.

Schorr thought it was unlikely the Vatican would canonize the queen, but added, "I'm prepared for surprises. After all, they are canonizing Pope Pius IX."

Jewish groups protested the beatification two years ago of the 19th-century Pius IX, who abducted a Jewish boy to be raised as a Christian and was the last pope to confine Jews to the ghetto.

The Vatican has also drawn criticism for canonizing Edith Stein, a Jewish convert to Catholicism who perished at Auschwitz.

Lately, controversy has surged over church plans to canonize Pope Pius XII, who was largely silent about the Nazi genocide against the Jews when he reigned during World War II.

Some non-Jewish Spaniards also protested the bishops' vote.

"Saints are put forward as models for emulation for believing Catholics, of whom there are many in Spain," the left-leaning national newspaper *El Pais* wrote in an editorial.

However, the paper added, "it is dubious to assert in the 21st century that the good queen who authorized the expulsion of the Jews and the creation of the Inquisition constitutes a paradigm of tolerance and charity."

The bishops' recommendation was also condemned in the independence-minded Basque region. Although Basques are among the most devout and church-going Catholics in the country, many see their history as one of oppression by Spanish kings and dictators.

Martin Garitano, a columnist for the *Gara* daily in the Basque city of San Sebastian, said, "Catholics should be scandalized" at the prospect of a saint who built a country on an edifice of religious persecution.

March 4

• Twenty-three people were killed in four separate terrorist attacks in less than 24 hours in Jerusalem, the Judean Desert, near Ofra in the West Bank and at the Kissufim crossing in the Gaza Strip on Saturday and Sunday.

March 5

• Three Israeli children were wounded when Kassam rockets fired from the Gaza Strip exploded next to a house in the Negev town of Sderot.

• Five Israelis were killed and 20 others injured in three separate terrorists attacks this morning.

March 6

• Prime Minister Ariel Sharon released a statement saying that Israel has not declared war on the Palestinian people and that its military operations were being carried out in self-defence. "Israel is returning fire against terrorist organizations in the framework of its right to self-defence... The Palestinian Authority and its leader have forced the war on Israel, and those who have initiated the war, also have the power to stop it," the statement said.

March 7

• Police prevented a Palestinian suicide bombing attack near the German Colony's main thoroughfare in Jerusalem.

March 8

• Ten armed Palestinians in the Tul Karm refugee camp, on the outskirts of the West Bank city of the same name, laid down their weapons and gave themselves up to IDF troops. The Palestinians were among those surrounded by troops in a central area of the camp who had engaged in fierce gun battles with the soldiers since the troops entered the camp two days earlier.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Zinni mission eases Cheney trip

By MATTHEW E. BERGER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

WASHINGTON — Peace envoy Anthony Zinni's return to the Middle East is seen as an attempt to address mounting international pressure on the Bush administration, and ease this week's Mideast trip by Vice-President Dick Cheney.

After saying that he would not send Zinni back until the number of Palestinian attacks on Israel decreased substantially, President George W. Bush reversed course last week and said Zinni would return to the region, as he was scheduled to do.

Zinni's second mission to the region ended in early January. At that time, he set several conditions for anti-terror action by Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat, which Arafat has largely ignored.

Yet American officials believe that without some gesture, Cheney's trip to the region – where he plans to discuss the American war on terrorism and a possible attack on Iraq – would have been consumed by Arab calls for American action in the escalating Israeli- Palestinian conflict.

Concern for the Cheney trip "was the key element" in sending Zinni back, said David Makovsky, senior fellow at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy.

Tom Neumann, executive director of the Jewish Institute for National Security Affairs, said sending Zinni back to the region eases the pressure on Arafat to control violence.

"Having Zinni return before violence stops is a concession to the terrorism," he said.

A State Department official, however, said that is not the case. "The violence got so out of hand, we wrote ourselves a new parameter for sending Zinni back," the official said. "In sending Zinni right now, we can remove any excuses Arafat may claim for not doing what he must do."

In early December, on Zinni's first visit to the region, Palestinian suicide bombers launched massive attacks on Israel, forcing Zinni to return to the United States. On his second visit, a Palestinian ship was caught transporting tons of weapons and ammunition from Iran.

Some people question what options the Bush administration will have if Zinni again proves ineffective. But other analysts say Zinni is the best, if not the only, choice right now.

Since Zinni was recalled in January, the Bush administration has kept rhetorical pressure on Arafat to curb terrorist attacks as the first step toward a ceasefire.

But knowing that the United States has asked Israel not to harm or overthrow him, Arafat has waited out the Israeli siege in his Ramallah headquarters, and has taken virtually no steps to stop Palestinian violence against Israel.

Instead, his mainstream Fatah faction has carried out virtually all the terror attacks of recent weeks through its Tanzim and Al-Aqsa Brigade militias.

With U.S. activity reduced to verbal salvoes, the spotlight has shifted in the past few weeks to initiatives from the European and Arab states – which are less palatable to Israel.

The United Nations, the European Union and Egypt have called on the United States to get involved, as have U.S. newspaper editorials.

Despite the demands for U.S. action, expectations for Zinni's mission are low.

"The feeling is that stopping things from hemorrhaging is something," Makovsky said, but Zinni also might be able to restart Israeli-Palestinian security co-ordination – nothing more.

Zinni is likely to focus on getting Israel and the Palestinian Authority (P.A.) to go to a work plan laid out by CIA director George Tenet, which is designed to allow for a cooling off period, followed by the Mitchell plan of confidence-building measures leading to a resumption of peace talks.

"The first step toward any political solution has got to be the Tenet plan," Bush said in announcing Zinni's return.

Sharon has said Israel will not begin the Tenet plan until the Palestinians stop their attacks for a week, but he is expected to face intense pressure to drop that demand.

Because the Tenet plan requires various anti-terror steps from Arafat initially, American officials hope the Israeli government will go for it. From Israel, it demands an end to the policy of targeted killings of Palestinian militants and the removal of troops from areas under Palestinian Authority control.

The United States also is expected to urge Israel to use some $225 million in frozen P.A. tax funds to aid the Palestinian economy, the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* reported.

Pressure on Israel has been stronger in the last week, as State Department officials have openly questioned Sharon's tactics.

"If you declare war against the Palestinians thinking that you can solve the problem by seeing how many Palestinians can be killed, I don't know that that leads us anywhere," Secretary of State Colin Powell said March 6 before a House subcommittee.

Since Sharon stated openly that there currently is no diplomatic horizon with the Palestinians, only a military one, dissent has also risen among Israelis, who feel Sharon has failed in his primary responsibility to stop Palestinian terror.

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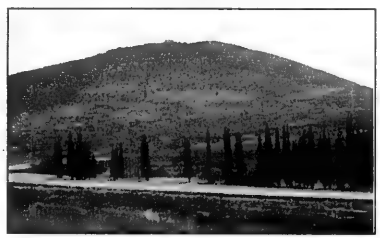

Katzrin was among 30 thriving northern centers of rejuvenated Jewish living during the Talmudic era from the third to eighth centuries. Today's tourist village features a typical housing compound, which was both private and public. A characteristic complex would serve an extended family with individual family units leading to a central square. Room allocations were amazingly similar to what we're familiar with today – kitchen, family room and upstairs bedrooms, accessible by a ladder.

On Shabbat, Jews of the Golan would worship in one of 27 synagogues. Seven still-standing pillars support Katzrin's ancient shul – on display today - which functioned for 400 years.

A massive earthquake darkened the golden days of Jewish life in Israel's north, but Katzrin's Talmudic Village, with 90% of its treasures left to be excavated, offers an excellent look at one of Judaism's most spiritually rich periods.

Next week: Wining our way across Israel.

Israel

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Terror puts U.S. and Israel back on the same page

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Mideast Analysis

Israeli armour swept into the northern Gaza Strip in a retaliatory raid last April. Israel launched the intensive operation in retaliation for a Palestinian mortar attack on the Negev town of Sderot, close to Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's ranch.

By way of reaction, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell accused Israel of using "excessive and disproportionate" force. He urged Israel to refrain from making further incursions into Palestinian autonomous areas.

Almost one year on, however, the United States all but quietly tolerates Israel's increasingly frequent reprisal raids into Palestinian-controlled sectors of Gaza and the West Bank. In effect, the United States – Israel's closest ally – has virtually given Israel a free hand to respond to Palestinian terrorism, and to maintain its siege of Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat in Ramallah.

"We see eye to eye with the Americans on Arafat and, more than that, on the question of terror everywhere," Israeli Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said after a round of meetings with top U.S. officials in Washington last month.

Although Ben-Eliezer was engaging in hyperbole, he was not far off the mark. Muted U.S. criticism of Israel's raids notwithstanding, Israel and the United States are remarkably in accord on a whole range of Mideast issues.

It was not always so.

In the wake of the Sept. 11 atrocities in Manhattan and Washington, D.C., President George W. Bush leaned on Israel to curb military operations against the Palestinians. Having targeted Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist network and its Taliban supporters, Bush sought the backing of Arab states in order to build an international coalition to confront Afghanistan.

Guided by this overarching imperative, Bush adopted a series of calculated measures. He called publicly for a Palestinian state, the first time a U.S. president had done so. He asked special envoy Anthony Zinni to try to defuse the intifadah. He urged Israel to exercise restraint in reacting to Palestinian terrorism.

Once the war in Afghanistan was won, Bush no longer found it quite so necessary to appease Palestinian and Arab opinion and thus rein in Israel's military strikes.

Continuing Palestinian attacks have also drawn Israel and the United States closer. The Bush administration was particularly outraged by Hamas suicide bombings in Jerusalem and Haifa last December, as well as by a subsequent roadside ambush on Jewish settlers near Emmanuel and by the most recent attacks throughout Israel.

In January, the United States was especially upset by the Karine-A affair, in which Israel intercepted a ship, piloted by a PA captain, laden with 50 tons of weapons, munitions and explosives purchased in Iran.

Outraged by the PA's budding alliance with Iran and by Arafat's denial of responsibility for the Karine-A arms shipment – a flagrant breach of the Oslo accords – Bush accused Arafat, whom he has so far refused to meet, of "enhancing terror."

Since then, as Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak learned during a visit to the White House last week, Bush has criticized the PA for failing to halt terrorism and indicated that the Zinni mission will not be reactivated unless the PA dismantles Hamas' and Islamic Jihad's infrastructure and arrests key terrorists on Israel's most-wanted list.

Fierce Israeli counter-strikes on PA buildings and bases and Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank and Gaza have been met with virtual silence in Washington.

Of course, Israel and the United States do not agree on every issue. During his fourth visit to the White House recently, Sharon reportedly asked Bush to sever ties with Arafat, whom he has declared "irrelevant." Bush demurred, but his spokesperson later linked the PA to Iraq, Iran and North Korea, which the administration has called an "axis of evil."

Now that the United States is preparing the ground for a massive military campaign in Iraq, Bush will doubtless request greater restraint from Israel. But since the intifadah has lately escalated by leaps and bounds, it's debatable whether Sharon will be in a co-operative mood.

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BEAUTY SHOP

By CAROL WISE

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS:

If you could turn back time – that's the philosophy behind The Clinic for Optimum Health. This centre claims to be devoted to helping clients look younger, feel better and live an enriched life. Sophisticated western medical practices and ancient eastern treatments combine to create an integrated health program that focuses on keeping us young in mind, body and soul.

Elevate Magazine is a new publication that focuses on cosmetic enhancement. It's complete with the latest look-gorgeous, feel-good news, from dentistry and Lasik eye surgery to "the big lift." And don't miss my new column, The Wise Choice. It's a question and answer format based on the psychological and emotional issues that lie behind cosmetic improvement. Check it out!

Be dazzling this spring. Perk up your skin and paint your face with the sexiest colours of the season. Eyes are sultry and double-lined for distinction. Lips are painted with pale sexy shades of varying hues of beige and sometimes pink. Lip liner is subtle but still provides great definition. Sheer shades are also very cool and lip-gloss is an absolute must. That pout look is back.

Hydra-Move from Dior stimulates the movement of water in the skin.

CAROL'S TIPS

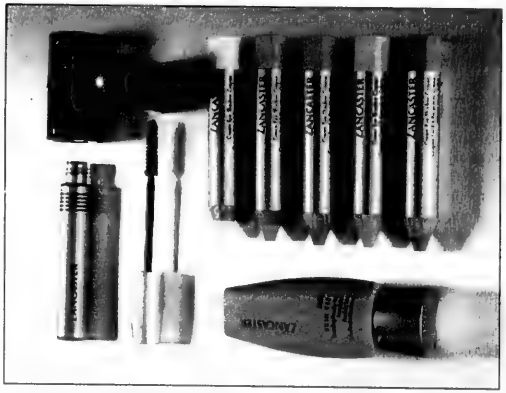
SKIN CARE: Dior's *Hydra-Move* is quite unique as it stimulates the movement of water in the skin. It really improves texture and helps to minimize fine lines.

Night Repair Eye Recovery Complex from **Estee Lauder** is an amazing serum-gel that feels as smooth as silk and does in fact erase some secrets of time. Its sister *Skin Recovery Complex* is a serious contender.

Shiseido's *Cle de Peau Beauté's* special pre-makeup smoothing cream will give your skin added luminosity while it moisturizes and assists natural exfoliation.

New this spring from **B. Kamins** is a great sunscreen called *Sunbar* SPF 30 (fragrance free) and *Maple Treatment Cream* (containing a very high percentage of Bio-Maple Compound that is extracted from our very own Canadian maple trees); it's a wonder for even the driest skin. **B. Kamins** skin care products are available only at Holt Renfrew, by calling toll-free: 888-B.KAMINS or online at www.bkamins.com.

A miracle from **Orlane** helps put our bodies in shape – the name, *S.O.S. Contouring Cream*. This remarkable B21 bio-energic cream is packaged in individual pre-measured packs for perfect application. It works like a trooper to combat hard-to-treat spongy areas and promises that in 28 daily doses you will look slimmer, firmer and toned! Also new from **Orlane** is an incredible *Intensive Firming Serum* that actually helps repair your skin to a youthful radiance – what a treasure!



Lancaster's eye shadow crayon is as soft as velvet. Their new Lash Volumizing Mascara intensifies the look of your eyes.

Take the sting out of sensitive skin with **Elizabeth Arden's** new *Sensitive Skin Care Lineup*. These face products really soothe and comfort your skin and do a great job of cleansing.

If your eyes are looking tired, try **Dior's** *No-Age Essential Yeux*. It promises to be anti-aging, anti-puffiness and anti-dark circle – excellent!

Continued on page 56

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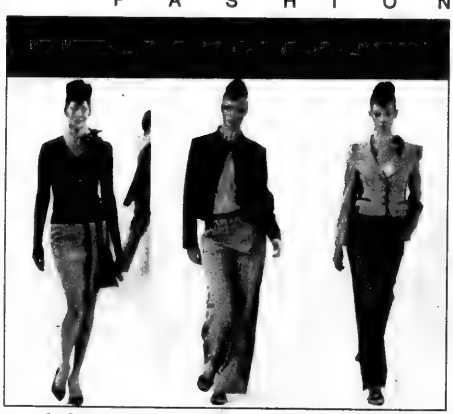

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Continued from page 55

Chanel's *Precision* skin care line introduces *Radiance Revealing Serum* – this special liquid helps to improve micro-circulation that does indeed provide a real spring-time vibrance.

BEAUTY SHOP

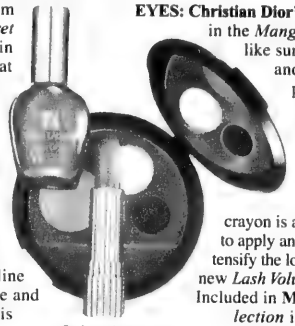
BY CAROL WISE

FOUNDATION: Estee Lauder's *So Ingenious* is a multi-dimension powder-style foundation. Its quadra-colour technology somewhat redefines foundation as we know it today. With just a flip of the applicator the formula can provide a silky or suede-like finish.

Laura Mercier also introduces a new foundation powder – ideally, it's to be applied with a wet sponge and then through the day you can use it dry for retouching. Another fabulous product from **Mercier** is her new *Secret Finish*; this feather-like skin cream is especially handy at the end of the day to add a burst of moisture to your lips and eyes.

Elizabeth Arden introduces *Flawless Finish Moisture Makeup* – a dream come true for dry skin. It is filled with vitamins and botanicals to drench the skin with moisture.

Shiseido's skin care line creates a fabulous skin care and natural makeup in one. This tinted moisturizer is perfect for the warm spring months.



Orlane's has a brilliant shine.

CHEEKS: Get into your spring mode with **Estee Lauder's** *Floating Colour Collection* – so much fun. And for the perfect glow, check out their *All-Over Face and Body* powder – a must, must have!

Lancaster's *Jelly Cheeks* are no doubt the cutest of the season. This little transparent blush stick is housed in a little pink package – don't miss it!

Orlane's *Velvet Blusher* unveils Orange Doré (gilded orange) – a very hot colour and as soft as silk. Be sure to use a great brush for the best application. The tools of the trade do make a difference. Recently I began using **Laura Mercier** brushes and they are marvelous!

Dust your whole face with **Mercier's** *Shimmer Pressed Powder* – it's a gold sparkle that looks great day or night.

For a glossy cheek stain try **Shiseido's** new creamy cheek tint – perfect for that sun-kissed look.

EYES: Christian Dior's five-colour compact in the *Manga Look* collection is like sunshine for your eyes, and their *Clouds* eye pencil is stunning.

Lancome's *Kohl* pencil in the colour buzz buzz is just too much fun.

Lancaster's crème eye shadow crayon is as soft as velvet, easy to apply and a great traveller. Intensify the look with some of their new *Lash Volumizing Mascara*.

Included in **MAC's** *Peacenik Collection* is a great new shade called *Rosemary and Thyme* – soft and really nice.

Chanel's *Extracils/Super-Curl Lengthening Mascara* is designed to lengthen, curl and separate your lashes. It's very rich and velvety in texture. Also from **Chanel** this season are six sexy eye-shadow shades that will dazzle even the most tired eye. Look at the colours Fluorine and Air.

Lauder seems to have re-invented lash curling with *Illusionist Maximum Curling Mascara*. It is great and lasts all day.

Long-lasting *Fluid Eye Shadow* from **Orlane** is gorgeous in the colour vert clair (light green). It is so easy to apply and has a perfect consistency. Also from **Orlane** is an interesting eye duo in Warm Tobacco and Green Desert – a very safari kind of look!

LIPS/NAILS : The shade Lolipop is stunning in **Lancome's** *Sheer Magnetic* collection. By popular demand, **Cargo** brings back *Waikiki*. This golden frost and creamy mocha gloss are a very sexy twosome. The shade *Peacenik* from **MAC** is great for that luscious pouty mouth.

Isabella Rossellini features a new high moisture lipstick in some great shades and the mirrored packaging is very smart.

This season, **Orlane** re-features *Cristal Subtil*, a wonderful transparent gloss with a crystal-like sheen.

High Shine Lip Gloss from **Elizabeth Arden** is very shimmery and has great staying power.

Shiseido's translucent clear gloss lipstick is great and is really a sumptuous gloss working undercover in a lipstick container.

Shine up your nails with **Dior's** *Mellow Mauve*, or for something different, try **Orlane's** *#37* – a fashionable orange. Both these formulas have brilliant shine and great staying power.

Continued on page 57

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Spring Fashion

Several products from Orlane's line.

Continued from page 56

HAIR: Hair this season will continue to be straight, but with a lot more volume and texture, says Terry at the Terry Ritcey Salon (122A Yorkville Ave.). Terry is quite a guy and really dedicated to customer care. His whole staff is exceptionally talented, and if you are planning a special event, make sure you see Mimma for the perfect up-do and Cristina for the best blow dry in the city. Colour brightens your face says Jeff – Ritcey's colour specialist.

The spring favourite will be "panels." This has a peek-a-boo effect that creates brightness, texture, and a freshness that says spring. Terry adds that the new blonde colour will resemble a rice crispy square (beigy pink) and Greg says one length "bobs" are what's hot!

New from **Redken** is a wonderful *Spray Starch* that will help you straighten or crimp up your own hair; it has a style memory activated by heat.

Continued on page 58

Hydra Move creme from Christian Dior.

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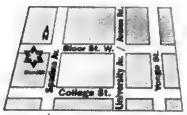

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Spring Fashion

Continued from page 57

FRAGRANCE: Dior's *Forever and Ever* is beautiful, truly like a fresh bouquet of roses.

This season **Marc Jacobs** presents body lotion, crème and gel – all like a garden of gardenias.

Ralph Lauren's new purse size *Romance* is convenient and smells wonderful.

Premier Jour from **Nina Ricci** is a warm, intimate scent with a note of sugared almond amid a garden of gardenias. *Celine for Women* is a gorgeous woody/floral scent that is as elegant as it's ready to wear collection and *Celine for Men* is equally terrific! It is a subtle blend of tradition and boldness.

Michael Kors launches exclusively at the Bay (Toronto) with *Michael for Men*. It is very sensuous.

Givenchy's *Pi Fraiche* is a subtle version of *Pi Givenchy*. It is gorgeous with its aromatic herbs and fresh green botanics – perfect for your special guy.

Halston's *Unbound Scent for Men* is highly spirited and oozes with masculinity.

Hugo Deep Red is the newest fragrance for women from **Hugo Boss**. Warm, sensual and quite provocative.

Mat by **Masaki Matsushima** seems to be the scent for celebrities like Madonna. It is a clean and crisp scent with a Zen-like purity.

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Spring Fashion

Heads up: advice for prom perfect hair

News Canada

Wear it up? Wear it curly? Wear it red? Wear it spiked? The stress associated with planning a picture-perfect prom is often heightened by hair style anxiety. Hairstyle trends constantly change, and staying on top of the latest looks is critical to looking one's best on prom night.

Dep offers a guide to this year's latest prom hairstyles – for both girls and guys. All styles should incorporate three elements – simplicity, sexiness and class.

Poker straight

A slick, chic and shiny style obtained when hair is flat-ironed is one of the hottest looks for this prom season. This look combines the 1960s flat-iron style with new-age funk.

To achieve this look, dry hair should be sectioned roughly one inch wide and two inches thick. A gel like New Dep Sport Fragrance-Free gel offers the ultimate in hold required to keep this look. It should then be applied from root to tip, to create a glossy look. Each section should then be flat-ironed so that it is pin straight.

Dep offers the widest selection within the gel category. The product range also includes mousse, a pomade, shampoos and conditioners.

Simple, subtle and sexy

The 'not-so-up' updo is another hot new look for prom, and it is perfect for any hair length. The style is elegant, and can be created in just a few short, easy steps.

To create an updo that is loose and manageable, twist hair with fingers to the base of the scalp, and using bobby pins, hold the twist loosely. Hair should be fanned out at the ends so the style appears natural and funky. A natural hold, lasting the entire evening will result by using new a gel like Dep Botanical Volumizing Gel with Chamomile and Watercress, designed to add volume and strength to hair.

The return of the 1980s

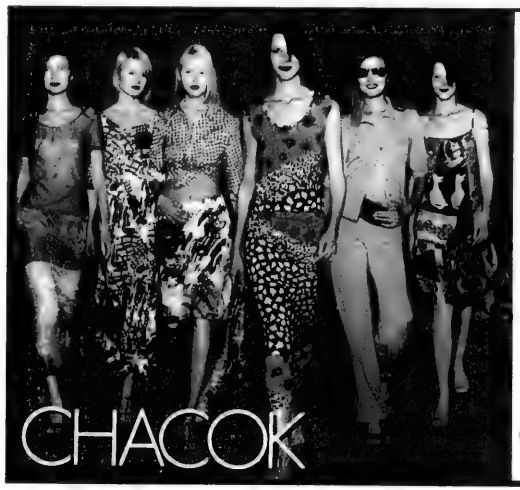
What's old is new again this prom season, as crimping makes a big comeback. The ever popular '80s do is one of this year's most popular styles. Crimping allows for movement and shape without having the fullness associated with curling hair.

The best technique is to first dry hair completely, and then apply a product like Dep Botanical Volumizing Gel with Aloe Vera & Lavendar from root to tip, to ensure the look will last. Then, simply crimp hair.

Male makeover

Simplicity is also the key for males, whether they have short or long hair. Guys should consider either a very short do or a long wispy hairstyle for this year's prom.

Whatever the look you decide on, remember that the most important thing is to enjoy the evening, relax and have fun.



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Spring Fashion

Fashion or faux pas?

By RANDI BERGMAN
Special to The CJN

At CHAT, where the cars are expensive and the coffee comes from Starbucks, one would expect the fashion trends to be ahead of the curve.

This is not the case, however. Students are content, even proud to walk around in ripped sweatpants and hand-me-down sweatshirts.

In many ways, CHAT is not your average school.

In my opinion, it's rare at CHAT to find someone with eclectic style, since most CHATnicks get their style inspiration from the CHATnicks before them.

Students learn early that they should intentionally rip their sweatpants. Their second lesson is to tuck the butchered pants into their wooly socks. Then and *only* then can they wear their Birkenstock sandals.

"If students want to brainlessly follow this trend, then they show no signs of individuality," says Lisa Glatt, a Grade 11 student.

I guess students can argue that comfort is essential at CHAT, but who are we kidding? The first lesson of fashion etiquette is just the opposite. Comfort is never an issue.

At this age, teenagers want to have friends. Lisa says she would "probably conform to the style of another school to be accepted." At CHAT, most have conformed to looking stupid.

Why, you ask? Why *this* trend? What does wearing sweatpants tucked into socks do for students?

When I asked one Grade 11 student, she said, "I do it so my pants would get wet in the slush outside." When I asked her how she thought it looked, she replied, "[It] looks good... well, actually, I kinda look like a clown."

Aha! I thought. This student is a perfect example of how drone-like CHATnicks can be.

So, to answer my question, students tuck their sweatpants into their socks not to get them wet.

Right.

When flipping through the pages of *Vogue* and *Vanity Fair*, it is not ripped sweatpants that we see. It's stilettos and leg-warmers on the legs of pristine models.

I guess you can say that people following these trends are just as conformist as CHATnicks following their own ridiculous trend, yet it seems to me that if you are following a trend, it should be a stylish one. If following fashion trends turns you into a mindless drone, at least be mindless wearing Diesel and Banana Republic.

Basically, I'm giving a big thumbs down to this ridiculous trend that CHAT has adapted to. To quote Tova Stone, a more individual student, "How are you supposed to know who you are if you're always trying to be someone else?"

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Spring Fashion

Time to shine on Prom Night

With prom just months away, the quest to find the perfect prom dress is in high gear and what makes this season the most exciting in years is the variety of styles that are available.

"This season, grads heading to prom have more choice than ever to find the look that's right for them," said Martina Stathakis, dress buyer for Laura, a division of national retailer Laura Canada.

"While there are some key colours emerging such as coral, lilac, ice blue and pinks from the softest tones to the bold and bright, when it comes to style, individuality is this year's dominant theme."

Nancy Brodeur, a dress buyer for Laura Petites concurs. "Whether you're a romantic at heart, prefer the drama of a sleeky sophisticated gown or lean more toward the avant-garde there is something for everyone this year – Prom 2002 just *isn't* about one look."

So if your dream is to float into prom in a gown fit for a princess or to make a grand entrance in pure Hollywood style, here are some suggestions from Laura Canada for a prom perfect look.

• **For the Romantics at Heart:** Pastels are the way to go and this year's offerings have an intensity and depth more akin to a fresh fruit sorbet. Blueberry, raspberry, lilac, pinks, corals and sage head up the list of these dreamy shades, and look fab in princess styled and ballerina inspired ballgowns.

Look for full skirts in layered tulle, glitter tulle or crystal organza teamed with fitted halters, corsets or the season's newest ruched or plissé tops. Subtle details like embroidered flowers and velvet flocking, as well as sprinklings of glitter keep the look fresh and dazzling.

Complete the effect with delicate jewels; a cameo choker fastened with a sheer organza ribbon, a Y necklace enhanced with a dainty flower pendant detailed with frosted stones and crystals, or a fine wire choker with a crystal flower drop, matching earrings and bracelet are definitely the jewels of choice.

And don't forget the perfect cover up! An organza wrap in this year's yummy shades of pink, lilac or ivory is sheer perfection.

• **For the Glamour Girls:** From chic and sophisticated to 'red carpet' glam, this season offers the 'glamour girl' in you loads of options. Figure flattering sheaths, subtly alluring one-shoulder column gowns, sleek halters, elegant strapless A-line dresses and slinky spaghetti-strap gowns are the key styles to seek, offering plenty of 'wow appeal' from the detail of their cut to their statement making fabrics and colours.

Choose from iridescent satins, gorgeous glitter knits, peau de soie, coloured metallic lace, matte jersey and beaded fabrics.

Hot colours include jet black, white, ivory, navy, hot pink, red, black with white, coral accented with red and ice – the season's newest colour that falls somewhere between white and silver.

Details also make the difference and many of these gowns have great 'exit' appeal with black laced up detailing, dramatic low/open backs, illusion mesh, knot backs, drape backs, ruching and shirring and elegant fishtail hemlines.

To take any of these gowns from great to sensational, add some extra glitz and glam with a coloured cut crystal necklace and matching earrings, chandelier earrings adorned with crystals, or a three-tier crystal drop necklace.

• **For the Free Spirit:** If you dare to be different and want your gown to exude your individual spirit, then this season won't disappoint! Two piece long skirt sets with midriff-baring tops are one of the season's coolest looks along with lingerie inspired gown, knee to mid-calf length shorter dresses and column gowns with sheer overlays of fabric and pronounced asymmetrical hemlines that begin their descent from high on the knee.

The tuxedo trend has also made its mark and tuxedo touches like satin piping as well as black and white plays of colour provide a new take on prom. Metal cuff bracelets in hot geometric and asymmetric styling also break from tradition along with filigree cut gypsy inspired earrings. And for an extra helping of attitude, why not slip on a pair of this season's newest 'shades' in green, pink, blue or lilac frames to match or contrast with your dress.

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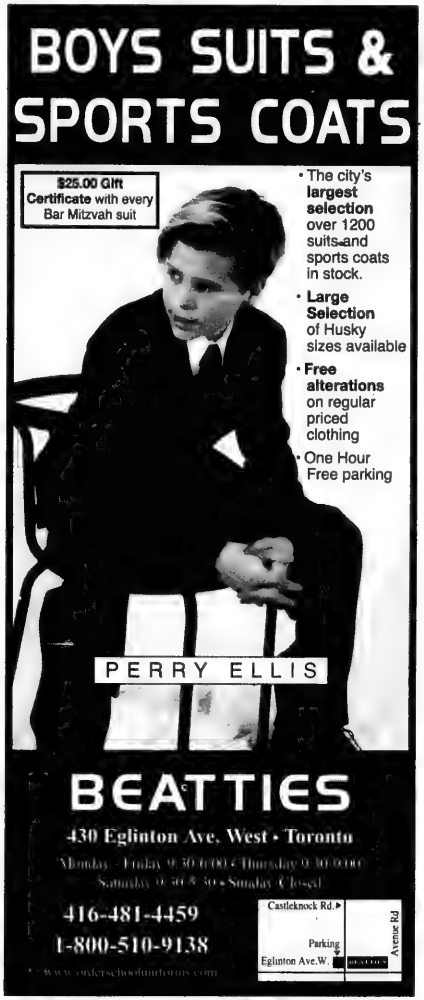
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What's Hot this spring!

News Canada

Want to be hip this spring? Here are the latest trends, according to Mary Kay Cosmetics Ltd.:

Fashion:

- Sheer transparent fabrics
- "Dirty" denim for the younger set
- Anything striped in bold colours, especially red, white and navy blue
- Colours – pale, icy blues and greens, classic black and white, warmer honey-like neutrals

Cosmetics:

- Liquid eye liner remains strong.
- Lips run the gamut from naturally glossy to bold, bright, shiny colour.
- The bronzed look is still in, with a slightly more matte look.
- Blushed cheeks are in, with a focus on the apples of cheeks.

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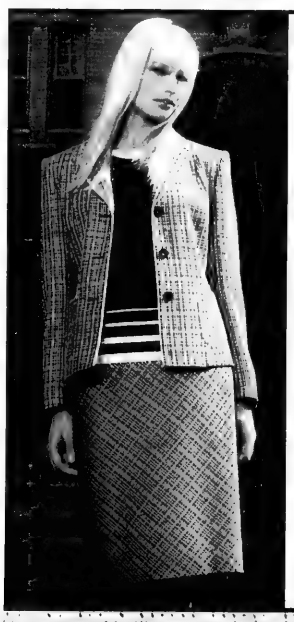

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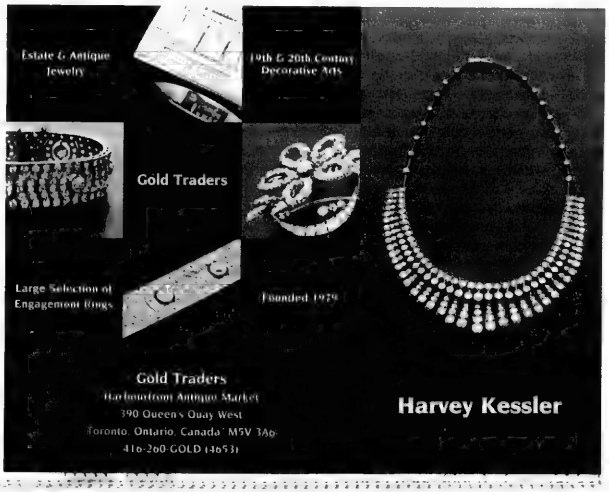


Spring Fashion

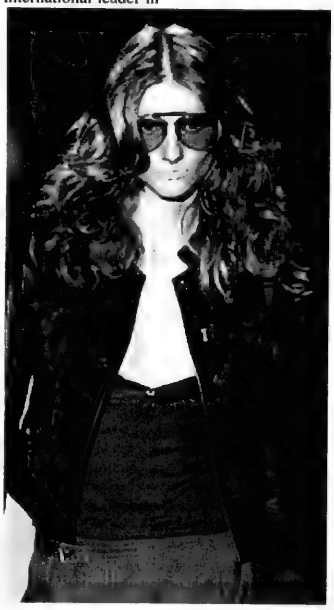
The hottest hair looks for Spring/Summer 2002

News Canada

Recognizing the importance of having a hairstyle that is both fashionable and easy to maintain, Schwarzkopf Professional Ltd., an international leader in hair colour and care, has identified this season's "must-have" looks, as seen on the European runways. These looks can be easily maintained at home, even with a busy schedule.

"Spring/Summer 2002 hair trends focus on romance and texture," says Ray Plunkett, director, educational services, Schwarzkopf Professional Ltd.

"Complementing the variety of retro clothing styles popular this season, whether hair is romantic, traditional or avant-garde, it is always very sexy."



Hip hippie-inspired looks:

Hippie-inspired fashions dominated Spring/Summer 2002 runway shows with models showcasing hair styled with "barrel" curls. Flat at the roots, hair cascades in large curls, which form at the shoulders. The flat roots give hair a carefree, "undone" look, a suiting complement to hippie-inspired clothing and accessories.

The colours that best complement the hippie-inspired look are those that mimic the popular shades of the 1970s, but are slightly more muted. Warm honey blondes, caramels with beige tones, soft muted browns and dusty blondes best showcase the Spring/Summer 2002 hippie-cut.

Ringlet romance:

Whether natural or achieved with the help of heated rollers, romantic waves continue to be a dominant hair trend for Spring/Summer 2002. Natural waves can be accentuated by twisting and manipulating the hair with fingers, using styling products such as OSiS Twist curl activator, to hold the shape. To achieve curls with a different effect, pin waves and set in shape with heat. With all looks this season, texture is key. Avoid uniformity by breaking up waves and curls with fingers.

Traditional looks with a twist:

Long hair this season focuses on grown-up sophistication and sexiness. Hair is polished and dressed to perfection, whether simply tied back or styled. The two classic looks that turned heads on the runways this season are the chignon and the bun, two traditional looks that have been updated. The modern-day chignon is parted in the middle, with all length pulled to the base of the nape, braided and then pinned. The ballerina bun is pulled back very tightly off the face into a smooth, sleek bun. Slick back hair with a styling product such as OSiS X-tra Flat flattening balm.

Smooth, subdued colours:

As warm weather approaches, hair colour is light and soft. The preference in Spring/Summer 2002 is overall colour, in contrast to the highlights and sliced sections of colour popular last season.

Interestingly, many top models such as Kate Moss are currently switching from blonde shades to sleek violet browns. Browns with very earthy tones are making a dramatic resurgence, complemented by alternating brown shades to give a "burnt wood" effect. Popular light brown shades include chocolate, caramel and sandy gold.

For those who wish to remain blonde, shades are mellow and muted this season. Soft, warm honey blondes and beige blonde combinations best complement the Spring/Summer 2002 fashion trends.

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Artist combines classical past with the present

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — An exhibit of works by Russian Canadian artist Zakhar Sherman will be at Holy Blossom Temple, 1950 Bathurst St., from March 14 to April 15.

Born in the former Soviet Union in 1950, Sherman lived and studied in Ukraine until 1968, when he moved to Moscow, where he graduated from the art faculty at the Lenin Pedagogical University.

Sherman's first group exhibition was held at Moscow's Centre of the Arts in 1971. Since then, he has presented his works in more than 60 exhibitions in Russia, Poland, Greece, Germany, France, Sweden and Belgium.

In 1990, he immigrated to Israel, where he had solo shows at the Painters & Sculptures Association in Tel Aviv, the Museum of Israel Art in Herzliya, the art museums in Bat-Yam and Ramat Gan.

"My work in Israel started from a political/conceptual form of art – a commentary on the social mood," he says.

Nine years later, Sherman left Israel, where his two sons live and serve in the army, and moved to Toronto "because I have lived and exhibited in cities in Europe and I wanted to come to North America," he says.

In Canada, he has shown at the Illumine exhibition at MEG Gallery in Toronto and at the Art Gallery of Peel in Brampton.

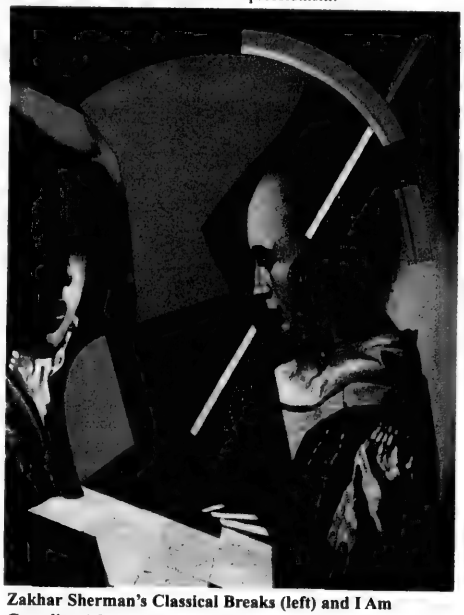
Canada is a "quiet country with a special feeling for art and a good place to live," he says.

Sherman's paintings reflect the classical past, combined with the contemporary imagery and techniques of the last decade. His canvasses echo the seductive shapes and colours of 17th-century Dutch painters such as Jan Vermeer and comment on the myths, symbols and icons of our time.

"I put them into contemporary time – such as Picasso – with my interpretation of Russian classical artists such as Vasaly Perov," says Sherman, who is a member of the Art Society of Canada.

His paintings can be found throughout the world, including at the Museum Ludwig in Colgne, Germany; the Tritiakov National Museum in Moscow; the National Gallery of Novosibirsk in Siberia; the Modern Art Museum in Tampere, Finland; and the City Art Museum in Dresden, Germany.

The Holy Blossom exhibit will showcase 18 of Sherman's paintings, including *Exile* and *The Soldiers*, and works of abstract-expressionism.



Zakhar Sherman's Classical Breaks (left) and I Am Canadian (above).

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Arts & Travel

Marc Salem knew I would write this

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

TORONTO — Cynics prepare to be amazed. Marc Salem can read your mind. In fact, he's so confident of his abilities, he offers a $100,000 prize to anyone who can prove there are hidden devices, plants or stooges in his audience.

Marc Salem is reading your mind right now, as you read this story.

Mind Games, Salem's off-Broadway show, runs at Toronto's New Yorker Theatre until March 31.

"I am a sensitive," he said in an interview. "I am able to read and guide people's thoughts."

But, he said, touching on a theme he stresses in his show, "what I do is not supernatural or occult."

For example, during a recent performance I saw, a woman was brought up on stage and handed three colourful envelopes. Two contained coupons for cash gifts and one did not. Salem asked her to pick one envelope. She picked the one without the money. Inside was a note saying he knew she would select it.

Salem thinks he inherited his unique talent from his father, an Orthodox rabbi, who, he said, was also sensitive and very involved in the lives of his congregants. "He was unable to remove himself from people's emotions," Salem said. "He died early at 41 because of this, I believe.

"For this reason, I don't do guidance or give advice," he said.

Instead, Salem chose a career in academia and became a professor of developmental psychology in New York. He has consulted for police departments and has done developmental research for *Sesame Street* and its Israeli counterpart, *Shalom Sesame*.

But although he can read minds, be careful what you call him.

"I am uncomfortable with some words," he said. "I don't use 'telepathy,' 'clairvoyance,' or 'precognition,' because they're tinged with belief systems. I am a spiritual person, but that has nothing to do with it."

As an academic, Salem is recognized as an authority on non-verbal communication – what is often called body language. He uses this skill to help police identify liars and to help lawyers during jury selection.

He also uses these skills in his act.

In one sequence, he has five audience members draw something on a piece of cardboard. He then lines the volunteers up and shows them the pictures one by one and asks each person to deny having drawn it. Amazingly, he is able to tell who drew what in every case. It's a lesson in how liars give themselves away.

"Any 10-year-old can do this," Salem said. "A 10-year-old with 30 years practice. Parents, for instance, know when kids are lying. The pitch and speed of their voice changes. There's an obvious indication of discomfort. The only people who can cover up these signs are either pathological or actors."

Salem believes that while half of his abilities are learned, half are inherited. "Anyone can learn to play basketball, but not everyone can be Michael Jordan," he said.

Salem's 90-minute show is highly entertaining – "I use every bad pun in the book" – and suitable for the whole family.

"This is far beyond magic," he said. "The show is the ultimate reality show – it's not rehearsed or directed. It's a very unique kind of theatre. I entertain people and guide them to make choices. They all leave illuminated."

Salem's feats are incredible. One woman was asked to pick a book at random from a bookshelf. He then asked her to randomly pick a page and concentrate on the first word. Salem easily guessed it correctly.

Salem said he's not necessarily reading thoughts in each of his tricks. Rather, he said, sometimes he guides his volunteers to make a certain choice.

In one of his more mind-boggling games at the show I saw, Salem wandered into the crowd and asked three individuals to say a letter – they came up with the combination D-A-K. Then another person chose a city – "Amsterdam." Yet another person picked a time – "6:30" – while another chose "a.m." Finally, one other person selected a snack food: "pretzels." Returning to the stage, Salem pulled out a piece of paper from his wallet with the written words "DAK. Amsterdam. 6:30 a.m. Pretzels."

For the finale, Salem taped loonies to his eyes with surgical tape and then blindfolded himself. He then identified personal items brought to him by members of the audience. At the same time, he was able to identify holiday destinations people were thinking of. "Robert, you're thinking of that trip you took to Paris."

Blindfolded, he also read the serial number off a $5 bill.

Some of his "tricks" may be explained by mathematical probability – although I can't figure out how – but most of his feats are beyond explanation. This show has to be seen to be believed.

And lest you think I've been duped, consider this: During our interview he took my notebook and scribbled something on it. "Think of a two-digit number," he said to me. I chose 28, my "lucky number" since Grade 1. He returned my notebook – and there, in handwriting more legible than my notes, was the number 28. Baffling.

For tickets to *Mind Games*, call TicketMaster at 416-872-1111.

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RADIO SERIES RECALLS 'GOLDEN AGE' OF YIDDISH RADIO

Some 1,000 fragile aluminum discs containing recordings from the golden age of Yiddish radio (1930 to 1955) have been rescued from attics, storerooms and even dumpsters, and restored for a special series on NPR, the U.S.-based National Public Radio.

NPR, which has stations in Buffalo that reach into the Toronto area, begins broadcasting the Yiddish Radio Project on *All Things Considered*, on Tuesday afternoons beginning March 19. The series offers Yiddish and English dramas, music, news programs, advice and game shows, interviews and even commercials that were stalwarts of Yiddish radio.

Translations are performed by a cast that includes **Carl Reiner**, **Eli Wallach** and **Isaiah Sheffer**, as well as Yiddish stars.

For a list of NPR stations, visit the Web site www.npr.org/members. For more about the Yiddish Radio Project, go to www.npr.org.

* * *

Jon Simon in Concert: Shaarei Beth El Congregation presents an evening with recording artist **Jon Simon**, who combines a wide repertoire of Jewish music with a "uniquely beautiful" piano style.

The concert is a fund-raising event for the synagogue. Adults $36, students $18, includes coffee and dessert. A $75 ticket includes a pre-concert reception and preferred seating.

186 Morrison Rd., Oakville. Saturday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. 905-849-6000.

* * *

Launch of Yiddish CD: Friends of Yiddish presents Up from the Page, a celebration of Yiddish in words and music, marking the launch of the CD, *Yiddish Poetry Lives*. The event features readings by **David Abramowitz** and **Ellie Moidel** and songs by **Lenka Lichtenberg**.

B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. Members free, guests $7. Refreshments. March 17, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Focus on Chaplin: The Cranbrooke Friendship Club of the United Jewish People's Order presents **Ray Rawlings**, longtime British labour activist, discussing **Charlie Chaplin** and the Jewish Connection. Rawlings, whose admiration of Chaplin began the day he saw *The Great Dictator* 43 years ago, investigates the Jewish influences in Chaplin's work, and traces his family history, his portrayals of Jews, his political views, his friendships and the persecution he suffered as an artist.

March 18, 12:30 p.m. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. $6 includes buffet luncheon.

* * *

Pettle's Rising Star: As reported here several weeks ago, the **Mirvishes** are offering theatre-goers a second chance to see "last season's runaway hit," *Zadie's Shoes*, written by **Adam Pettle** and starring his brother **Jordan Pettle**. The play begins a six-week run in the Winter Garden Theatre on March 23.

Adam Pettle, who is playwright-in-residence at Toronto's CanStage Productions, has been keeping busy. CanStage's artistic producer **Martin Bragg** recently announced the world premiere of his new play, *Sunday Father*, scheduled to open next January.

Sunday Father tells the story of Jed, a man who is caught between the past and the present. The play is described as "a funny and touching exploration of family, faith and fortune."

More news of interest from CanStage: next month the company offers a production of *Adam Baum and the Jew Movie*, which earned playwright **Daniel Goldfarb** the Oppenheimer Award last season for Best Newcomer to Broadway. The Canadian premiere is directed by **Alisa Palmer** and stars **Richard Greenblatt**, **Rick Roberts** and **Dylan Rosenthal**. It runs April 11 to May 4 at the Berkeley Theatre, 26 Berkeley St. Tickets $20 to $69. 416-368-3110 or www.canstage.com

* * *

Arts Briefs

- The culture committee of the Toronto Workmen's Circle presents *The Yiddish Folk Song: Portrait of a People*, a musical lecture in Yiddish and English by folksinger-lecturer **Naomi Bell**. Members free, guests $5. 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.
- Medina Theatre's staged reading of *The Dining Room*, by **A.R. Gurney**, is $5 for members, $7 for non-members. B'nai Brith Building, 15 Hove St. March 14, 8 p.m.
- Examine the decadence and daring of Berlin's avant-garde interwar culture at the free multimedia exhibit Kabarett: Scenes from 1920s Berlin. 2nd floor, Robarts Library, University of Toronto. March 15 to April 5.
- Pianist **Anton Kuerti** and cellist **Kristine Bogyo** perform **Franck**, **Vierne**, **Mendelssohn** and **Beethoven**. Walter Hall, 80 Queen's Park, U of T. Adults $25. Sunday, March 17, 3 p.m. 416-922-3714.
- Jazz musician and composer **Brian Katz** (keboards and guitar) joins **Dragoslav Tanaskovic** on accordion and guitar; jazz vocalist **Ruby Smith-Merovitz** and **Allan Merovitz**, Yiddish, Hebrew, jazz, folk and bluegrass singer at Mezzetta's Restaurant, 681 St. Clair W., March 20, 9:30 p.m. and 10:45 p.m. Call 416-658-5687 to reserve.

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

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Yiddish Night features songs and laughter

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

TORONTO — Jews have been thinking out of the box, actor and "philosophe" Harvey Atkin said recently at the 32nd Yiddish night at Temple Sinai.

"Yiddish is a state of mind, which I'll explain by telling stories," Atkin told the audience of more than 400 people.

He told about a dozen jokes, including one about the non-Jew invited to a Jewish golf club, told ahead of time that he should say he was in the shmatte business. When asked in the shower by a member who didn't recognize him, how the beads got into the back of tallesim, he said he didn't know because he only made the sleeves.

Actress and singer Theresa Tova told of how she took the subway for 90 minutes each way every day when she was in New York, in order to be with the 82-year-old Yiddishist-composer, Beyla Schaechter-Gottesman, who spoke to her only in mamaloshen.

Tova sang three new pieces composed by Shaechter-Gottesman, the last of which, *Shayn Farendikit zich dos Lidl Funem Tog*, the composer wrote after her husband died. Tova helped the audience by providing a translation of the songs in English.

Ben Steinberg, Temple Sinai's composer-in-residence, who chaired the evening, said Tova first appeared at Temple's Yiddish night six years ago.

Her second set of more well-known songs brought the most response, including her Yiddish translation of *Brother can you spare a dime*, translated by Torontonian Hindy Abelson. Her dramatic style suited this piece particularly well.

Another popular number Tova sang was *Mon Shtetl Belz*, with accompanist jazz musician Mark Eisenman at the piano.

Other soloists were Lindy Rivers and Judith Miller. Miller was also joined by Joan Dolgin, wife of Temple Rabbi Michael Dolgin, to sing a tango in Ladino, repeated from last year by popular demand. Another Ladino solo was presented by Steinberg.

Jose Shapero directed and accompanied the choir, who led the audience in a highly vocal *Shabbes, Shabbes*.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 75.

1 K	2 A	3 H	4 N	■	5 G	6 E	7 M	8 S	■	9 A	10 D	11 O	12 P	13 T
14 O	R	E	O	■	15 O	V	I	D	■	16 E	U	B	I	E
17 L	E	A	N	■	18 V	I	D	A	■	19 I	L	E	N	D
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25 S	26 A	27 M	28 S	O	N	■	29 S	30 A	T	■	31 H	32 E	33 S	34 S
35 E	M	A	I	L	■	36 S	H	I	E	37 S	■	38 A	W	E
39 G	I	R	L	I	40 N	T	E	R	R	U	41 P	T	E	D
42 A	G	E	■	43 N	E	E	D	Y	■	44 G	U	I	D	E
45 L	O	S	46 T	■	47 U	P	S	■	48 B	A	T	T	E	R
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59 A	F	I	R	E	■	60 E	M	M	A	■	61 A	H	E	62 M
63 L	A	L	A	W	■	64 S	H	E	S	■	65 H	I	R	E
66 P	R	E	S	S	■	67 H	A	R	T	■	68 L	O	O	M

Gardens are a peaceful refuge in Rio de Janeiro

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

RIO de JANEIRO — Call it a latter-day Garden of Eden.

The Jardim Botanico, Rio's justly famous botanical garden, is a peaceful refuge in this bustling city, Brazil's playground.

Set between the tropical splendour of Tijuca National Park and the green rugged expanse of the Serra da Carioca mountain range, it rates as one of Rio's top tourist attractions.

In a metropolis renowned for fabulous beaches and a hedonistic lifestyle, one might assume that a 141-hectare park bristling with trees, bushes and flowers would not be of much interest except to nature lovers. Not so.

The garden, founded in 1808 on orders of the now-defunct Brazilian monarchy, is immensely popular, not only with Cariocas (local residents) but also with foreign visitors.

It's not hard to understand its transcendent appeal.

With more than 6,000 varieties of plants and trees representing the vast and fecund panoply of South American flora, the garden is in a class all by itself. No other garden in Latin America can match it.

Imperial palm trees usher a visitor into Rio's Jardim Botanico. [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

The path leading inside is breathtakingly beautiful. It is lined on both sides with tall, graceful imperial palms planted nearly 200 years ago. The promenade produces a mesmerizing sensation that causes jaws to drop in spontaneous wonderment.

But this is merely an introduction of things to come.

Take the Vitoria Regia water lily pond, for example. Shimmering on a bright sunny day, it is the very picture of understated beauty and blissful tranquility.

The ceiba, Brazil's equivalent of California's redwood tree – the world's tallest – is usually found in the interior of the great Amazon rainforest, a 1.5-million-square kilometre tract of largely unspoiled wilderness. Rising majestically, its gigantic speckled trunk and rich canopy inspire nothing less than awe.

On this morning, the ceiba was alive with the sound of fluttering wings. A bunch of brightly coloured aracaris, belonging to the toucan family of birds – Brazil's national symbol – were nesting on its broad branches.

The garden is also alive with Brazil trees – whose wood produces charcoal and ink and whose nuts are a delicious treat – and with a variety of other trees whose wood, bark and fruits are put to practical, everyday use.

The resin from the carnauba is converted into floor wax, while cooking oil and cork are extracted from the dende palm and the sobreiro.

Scattered throughout the grounds are rubber and coffee trees, as well as six varieties of palm trees.

Bamboo palms, which form thick groves, grow to huge dimensions. Lipstick palms, whose trunks are partially red, exude a kind of sexuality.

Coconut palms produce a milky liquid and white edible meat, synonymous with the best of Asian cuisine.

Eucalyptus trees, imported from Australia, give off a fresh scent. On a warm day, the uplifting aroma is refreshing.

If you like house plants, you will not be disappointed by the giant philodendron, which can easily fill a large room.

The orchid collection, housed in a muggy greenhouse, is impressive. These elegant, delicate, richly hued blooms are the royalty of flowerhood. Brazil has 2,300 native varieties, some of which, amazingly enough, are used to flavour cakes, candy, sweets and ice cream.

The garden, which is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., is dotted with graceful Belle époque fountains.

Varig, Brazil's national airline, flies to Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro from La Guardia Airport in New York City.

Miniseries much better on video

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

The recently aired miniseries *Uprising*, about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising during World War II, is much better on video than on television.

Unlike the television version, which I found disjointed and unsatisfying, I found the video much more enjoyable without the frequent commercial interruptions. Being able to see it in one sitting also improved the viewing experience.

This is not to say I think the film doesn't have problems. I find David Schwimmer's accent a little hard to take, but overall I think he, Hank Azaria and the rest of the cast have done a good job.

The idea for *Uprising* came from Disney's studios. Disney (or Miramax, a Disney-owned company), which owns the film rights to *Mila 18*, Leon Uris's epic novel about the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, asked writer/director Jon Avnet to make a film adaptation of the book. But after a great deal of research and thought, Avnet instead decided to make a film based on the uprising's real events and took the project to another studio.

The story is familiar to anyone who knows Holocaust history. After the Nazis conquered Poland, they moved all the Jews of Warsaw into a small, confined area that became known as the Warsaw Ghetto.

Over the next four years, most of the Jews in the ghetto died of disease, starvation or were deported to death camps. In 1943, the Nazis decided to liquidate the ghetto, but instead of finding the surviving Jews to be meek and acquiescent, they ran into the armed resistance of the Jewish Fighting Organization. From April 19 to May 16, 1943, the Jews fought a battle, and though it was ultimately unsuccessful in defeating the Nazis, it inflicted a great deal of damage and allowed hundreds of Polish Jews to escape. The film concentrates on two of the resistance leaders, Mordechai Anielewicz (Azaria) and Yitzhak (Antek) Zuckerman (Schwimmer).

In the seven years *Uprising* took to make, Avnet became very passionate about the film.

"The people whose story it is aren't alive to tell it," he says. "It's been 58 years since the uprising and no one has told the story."

While it's true that most of the participants, including Anielewicz, died in the uprising, this is not the first film to tell the story.

In 1948, Alexander Ford made a Polish film, *Border Street* which covered much of the same ground. The television miniseries *Holocaust* and the 1984 film *War and Love* also contained sections describing the uprising.

But *Uprising* is probably the biggest and most expensive film and the only one to focus exclusively on the Jewish resistance. While the second half of *Uprising* is much better and more riveting than the first part, overall, the film provides a good summary of the events and is a valuable addition to the genre of Holocaust films.

Uprising is now available for rent and for sale on VHS and DVD at most video stores. The DVD version contains two documentaries about the making of the film and about the survivors.

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38 DANBY AVENUE! MUST BE SEEN!
$719K! Bathurst/Sheppard! Lux 4 bdrm, 4 bath! Mn fam+lib+lau +2pce! W/o bsmt! 75x119'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

AVENUE/EGLINTON - HOME TO BE BUILT
Approx 2000 sq. ft. 3 bdrms, 4 baths. Walk-out to fin. bsmt. Model homes to view. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

FABULOUS CENTRAL TOWNHOUSE
3 bdrms, 3 skylights, sauna, 3 parking spots. Custom upgrades. F/P. 4 baths. Hardwd flrs. Must see. Judith Fedor* 416-488-2875

JUST LISTED! PRIVATE EDARVALE $489K
SOLD
Charming 3 bdrm home, 2 baths, Totally reno'd 1999. Pot lights, hardwood flrs, 30 x 105 ft. Faithe Sversky** 416-488-2875

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BATHURST/SHEPPARD EXCLUSIVE $339,000
Fab 3 bdrm bungalow. Stunning new maple kitchen, 2 bdrms. Bsmt apt. great income. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

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NORTH PROPERTIES

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LOT - 98 ARNOLD AVE 100 X 308 FT
Magnificent - trees & privacy - best location. Plans available - try an offer! Hedda Zaionz* 416-226-1987

42 LANGTRY PLACE! DARE TO COMPARE!
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WEST PROPERTIES

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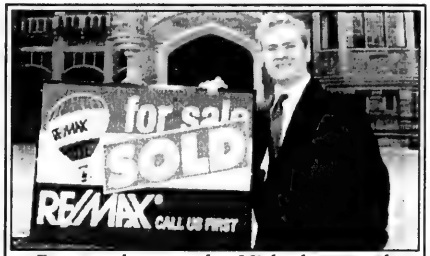
5 HOUSES FOR SALE



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HOMES

Bathurst/Wilson–Totally renovated bungalow, 3 bdrm, finished bsmnt, backs onto park, maple kitchen, new washrooms and much more, asking $339,900.

Bathurst/Wilson–Unique double bungalow, 5 bdrms, 50 x 150 lot, great location, 2 basement apts, asking $369,900.

Bathurst/Sheppard – Spacious bungalow, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, fin. basement, central location, updated kitchen, asking $349,900.

Bathurst/Sheppard – Executive 2 storey home, custom built, 4 bdrms., 4 baths, finished basement, 46x136 lot, asking $524,900.

Avenue/Wilson – Custom built luxury home, 4 bdrms., 5 baths, great layout, finished basement with 2 walkouts, 47 x 100 lot, shows beautifully, asking $699,900.

Bathurst/Wilson – Triplex, fully rented, good location, central air, excellent investment, great for a user, asking $369,900.

CONDOS

Bathurst/Clark – Conservatory, 2 bedroom, approx. 1,200 s.f., split bedrooms, large solarium, asking $302,900.

Bathurst/Lawrence – Crystal Towers, approx. 1,652 sq. ft., 2 bedrooms plus den, 2 balconies, parking and locker, asking $399,900.

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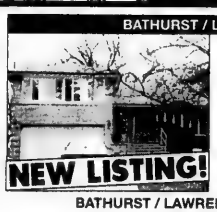
BATHURST / LAWRENCE



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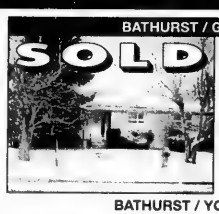

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UPPER VILLAGE BEAUTY $749,000
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Premium lot on quiet cul-de-sac. #1 Carriage Lane near G. Ross Lord Park. Soaring ceiling, wonderful entertainment spaces & superb master ensuite. Jeffrey Joseph**, Ext. 519

BATHURST - CLARK - RENO'D $359,900
4 bdrm on Lisa Cres. Updated kit, master ensuite & floorings. Roof & windows & driveway (2 yrs), sep side ent to 2 bdrm bsmt apt, family rm, 2 car gar+++. Maxine Povering**, Ext. 308

BATHURST - ELGIN MILLS - $385K
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330 OBITUARIES

EDERY, Chaim – on Feb. 26, 2002.
KING, David – on Feb. 22, 2002, late of 996 Emerson Dr.
WOLFSON, Fannie Ruth – on Feb. 27, 2002, late of 3000 Bathurst St.
BENIFLAH, Jack – on Feb. 26, 2002, late of 3 Burnfield Ave.
ISAACS, Charles – on Feb. 24, 2002, late of 650 Briar Hill Ave.
GORDON, Frank – on Feb. 27, 2002.
SHEPHERD, Lillian – on Feb. 28, 2002.
WEISBERG, Freda – on Feb. 27, 2002.
JENAH, Elie – on March 1, 2002, late of 12 Rockford Rd.
KLAIMAN, Zuri – on Feb. 27, 2002, late of 124 Ten Oaks Blvd.
PODOLSKI, Elli – on Feb. 28, 2002, late of 100 Canyon Ave.
BENDAHAN, Jacob – on Feb. 28, 2002, late of 43 Crown Heights Circle.
VALE, Esther Kohl – on Feb. 28, 2002, late of 42 Stacey Cres.

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330 OBITUARIES

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CHESLER, Harry – on Feb. 24, 2002, late of Rose Breen Dr.
DANZIGER, Margarethe – on Feb. 25, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

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FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances into the arts, fit, non smoker. Seeks a male 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality. Wants a best friend, lovers later. Looking for a soulmate. Please respond **AD#1232**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs. seeks a man with similar interests. This outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling. She works in science and engineering. **AD#1548**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel bands, likes to have fun. Seeks male 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature **AD#1285**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match. Send me your info and picture and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

STARTING OVER
Single, non smoking, professional lady with 2 university aged children and a beautiful golden retriever, may be interested in you this 51 year old likes long walks, sunsets, dancing, movies, travelling, having fun, good friends and honest communications **AD#1126**

VEGAS MOMMA
Las Vegas momma, roll the dice and give my mom a call. A kind, caring, compassionate, and vivacious woman widow. Early 60's, looks 50's. Enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining, Caesar's Palace. Who knows, you may have dealt a royal flush. Seeking a non smoking male, similar qualities and interests. **AD#1259**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel bands, likes to have fun. Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature **AD#1285**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly humourous, fit, widow. I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher. Seeking a male, 58-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest. Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

INTELLIGENT FEMALE
Attractive Jewish female, intelligent, kind easy going, enjoys outdoors, seeks honest man, non smoker, secure for possible long term relationship **AD#1145**

DANCING, DINING
65 yrs old, divorced female, enjoys dancing, dining plays seeks male with similar interests **AD#1078**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining **AD#1590**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive slim, classy seeks Jewish male 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks theatre, movies, dining **AD#1590**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly humourous, fit, widow. I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher. Seeking a male, 58-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest. Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

DINING ART
Young female, pretty, Jewish, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys dining, art, solid outings. Desires man, 43-53 yrs, professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker, for mature relationship **AD#1301**

MONTREAL LOVIN'
Single female, 58 yrs, in Montreal, slim, fun loving, classy, enjoys aerobics, travel, art, music, dancing. Seeks male, sincere, stable, traditional, kind and affectionate. Let's share travel between Toronto & Montreal **AD#1338**

FULLY LOADED
Blonde bombshell with brains. No surprises, seeks same type of guy who is secure. Submit photo. Must be a professional. Time is limited, so hurry! **AD#1025**

SEEKS YOUNG AT HEART
Sexy, classy, attractive, slim, talented, intelligent, secular, non-smoking, multi-faceted lady who is fun, easy to be with and highly evolved seeks a man between 51-60 yrs who is young at heart and loves life. She likes the arts and working out **AD#1408**

HONEST PROFESSIONAL
Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, honest, professional, easy going, down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, travelling. Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship **AD#1112**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female **AD#1651**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, loves movies, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969. Waiting for you call **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous. "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight. She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done. And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue." **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and begage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship **AD#1288**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship **AD#1643**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Friendly, down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady, seeks a sincere, attractive hard working man for a committed future. She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant. Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

SEXY SIREN
Sexy siren (LOL) Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together. Dancing, dining etc **AD#1355**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man 70-76 yrs old **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
"The key is compatibility." Looking for someone who mutually clicks. Our personalities have to mesh. Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs. See if our voiced blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde hair, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo. She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

L'CHAIM
Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, 5' 2", short brunette hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music. Seeking a positive handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also She is looking for an honest relationship **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5'5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions. Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings friendship **AD#1028**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you don't have to be perfect, just perfect for me. I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids. I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired. I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1198**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature. She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family. Please reply **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 5'5, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed. If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find. **AD#1106**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, educating, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6' plus between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life **AD#1041**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile **AD#1195**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors. A traditional male, works a a financial consultant. Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wavy glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk **AD#1510**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us **AD#1201**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 36 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention **AD#1427**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc. seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me **AD#1329**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday **AD#1399**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5'6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1036**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me, **AD#1216**

men seeking women

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family **AD#1096**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with. **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6'11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale. Attention car buffs: '59 Caddy, exterior is tail, handsome, good physique, interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty. Interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance: Let's have a wonderful life together. **AD#1444**

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AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile. Together we will make for an award winning performance **AD#1446**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man 40-48 yrs, to make a family **AD#1087**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs. Please call, will meet for coffee **AD#1433**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5' 3", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft honest, sweet, fun tobe with, trustworthy considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities. Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated. Looking for love in all the wrong places. Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years. Would like a photo **AD#1577**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 6, brown hair and eyes. Loves music, dancing, movies. Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1514**

INDOOR OUTDOOR LADY
Slim, blonde, blue eyed, 5' 5", lady who is attractive and emotionally available, seeks a very special person for fun loving easy going times. She likes quiet times, playing tennis, weekend getaways, and discussing the latest news stories **AD#1045**

DINING AND SPORTS
Attractive, professional Jewish female, enjoys sports, dining and movies, seeks a cute man, who is handsome, honest and trustworthy **AD#1333**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later. 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking **AD#1267**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first **AD#1206**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5'9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer things in life, emotionally and financially stable, seeks female, with similar qualities. **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children. **AD#1502**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1242**

REACH FOR THE STARS
"Laugh a lot, reach for the stars, dream big. Single Jewish female, 35 yrs old, loves fun and challenge, addicted to chocolate, hard working, career and family important. Seeking Jewish male, 35-40 yrs, for laughter and joy and great conversation **AD#1277**

SWEET NATURED
Divorced Jewish female, 53 yrs professional, coring and down to earth, easy going, great sense of humour, enjoys walks, travel dancing, dining, conversation. Seeks male 50-60 yrs, with similar interests and serious relationship **AD#1432**

DINNER AND A MOVIE
Female, 40 yrs, enjoys a glass of wine, dinner, movies, travel, theatre, and seeking seeks non smoking, tall male, who is affectionate and caring. Share laughter, fun and friendship **AD#1021**

LET'S HOOK UP
Engaging bright, fun loving, fit, independent, and attractive female, seeks friendship first with a wonderful man preferably 50+ yrs, athletic, educated and cultured, enjoys conversation, honest and sensitive and secure. If you are tall and dark it's a bonus you'll be happy you made the connection **AD#1073**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Single, 43 yrs, old attractive, athletic, slim and sexy with class, professional, who enjoys tennis, skiing, movies, restaurants going for walks. Seeks similar male, with great personality, cute trustworthy and sincere **AD#1134**

SEXY WITH CLASS
Attractive, professional female, sexy with class, enjoys hiking, biking, tennis, water skiing, long walks, with dog, seeks male with similar interests **AD#1425**

SINGLE FEMALE
43 yrs, 5' 9", brown eyes, attractive, honest sincere, likes sports, dancing, dining movies, seeks active, romantic honest established male, 40-50 yrs of age **AD#1062**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see **AD#1546**

CALL ME
Male, 48 yrs, humourous, good natured friendly, enjoys stock markets, dancing many other things, if interested please leave me a message **AD#1004**

PRICELESS
"Attention bargain shoppers!" Male, reduced for quick sale. Makes an extraordinary gift! Item shelf for 44 yrs. Contents include: Kindness, passion, sincerity, romance, adventure, sense of humour, communication. Product use: Weekend getaways, dancing cheek to cheek, long walks, dinner and movies. Any buyers? **AD#1083**

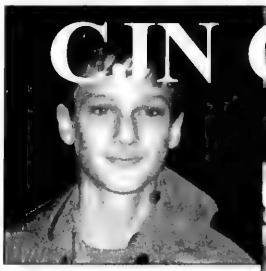
SHY ONE
Shy male, 6' 3", 220 lbs, black hair, brown eyes, seeks 30-40 yrs, who enjoys dancing, playing sports, surfing, the internet, and spending, time with family. If this interest you, get back to me **AD#1108**

DOWN TO EARTH
Single male, 53 yrs, enjoys sports, dining and dancing, long walks, flea markets, antique shows, rides in the country, loves animals, seeks female, 43-45 yrs, weight not important, must enjoy the same interests. **AD#1421**

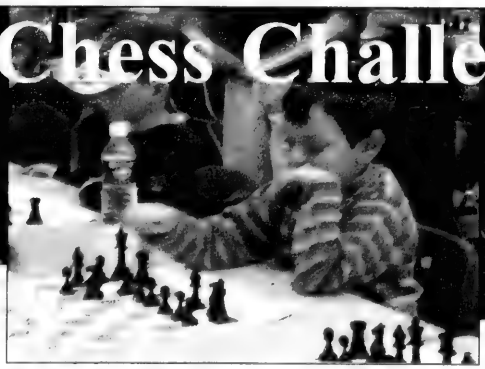
LOVE & LAUGHTER
Grouchy male, 75 yrs, enjoys Florida sunsets, movies, fine food, classical music, social activities, seeks female, attractive, loves to hold hands for companionship **AD#1359**

EASY TO LOOK AT
31 yrs, 5'5", associate producer, lives in central Toronto, brown hair and eyes, down to earth, affectionate, handsome, enjoys dining, movies, outdoors, long drives in the country, flying, gliders, seeks female, 25-33 yrs, down to earth, affectionate, not too hard to look at. **AD#1012**

CJN Chess Challenge Winners



Grade 9 winners: Daniel Abrahams, first place; not shown: Corey Goodman, 2nd place; Dushi Nanasivayam, 3rd place



Kindergarten winners: Colin Kilner, 2nd place; Gilad More, tied for 3rd place; Elliot Kaufman, 1st place; not shown: Alex Shulman, Justin Rother, tied for 3rd place

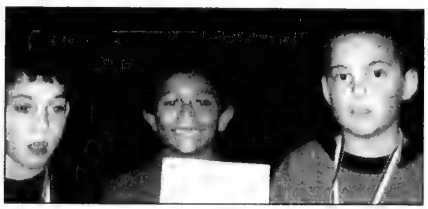
Grade 1 winners: Simon Gladstone, first place; Ariel Kelman, 2nd place; Jared Federman, third place

Grade 12 winners: Ben Rifkind, 2nd place; Matan Kezwer, 1st place; not shown: Nathan Tischler, 3rd place

Grade 10 winners: David Tolnai, 2nd place; Jeremy Miller-Kay, 3rd place; Boaz Rachamim, 1st place

Grade 2 winners: Michael Kleinman, 1st place; Chalini Lankage, Alexander Norris-Roozman, tied for second place

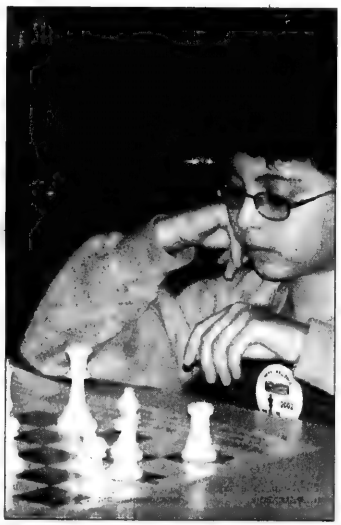
Grade 8 winners: Jonathan Tayar, Dinush Lankage, tied for 2nd place; Nechamia Dukesz, 1st place



Grade 3 winners: Joshuah Tayar, tied for 2nd place; Prasanna Suresh, 1st place; Daniel Andronache, tied for 2nd place

Grade 4 winners: Benny Kogan, tied for 2nd place; Joel Kenny, tied for 2nd place; Vivek Ramesh, tied for 2nd place; Harris Kaufman, 1st place; not shown: Richard Chen, tied for 2nd place

Grade six winners: Tied for first place, Robert Kleinman, Victor Andronache; 3rd place, Matthew Tam



Grade 5 winners: Sashi Lankage, Zachary Dulberg, Mark Sotto, tied for 2nd place; Kevin Chung, 1st place

Grade 7 winners: Martin Ho, 1st place; Cartel Cutler, 2nd place; Joshua Doidge, 3rd place

Photos by Carolyn Blackman

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VIENNA	899	PRAGUE	849	MADRID	709
AMSTERDAM	679	BUDAPEST	869	ROME	699
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Rhythmic gymnast wins club tournament

Gold medal in her age group's level 10 category

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Julia Gurau loves gymnastics and apparently gymnastic judges love her too. At a recent invitational tournament hosted by her home club, Gurau won a gold medal in her age group's level 10 category.

Gurau, 14, finished first in ribbon, and second in both hoops and ball disciplines to assure herself of victory in the Toronto Aspirals Rhythmic Gymnastics Centre's Valentine Classic.

The centre's top senior level 10 competitor, the highest provincial designation, Gurau defeated girls from 10 visiting clubs to claim the medal.

Many of the opposing clubs produce provincial-level gymnasts, said Sima Studin, president and manager of Toronto Aspirals. Gurau, she said, has the grace, elegance and technical skills to make her a top performer.

She has excelled at her sport for several years. In 1999, she won a bronze medal in the provincial championships at level 3. Last year, at the club's first annual Valentine Classic, she finished second.

Gurau "is an extremely charismatic performer," Studin said. "She captures the hearts of the audience and judges.

"She projects a lot of energy from within. She's good technically and she is an extremely hard worker."

Gurau was trained by Anjelika Ternovsky, a veteran coach who has worked with athletes in Russia, Israel and Canada. A Grade 9 student at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), Gurau has been training in rhythmic gymnastics since she was seven years old.

She had tried classes in dance and ballet, but loved rhythmic gymnastics from the start, Gurau said.

What's more, "I love my coach. I love the competition and the feeling you get, the satisfaction if you've done well, that the hard work paid off."

Gurau is dedicated to her sport, training nine to 12 hours per week, while making sure her studies don't suffer. Her favourite event is ribbon. "I really enjoy it. It's graceful and fun to work with," she said.

More than 110 competitors participated in the Valentine Classic, which was timed to coincide with "I Love Gymnastics" week, a special awareness program sponsored by the Ontario Gymnastics Federation.

14-year-old Julia Gurau

UEFA moves soccer game from Israel over terror fears

By ELI SHVIDLER
Ha'aretz Daily News Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Despite frantic last-minute representations by a high-level Israeli delegation last week, European soccer's governing body refused to change its decision to move an important UEFA Cup match from Hapoel Tel Aviv's home grounds. Hapoel had been scheduled to host AC Milan on March 14 in the first leg of a home-and-home affair.

The UEFA decision last week followed the terrorist attack on the Sea Food restaurant in Tel Aviv where two Hapoel players, Yossi Abuksis and Assi Domb, were dining when the gunman struck. Both men escaped unscathed.

The European body said that with the terrorists hitting so close to where AC Milan would be staying and playing, it could not allow the team, or any other foreign team in any competition, to travel to Israel in the foreseeable future.

Sports Minister Matan Vilnai led a delegation to Geneva to try to persuade UEFA chief executive Gerhard Aigner that he would personally vouch for the safety of the team. Vilnai was accompanied by Rafi Agiv of Hapoel Tel Aviv and other officials, but Aigner was unmoved.

"We have listened to the delegation and the minister and we haven't heard anything we haven't heard before," Aigner said. "Nothing has changed and there are no new elements. They [the Israeli authorities] gave us their arguments about why the match should be played in Israel, but we stand by [the] decision, which was final."

The ruling means the UEFA Cup quarter-final match will have to be played at a neutral venue, possibly Cyprus.

'Capitulating to terrorists'

"We appreciate them seeing us, but we're disappointed the decision has not been changed," Vilnai said. "The government of Israel can guarantee that every team that comes to our country is safe and no player will ever be harmed."

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres both spoke to Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, who is also president of AC Milan, in a bid to convince the Italian side the game should go on as originally scheduled.

Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said UEFA's decision was wrong and dangerous, saying imposing a ban meant "capitulating to terrorists."

Berlusconi told Sharon in a phone conversation that Italian team AC Milan wanted to play in Israel and added he would do all he could to reverse the decision.

Meanwhile, the military wing of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization, the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, announced prior to UEFA's final decision that if the soccer body reversed itself, the organization would carry out an attack "in connection to the game."

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ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

כל התקוות, מחשבות על זהות ישראלית מאת: עמוס עוז

"מדינת ישראל היא בעצם לא מדינה, לא חברה, לא עם - היא אוסף של נימוקים" כותב עמוס עוז. הנימוקים הללו מתעצמים והשסע בזהות הישראלית מתחדד; שמאל וימין, חרדים וחילוניים, מזרחיים ואשכנזים. אבל אומר עוז, יש במתחים האלה משהו פורה; פה בארץ חמדת אבות כל פלגי הציונות. הימין צודק בחלק מהחרדות הקיומיות אך הימין לא צודק במסקנות המוצעות. הימין גם סובל ממה שעוז מכנה "ציוויליזציה של לא יעלה על הדעת". כדוגמת לא יעלה על הדעת שבארץ ישראל, נחלת אבותינו לא נוכל לנוע בחופשיות בכל מקום. אך זו המציאות; אין אנו יכולים לנוע לגמרי בחופשיות בנחלת אבותינו וכדאי שזה כן יעלה על הדעת. השמאל לעומת זאת טועה ב"סכמטיות צדקנית" שרואה את הפלסטינים כקורבנות ואותנו כרעים ממערבון פרוע. זוהי עמדה שמתעלמת מהקואות המרושעת שבתנועה הלאומית הפלסטינית שהטביעה את כולנו, ערבים ויהודים בנחלי דם.

השאלה איננה מי אשם אומר עוז אלא "איך נחיה ולא נמות". השלום נועד לא לבקש מחילה אלא למנוע את סבל המחר. הצורך בפשרה נובע מעובדות פשוטות; לנו יש מדינה, לפלסטינים מחנות. לנו עצמאות ולהם חיי השפלה תחת כיבוש. אפשר לחשוב שבזכות התורה שאיפות לאומיות ואולי משיח אנחנו בני אנוש יותר חשובים ואת הערבי אפשר להרגיל להיות חוטב עצים ושואב מים מאושר. "אי-אפשר לעקור את הטרור בלי לעקור את הייאוש. פצע לא מרפאים בזבנג. אפילו הליכוד לא יכול."

עמוס עוז נעזר בתלמוד המצביע על מתח מסוים בין צדק לשלום. התלמוד ממליץ על גישה מעשית: "והלא במקום שיש משפט - אין שלום, ובמקום שיש שלום - אין משפט, אלא איזהו משפט שיש בו שלום? הווי אומר: זה ביצוע" (סנהדרין ו, ע"ב). "ביצוע" משמע חלוקה- פשרה.

כאמור, עוז דן בשסע החברתי ההולך וגובר במדינה אלא שאין הוא רואה זאת תמיד בשלילה. עניינו של חתן פרס ישראל הוא ביכויות האדם - יהודים וערבים. אכן, במקרה הטוב אומר עוז, כאשר "נגמור את הקטטה עם הערבים ויהיה שלום, תמשיך להתפתח בארץ חברה ים תיכונית מובחקת, לטוב ולרע."

ומה תפקיד הסופר בכל זה? האם הסופרים והמשוררים הם הצופים לבית ישראל? בזכות מה הבנתו של הסופר גדולה יותר מזו של הסנדלר, הזגג, הרופא או חבר הכנסת? בת-קול אין הסופרים שומעים והנבואה נסתלקה לה. ובכל זאת יש לסופרים יתרון המקנה להם מידה מסויימת של רגישות יתר והיתרון הוא העיסוק בשפה. המגע האינטימי עם השפה מעניק יתרון של בקיאות והבנת יתר. "סופרים מחזיקים אפוא ב"ביזיון" הדרוש להם לשמש מגלי עין של הלשון, אם לא מכבי אש. הם העשויים לרחרח ראשונים ביטויים המבטלים את אנושיותם של בני אדם ומכאן חובתם המוטרית לצעוק ישריפתי כשהריח עולה באפם." כן, עמוס עוז מאמין שמחובתנו, כסופר לעשות הכל לקדם את השלום. הוא יודע שמתאתו לא תשנה את העולם; גם הנביאים לא הצליחו לשנות את מציאות זמנם. הגנת הלשון, הלוחמה בנטייה לסגוד לאלימות מילולית לא תשנה מהלכים היסטוריים - אך יש בכוחה לקדם פתיחות יצירתית לשלום.

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GEFILTE FISH DIP

1 1/2 tblsp. white horseradish
1 pint gefilte fish
1 tsp. lemon juice
dash pepper
8 oz. cream cheese, softened
1/2 tblsp. salt

Drain fish and mash with fork. Add remaining ingredients and stir well. Chill. Serve with matzo crackers as an appetizer or cocktail.

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About Food

During Passover, it is forbidden to eat chametz (leavened products) containing wheat, barley, oats, rye or spelt. Ashkenazi (European) Jews do not eat kitniyot (beans, peas, lentils, corn, rice or soy products.) Many Sephardi Jews eat legumes and rice, but only after checking them grain by grain to be sure they contain no foreign materials. Some Jews will not eat "gebrocks;" i.e., foods containing matzah and its derivatives (cake meal, matzah meal, farfel) that are combined with liquid. Fresh fruits, herbs and most vegetables are kosher for Passover. Here are two easy vegetarian dishes that everyone can enjoy!

Helene Feldman of Toronto shared this luscious recipe with me which she adapted from *The Barefoot Contessa* by Ina Garten. Helene adds more eggplant, red pepper and onion. This makes a larger quantity and reduces the amount of fat per serving.

ROASTED EGGPLANT SPREAD, HELENE'S WAY

2 medium eggplants, peeled
3 red bell peppers, seeded
1 large or 2 medium red onions, peeled
2 garlic cloves, minced
3 tbsp. good-quality olive oil
1½ tsp. kosher salt
½ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
1 tbsp. tomato paste

Preheat oven to 400. Cut eggplant, bell peppers and onions into 1-inch cubes. Toss them in a large bowl with garlic, olive oil, salt and pepper. Spread them on a baking sheet. Roast for 45 minutes, until the vegetables are lightly browned and soft, tossing once during cooking. Cool slightly.

Place the vegetables in a food processor fitted with steel blade; add tomato paste and pulse 3 or 4 times to blend. Taste for salt and pepper. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

Diane Plant, a Toronto real estate agent, plans to serve this easy, elegant side dish at her Passover seder. This colourful dish goes well with roast chicken or turkey. This recipe comes from *The Complete Passover Cookbook* by Frances R. Avrutick. Enjoy.

DIANE'S PEACH POTATO PUFFS

2 cups mashed sweet potatoes
1 tsp. lemon juice
2 tbsp. brown sugar
¼ tsp. salt
dash of ginger
2 tbsp. margarine, softened
6 canned peach halves
margarine

Preheat oven to 400. In a medium-sized bowl, combine the sweet potatoes, lemon juice, brown sugar, salt, dash of ginger and margarine. Whip until fluffy. Pile some of potato mixture into each peach half. Arrange the filled peach halves in a greased 6 x 10-inch baking pan. Dot with additional margarine. Bake for 20 minutes. Makes 6 servings.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

The Canadian Jewish News CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 66.)

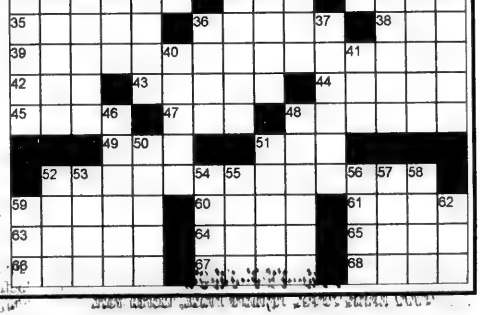
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Madeline who passed away in December 1999
5 Valuable rocks
9 Take on an orphan
14 It goes well with milk
15 *Metamorphoses* author
16 Blake of music
17 Fit and trim
18 "La ___ Loca"
19 "Can ___ you a hand?"
20 Barbra Streisand album of 1999
23 They get a lot of mail in Apr.
24 He's meshugga
25 Strong judge
29 Test Kaplan can help with
31 Nazi who was Spandau Prison's only inmate
35 Subject of a recent Nora Ephron film
36 Turns (away)
38 Amazement
39 Winona Ryder film of 2000
42 George Burns's topped 100
43 Unlike the Bronfmans
44 Fodor's offering
45 ___ Tribes
47 Good times
48 Koufax foe
49 Middle East nat.
51 Be human, maybe
52 1983 Philip Roth novel, with "The"
59 Blazing
60 Goldman or Thompson
61 "Pardon me!"
63 Bochco show
64 Women
65 Bring on board
66 Mike Wallace, Nina Totenberg, etc.
67 Former Senator Gary
68 Be foreboding

Down

1 ___ *Nidre*
2 Field of expertise
3 "Physician, ___ thyself"
4 Taboo act
5 Sit in the Knesset
6 Fascism, racism, etc.
7 Skirt length
8 Home state of Tom Brokaw: abbr.
9 Letters that wouldn't be written in Hebrew
10 Hometown of Bob Dylan
11 Upper, to Einstein
12 "___ and Needles" (1962 Streisand Album)
13 Koppel or Knight
21 Yehudi Menuhin's specialty
22 ___ *Whining* (Fran Drescher book)
25 Sculptor George
26 Sephardic pal
27 Mature female horses
28 Part of RSVP
30 Lawnmower storage spots
30 Light
32 "Weird Al" Yankovic parody
33 Raoul Wallenberg, notably
34 It's usually eaten in April
36 Part of a process
37 Makes sweeter
40 Brainy beginning
41 "___ me down!"
46 Royal headwear
48 With "The," 1972 Philip Roth novel
50 Gets madder and madder
51 Movie score composer Bernstein
52 In the distance
53 Banks of Cairo?
54 Stocking material
55 There's one on 92nd St. in New York
56 Montreal-born funnyman
57 Gloria Steinem's home state
58 Infamous fiddler
59 European peak
62 Hebrew letter that means "water"



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Mount Sinai Hospital Scientists continue to be recognized as scientific leaders

Mount Sinai Hospital Scientists continue to make important and exciting contributions to health research, furthering the international reputation of the Samuel Lunenfeld Research Institute (SLRI) as one of the world's preeminent centres for biomedical research. Three recent publications in prestigious international journals highlight the innovative research being conducted at the Lunenfeld in the exciting fields of proteomics and bioinformatics.

Lunenfeld investigators Drs. Tony Pawson and Mike Tyers have identified a way in which our cells are regulated when genetic material (DNA) is duplicated. This work, published in the November 2001 issue of *Nature*, describes how a protein can create an on-off switch in the cell, essentially telling the cell to replicate or not to replicate its DNA. "Malfunctioning of master switches is implicated in cancer", explains Dr. Pawson. "And these findings shed new light on the circuitry that these switches control."

A second paper published in *Nature* (January 2002) highlights an exciting discovery of how proteins are assembled. In collaboration with MDS Proteomics, SLRI Investigators Drs. Hogue, Pawson, Durocher, and Tyers have used a free public database called BIND (created at the Lunenfeld by Dr. Hogue and Gary Bader) to identify how molecules interact with one another. Understanding these interactions will ultimately result in new drug targets to fight human diseases such as cancer.

Work in the laboratories of Drs. Pawson and Sicheri by graduate student Leanne Wybenga-Groot was recently published in the journal *Cell*. The article describes the exciting discovery of solving the structure of a protein, called EphB2, a molecule that is known to be active in colon cancer. This work revealed how a particular part of the EphB2 protein, called the juxtamembrane region, is responsible for turning the protein on or off. This discovery may lead to new drug targets that would 'turn off' the EphB2 protein in diseases known to have high activity, such as colon cancer.

"Publication in these high quality journals is a testament to the excellence of the science being undertaken at the SLRI", says Dr. Stephen Lye, Acting Director. "We should all be proud of these outstanding achievements."

Don't miss our upcoming events...

Body 'N Soul Gala - April 13 at Le Parc, in support of Colorectal Cancer Research at Mount Sinai Hospital. Thank you to our sponsors, ***Pharmacia Oncology, Roche Oncology, Sanofi-Synthelabo Oncology,*** and ***Commerce Press.***

Pacific Bridge Gala Dinner - April 21 at The Four Seasons Hotel, in support of Chinese patient programs and research at Mount Sinai Hospital. Thank you to our confirmed sponsors, ***Firm Capital, CIBC World Markets, Equitable Trust,*** and ***Para Inc.***

Mount Sinai Classic Golf Tournament - June 13 at Angus Glen Golf Club, in support of the Leadership Sinai Chair in surgery and ATC. Almost sold out, so please reserve your participation today! Thank you to our confirmed sponsors, ***Equitable Trust, Scotiabank,*** and ***Nike.***

Henry's Tournament Fore Health - August 12 at The Board of Trade, Country Club, in support of the Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre. Registration has begun, so please reserve your spot for this popular event today! Thank you to our sponsors, ***Henry's Camera, Scotiabank, Unilever, IBM, Brampton Brick, Iceberg Vodka,*** and ***Druxy's.***

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MOUNT SINAI HOSPITAL — HEALTHY LIVING

News Flash: It's Not All About Hot Flashes

Menopause Demystified

Date: Tuesday, March 19, 2002
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: Leah Posluns Theatre
Bathurst Jewish Community Centre
4588 Bathurst Street

In fact, not all women experience hot flashes. How menopause affects each woman is as individual as she is.

Join us for an informative and enlightening evening as three leading experts will: discuss the physical aspects of menopause, explain some of the hormonal therapies and treatments available, and look at menopause in a social, cultural, and psychological context.

Featured Speakers
Dr. Wendy Wolfman
Co-Director, Menopause Unit, Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Mount Sinai Hospital

Dr. Heather Shapiro
Co-Director, Menopause Unit, Lawrence and Frances Bloomberg, Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Mount Sinai Hospital

Gail Weiser
Clinical Program Specialist for Midlife and Older Women and Menopause Education, Toronto Brock and Women's College Health Sciences Centre

Moderator: Lorne Sunberg, CBC Newsworld

To register for the free lecture, please call 416-586-8338 or register online at: www.mtsinai.on.ca/healthyliving

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The Canadian Jewish news

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This Week

National

Community pitches in after synagogue fire. ***Page 3***

Budget cuts are hurting home care. ***Page 5***

On Campus

Arts festival brings colour to winter days. ***Page 37***

Health & Lifestyle

Helping bereaved Jewish families at Pesach. ***Page 53***

Arts & Travel

Play combines humour and violence. ***Page 56***

Canadian homecoming for Mayumana dancer. ***Page 57***

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Prayer vigil in Jerusalem

A special day of prayer and fast on behalf of Israel was declared last week for Jews around the world. At the Kotel in Jerusalem, chief rabbis Yisrael Meir Lau, right, and Eliyahu Bakshi-Doron, beside him, led the prayers. Rabbi Lau's prayer began: "Master of the Universe... gaze down from heaven and see the victims of burning hatred in Your world, hear the cry of those hurt by terror wherever they may be, visit Your mercy upon those who have lost their loved ones who have risen to the heavens in a fiery storm of loathing, abhorrence and hatred which threatens the peace of the world and its inhabitants." ***Please see related story on page 5.*** ***[Israel photo]***

Canada's foreign minister heading to Middle East

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Fresh from his speech this month before the annual Canada-Israel Committee policy conference, where he rebuked Israel for "compromising" its image in the current Mideast turmoil, Foreign Affairs Bill Graham is planning a trip to the Middle East, including Israel.

The CJN learned last week that Graham is planning a Middle East swing through several countries some time next month.

"We're still looking at dates. There's no precise itinerary," Foreign Affairs spokesperson Carl Schwenger told *The CJN*. "It's still being worked on." But if the trip is on, Graham will definitely go to Israel and the Palestinian areas, Schwenger said.

With this trip, the cabinet minister, who was appointed in January, would make the Middle East high on his agenda. So far, Graham has made official visits to the United States, Europe and Mexico.

"I welcome it," remarked CIC national chair Joseph Wilder, who had defended Israel before the media following Graham's speech to the policy luncheon. "I see it as a fact-finding mission and to get acquainted."

The trip should be fairly "typical and predictable," said CIC national executive director Shimon Fogel. "He's anxious to go and get a direct handle on what's going on."

Continued on page 21

HOMECOMING: Una Holbrook, 31, returns to Canada, where she grew up, as part of the Israeli performing troupe Mayumana. The show runs in Toronto, April 2 to 14. ***See story on page 57.*** ***[Israel photo]***

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat Hagadol: Tzav
Candlelighting: 6:13
Havdallah: 7:18

U.S. faces a Damascus dilemma — please see page 51

The News In Brief

CANADA

Web Myth Debunked

TORONTO — A trio of Jewish groups is debunking an Internet myth that claimed Fuji Heavy Industries Ltd. was distributing a world map that ignored Israel. The Internet story called on readers to boycott Fuji film and its automotive division, which produces Subaru cars. Canadian Jewish Congress reported that the U.S.-based Jewish Council for Public Affairs and the Anti-Defamation League determined that Fuji did not publish or distribute the map in question. Furthermore, the Internet letter confused Fuji Heavy Industries and the film producer, which are two separate companies.

ISRAEL

Wedding Hall Tragedy

JERUSALEM — A panel investigating last year's wedding hall collapse here has recommended compensation for the families of the 23 people killed in the disaster. The panel recommended a one-time payment of about $17,400 (US) to each family and about $21,700 for families that lost more than one member. The recommendations must be approved by a parliamentary committee. Along with the 23 killed, more than 200 were injured when a dance floor in the hall collapsed onto floors below. The builders and owners of the hall received jail terms after it was determined that shoddy construction methods were at fault.

Nazi Comparison

JERUSALEM — Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has claimed that Israel tattooed numbers on the arms of Palestinians the army rounded up in refugee camps. "Is that not what they say the Nazis did to the Jews?" Arafat told Abu Dhabi television. The army denied the allegation, saying Palestinians detained in Tulkarm had been given numbers to facilitate their questioning, but that these were written on their arms in ink that would wash off.

Jewish Scientists Unite

JERUSALEM — A new group wants to promote scientific research on issues affecting world Jewry and Israel. The World Congress of Jewish Scientists hopes to encourage interdisciplinary initiatives in genetics, energy, water studies and computer science. The group, which is forming in Israel this week, wants to hold master classes for top scientists and create a museum highlighting the contributions of Jewish scientists. The Jewish Agency for Israel is behind the group's formation.

WORLD

Farrakhan Ban

LONDON — British officials are seeking to maintain a ban preventing Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan from entering the country. The officials claimed before an appeals court last week that a Farrakhan visit could stir up racial tension. Farrakhan was banned in 1986 after Britain said he had expressed views that were racist and anti-Semitic. But last July, the ban was overturned by London's High Court.

Bulgarians Remember

SOFIA — Bulgarian President Georgi Parvanov joined hundreds of Jews here last week to commemorate the refusal of the citizens to send Jews to the Nazi death camps. The event marked the 59th anniversary of the day when ordinary Bulgarians, led by politicians and clergy, protested and effectively prevented the deportation of some 8,500 Jews who had been rounded up by Germans in the city of Plovdiv.

Cantor Charged

NEW YORK — A local cantor turned himself in last week to face charges that he sexually molested his nephew. Howard Nevison of Temple Emanu-El is accused of abusing his nephew at least three times during visits to the boy's Philadelphia home. A judge is slated to hear preliminary evidence this week. Nevison's lawyers say he plans to contest the charges.

McSettlement

NEW YORK — Some kosher groups may receive money from McDonald's Restaurants as part of an apology from the American fast food company for not disclosing that it used beef tallow in its french-fry oil. The main recipients of the reported $10 million (US) settlement will be groups representing vegetarians. Children's nutrition groups, as well as those representing Hindus and Sikhs, will also receive some of the money.

Former Mayor Dead

CAPE TOWN — A former mayor of Johannesburg who was active in the Jewish community was found dead March 7 in a hotel room on the outskirts of the city. David Neppe is believed to have committed suicide, police said. Neppe, 56, succeeded his father, Max, as mayor of Johannesburg.

New Group Formed

MOSCOW — A new group has been formed to represent Jews in the former Soviet Union, Asia and Australia. The group, known as the Euro-Asian Jewish Congress, is affiliated with the World Jewish Congress. Alexander Mashkevich, a Kazakh billionaire, is the new group's president.

Cotler's Counter-terror Principles

OTTAWA — Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler rose in the House of Commons last week on the six-month anniversary of Sept. 11 to "recall and reaffirm" the principles of counter-terrorism law and policy. Cotler's six principles are:

- "Terrorism can never be justified;"
- "The transnational networks of super-terrorists – with access to weapons of mass destruction – constitute an existential threat to the right to life, liberty and the security of the person;"
- "Freedom from acts of terror – freedom from fear of terror – constitute a cornerstone of human security. In the words of the prime minister, 'there is nothing in our experience that can capture the fear that Israelis live with every hour of every day;'"
- "There can be no moral equivalence or similitude between terrorism and counter-terrorism – between deliberate acts of terror against civilians, and acts of self-defense against terrorists;"
- "Support and sanctuary for groups responsible for terrorism, as the foreign minister put it, is 'unacceptable;' "
- "Counter-terrorism must always comport with human rights and humanitarian norms."

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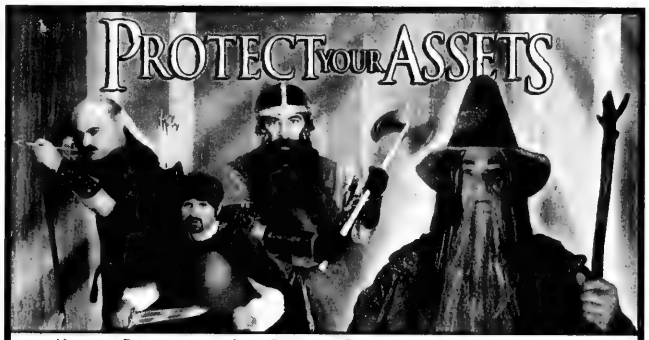

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Community pitches in to help Anshei Minsk

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The stale, musty odour of burned wood mixed with wet paper and aged book bindings strikes you as you descend into the basement of the Anshei Minsk Synagogue.

Books and individual pages lie strewn in boxes, placed there after they were collected from the synagogue's front steps, where they had been left by firefighters trying to save them from an early-morning fire on March 11.

As you climb the stairs to the shul's upper balcony, where an unknown arsonist set boxes of the holy books alight, the sharp smell of a wood fire becomes dominant.

The books had been stored in boxes below and on top of wooden pews in the shul's upper section, on the south side of the building facing St. Andrew Street in Kensington Market.

The benches are charred black and the wall and ceiling above are discoloured from fire and smoke damage. Initial estimates of the damage were conservatively put at $100,000, but Rabbi Shmuel Spero, the shul's spiritual leader, believes it's much more. And, he said, it could have been far worse.

A fire officer speculated that had the fire been set the night before, when strong winds ripped through the city, or had the fire burned for another 15 minutes before emergency services were notified, the blaze might have spread to the roof and caused it to collapse onto the sanctuary below. If that had happened, the damage would have been massive.

Congress spokesperson Len Rudner and Rabbi Spero said it appears the perpetrator entered the building on the upper, balcony level through a fire escape.

Det. James Hogan of the police Hate Crime Unit, said District 14 police investigators inspected the premises looking for clues as to the perpetrator's motivation.

They found nothing to indicate it was anything more than a simple break and enter and arson. "We're not treating it as a hate crime," Hogan said. "There is no indication of a hate motivation. There is no graffiti, no desecration, no messages."

Continued on page 13

Holy books, damaged by fire and water, lie on the front steps of the Anshei Minsk synagogue in Toronto. [Bruce Kurta photo]

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Two new Haggadot

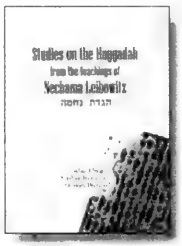
The Encyclopedia Judaica records, "Since the 15th century, the Haggadah has had more than 2,700 editions, either with or without commentaries.

"Through the generations, the Passover Haggadah has been one of the most popular works – perhaps the most popular – in Jewish religious literature."

Since the encyclopedia was published in 1973, hundreds more editions of the Haggadah have probably appeared. With Passover less than a week away, I bring to readers' attention two new Haggadot that recently came across my desk.

* * *

The *Hagadat Nechama: Studies on the Haggadah from the Teachings of Nechama Leibowitz*, edited by Rabbis Yitshak Reiner and Shmuel Peerless, is a special treasure.



Nechama Leibowitz was one of the most beloved, most revered, most widely influential Torah scholars and teachers of the past century.

Born in Latvia in 1905, she moved to Israel in her mid-20s; she lived there – never departing – until her death in 1997. Her students number in the thousands and have themselves perpetuated their teacher's teachings and approach to Torah study specifically and to pedagogy generally throughout the world.

Leibowitz's teaching style, perhaps best described as aggressive Socratic, was based on the principle of "active learning," as the editors of this Haggadah termed it. She had deep respect for her students, who hailed from every walk and stratum of life. She challenged them to dig ever deeper into the text, to probe past the surface, to awaken a quiescent curiosity in the life-affirming search for greater personal meaning and insight into the Torah's Divine instruction.

For more than 30 years, Leibowitz prepared weekly *gilyonot*, study sheets, on the weekly Torah portion. Rabbis Reiner and Peerless have collected, from Leibowitz's gilyonot and from some of her other writings, questions relating to the narratives in the Passover seder, organizing the material according to the prescribed formula of the seder.

The editors provide readers with Leibowitz's commentary, her questions and even some suggested answers through to the Maggid portion of the seder, that is, until the start of the festive meal.

The last entry of commentary before the meal is typical of the level of the discussion throughout the Haggadah.

"The performance of the seder, including the engaging [in] discussion and analysis of the Exodus, is designed to have us relive the liberation from Egypt annually. This experience engenders both an ethical imperative and a theological imperative. Nechama related to both in her studies in Shemot."

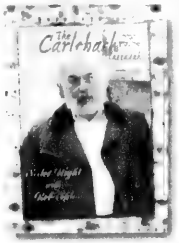
The editors then provide examples of both these imperatives and conclude their commentary with these lofty notions, the last ones on the page.

Like a key that unlocks the door to a room of buried treasure, *Hagadat Nechama* enables the reader to touch, as if holding in her hand, newer, more shining and beautiful jewels of understanding into the paradigmatic learning experience we call the Passover seder.

The Carlebach Haggadah: Seder Night with Reb Shlomo by Yitz R., C. Stefansky and Chesed LiShlomo Foundation provides a totally different Pesach experience.

Whereas Leibowitz's Haggadah challenges the mind, Carlebach's Haggadah stirs the emotions.

As described on the Haggadah's jacket cover, "The editors, veteran yeshiva students and disciples of Reb Shlomo... devoted great effort into collecting teachings, thoughts and stories from live recordings and first hand recollections... drawn from Reb Shlomo's concerts, shiurim, mass kumsitz sessions and his holiday celebrations over the course of many years."



The annotations, arranged thematically, according to the corresponding subject in the order of the seder, are anecdotes and *mashals*, homilies, recounted in the signature style of Reb Shlomo, that of a Chassid – and in his unique case, with a hauntingly evocative sense of music and passion – spinning morality folk yarns. The stories reach the heart.

But less than elaborating upon the text of the seder, Carlebach's Haggadah helps to achieve an atmosphere for the retelling – and reliving – of the Exodus.

Both Haggadot are published by Urim Publications. Their Web site is: www.UrimPublications.com.

—MBD

SeeJN

TRANS-GENERATIONAL GENEROSITY; Shira Lipner's Grade 1 students at Associated Hebrew Schools recently made more than 100 packages of food and snacks to give to her husband, Rabbi Rafi Lipner, who, together with his students at CHAT, delivered them to seniors at Baycrest Terrace.

Budget cuts seen hurting home care for seniors

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Daphne Doak is frustrated and angry and doesn't know what to do about it.

The vice-president of client services at Circle of Care said she feels helpless as she watches clients at her agency, among the largest providers of home-care services in the province, have their home care drastically cut.

"These people have little choice. They either live at risk in their own home, or they have to consider a nursing home," says Doak.

Services have been cut, she said, since community care access centres (CCACs) – set up by the province about six years ago to provide information and referral, case management, in-home services and placement co-ordination – were no longer allowed to run a deficit.

"To stay within their budget, which just doesn't accommodate the rising cost in services year after year, [the CCACs] had to make cuts."

Services affected include nursing care, provision of medical equipment, and personal support and homemaking.

Sonia Ranieri, manager of home support services at Circle of Care, said people are forced to depend on their family, or they "fall through the cracks. Once we lose track of them, they are no longer part of home care."

She said if clients "don't speak English and they don't understand the system, then their needs will not be met."

CCACs have "a certain pot of money, and they have had to make difficult decisions in order to reach the maximum number of people."

To lobby for increased funding, a multicultural coalition was recently formed by Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and includes such groups as the Italian National Congress, the Portuguese Congress, the Armenian community, the Hellenic community, the Islamic Society of North America and the Catholic Church.

Called Communities for Home Health Care, the coalition recently held a forum at the Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living to allow seniors and caregivers to voice their concerns.

The coalition wants the province to restore a 1998 commitment to increase its annual home health care expenditures by $550 million, to be phased in over six years. Increases to the home-care budget have been frozen at $275 million.

Leslie Siegal, Circle of Care's home support co-ordinator, said in an interview that she sees many people who "sit alone day after day in their apartment. This is what happens when home care is cut."

Helen Friedman (not her real name), 82, a client of Circle of Care, has not left her apartment in two years because she has vertigo and is afraid of falling.

In the past several months, Friedman said, her home care has been cut from seven hours a week to one hour.

"It was a gradual reduction. Each week I would lose a day. Before, someone would come in every morning and help me get up. I would get a shower twice a week."

Her children visit her and bring her food, she says, and her son comes to put her to sleep at night "but they are working and they're busy.

"When someone came every day, I had a visit. I had something to look forward to. It was a positive way to get my day started. Now, I wake up alone, and I'm alone most of the day."

Friedman, who came from Russia 27 years ago, said she does not blame the workers. "It is the government; it has cut and cut and cut, and seniors are suffering. When I came from Russia, I kissed Canadian ground. Now, things are looking down."

Michael Scheinert, president and CEO of Circle of Care, told the Betel Centre forum that home care, which has a labour force that consists of 99 per cent women, is an industry that is "predominantly without a voice. There is no powerful board of directors; there are no spokespeople, there is no glitz or high-level technology, and there are no huge buildings.

"It barely registers on the Richter scale," Scheinert said.

Paula Mintzberg, at-home respite care program co-ordinator at the Betel Centre and a registered nurse with experience in private duty and palliative-care nursing, asked people to imagine spending $30 for a nap. "That's what some caregivers have to spend in order to get some respite care."

More than four years ago, she said, the Betel Centre established her program in order to provide respite care for senior caregivers.

"Since then, the need has become greater. Some clients who had been entitled to four hours a week of home care have been cut back to 45 minutes a week. Through the volunteer program, we have been able to brighten the lives of many people."

Doak said, however, that depending on volunteers is a "bandage solution."

Ranieri said it is also frustrating for the home care workers. "Many stay beyond their time, but that is unauthorized time. There is a lot of worker dissatisfaction, because they can only do so much."

From her perspective, Ranieri said, co-ordinating the workers is a scheduling nightmare because they spend only one hour with each client.

Community prays for peace in Israel

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Black hats mixed with the knitted kippot of Mizrachi as nearly 800 men and women came together last week at Torath Emeth congregation to pray for peace in Israel.

The event was part of a worldwide voluntary fast and Yom Kippur Katan commemoration called by the chief rabbinate of Israel. It was followed by a number of rabbinical associations, including the Vaad Harabanim of Greater Toronto, several in the United States and the chief rabbinate of Great Britain.

The day before every rosh chodesh is considered Yom Kippur Katan, literally, the small Yom Kippur. Through the ages, it has been considered a day of prayer and, often, fasting.

The Israeli chief rabbinate thought it would be a good opportunity for Jews all over the world to come together to fast and pray to God for peace.

Rabbi Mordechai Ochs, spiritual leader of Torath Emeth, said Jews have always sought refuge in God from the terrible things that have befallen them. Our vengeance, including what is happening in Israel now, is not in shedding blood, he said. Rather, "prayer, mitzvot and good deeds will impel God to make His glory known through the world.

"That is our vengeance."

He called the service an opportunity for everyone to take personal stock of themselves, "especially in what comes out of our mouths. We must sanctify our instrument of communication."

Through services such as the one in Toronto and others on the same day elsewhere the world, including at the Kotel in Jerusalem, "our combined words will pierce the heavens," Rabbi Ochs said.

In addition to the regular Minchah and Maariv services, psalms were recited, as was a Torah portion that is traditionally read on a communal fast day. The service ended with Selichot, prayers asking for God's help and compassion.

Mizrachi executive director Jerry Tepperman said he was encouraged to see so many young people at the service, including some from Bais Yaakov and Tiferet Bais Yaakov, as well as the Bnei Akiva high schools, Ulpanat Orot and Or Chaim.

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SIDDUR CEREMONY
Grade one students at United Synagogue Day School, Bathurst campus, recently celebrated their siddur ceremony with family and friends.

Fromm dismissal upheld

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A labour arbitration panel has rejected a union grievance filed on behalf of former teacher Paul Fromm, upholding his 1997 dismissal for consorting with known racists.

In a 2-1 decision, the tribunal ruled that restrictions on Fromm's Charter rights to free speech and free association were justifiable given his position as a role model and mentor in the education system.

The ruling said Fromm, who taught with the Peel Board of Education, "conducted himself in a manner that had as a reasonable and probable consequence the undermining of public confidence in the ability of the Board to provide all of its students a school system free from bias, prejudice and intolerance."

Furthermore, despite being cautioned against such activity by the board, Fromm "continued to publicly consort with known racists, to publicly make racist comment and to publicly speak in favour of known racists... We have further found this conduct, which called into question the employer's (school board's) commitment to its multiculturalism policy, a policy reflective of the community it serves and the values enshrined in the Charter, contributed to a poisoned environment."

The tribunal's union representative dissented, saying the "burden of establishing that substantial harm exists and that the least intrusive measures have been chosen to remedy that harm" had not been met by the evidence.

Bernie Farber, executive-director of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region, said the decision builds on the legal precedents set in the Jim Keegstra and Malcolm Ross cases, which both dealt with teacher conduct. (Keegstra was found guilty of promoting hatred of Jews in his Alberta classroom, while Ross lost his job as a Moncton, N.B., teacher for publishing anti-Semitic material outside the classroom.)

Farber said the Fromm decision spells out the public's expectations of teachers, to whom parents entrust their children's education. "Parents must know that their kids will be treated with dignity and respect." With Fromm teaching, that would be in doubt, Farber said. If teachers "make common cause with racists, they have no right to teach," and in terms of teachers' public conduct, the tribunal has rightfully set the bar high, he added.

Fromm said he would appeal the ruling in court, but Dominic Bellisimo, duty officer with the Ontario Secondary Schools Teachers Federation (OSSTF), the union that grieved the dismissal, said the decision whether to seek a judicial review is out of Fromm's hands.

At this point, "the bargaining agent [the union] owns the grievance," Bellisimo said, adding the OSSTF has not decided on a course of action.

Fromm first landed in hot water with the Peel board in 1993, when it learned that in 1990 he attended a rally organized by the white supremacist Heritage Front and a year later attended a celebration of Hitler's birthday.

In 1993, the board cautioned him against further associations with racist groups. Despite the warning, Fromm attended an Illinois rally organized by the extremist National Alliance. He also attended a symposium in British Columbia attended by "individuals referred to as racists," the tribunal found.

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Hatred's new vehicle

Eighteen months ago, Yasser Arafat unleashed war upon the people of Israel. He correctly calculated that Israel would choose to defend its citizens, thereby creating a new storehouse of intifadah images broadcast around the world – of bloodshed, of tanks against guns, of soldiers against boys, of Palestinian victimhood – to replace the weathered, less violent images of intifadah of more than a decade ago.

But with the new generation of images of Palestinian victimhood has come a new generation of reiterated images of medieval anti-Semitism. It is a persistently ugly strain whose virulence has jumped from the Middle East to Africa and appears now to be infecting Europe as well.

From the very outset, Arafat's Al-Aqsa war was blessed by local Palestinian clerics who urged their followers to "kill Jews wherever they found them." These exhortations, alas, were the logical theological conclusions to the lessons taught to Palestinian children in Palestinian schools.

These genocidal catechisms were given clever, but nevertheless transparent, camouflage, and, unbelievably, institutional sanction at the UN Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa, last fall.

Recently, in the government-controlled, strictly monitored press of Saudi Arabia, a teacher from King Faysal University published an account of Jewish bloodletting of Muslim and Christian children to make cakes for the celebration of Purim. It was a grisly, gruesome, ignorant trip backwards in time and intellect to the foulest, darkest days of medieval Europe.

For months, we have been reading accounts of increased incidents of anti-Semitism in France directed against Jewish institutions and even against schoolchildren. Now, there are alarming reports of a vigorous, vicious campaign of anti-Semitism in Britain as well. It is spearheaded by Arab and pro-Palestinian organizations and a cadre of willing volunteers. According to reports in *Ha'aretz*, British university campuses are one of the campaign's most active battlegrounds.

At Oxford University recently, American professor, Joseph Massad, delivered a lecture titled On Zionism and Jewish Supremacy, in which he hectored that "the Jews are not a nation," that "the Jewish state is a racist state that does not have a right to exist." The student union at the London School of Economics recently passed a motion that declared Israel to be an apartheid state and prohibited the sale of Israeli goods on campus. Because a similar motion did not gain the requisite two-thirds majority at the University of Manchester to pass onto the record, "it was reportedly met by a wave of anger… by Muslims and Palestinians, with Jewish students being attacked and bricks thrown at Hillel House."

When he unleashed war against Israel, Yasser Arafat also unleashed, anew, hatred against Jews. History will ultimately condemn him as a malevolent, cruel, deceitful, corrupt despot. Until then, the western world must condemn and beat back the hatred that has rolled in once again like a noxious, danger-laden vapour in the vehicle of his war.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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"Proportionate" means terrorism

The present foreign minister of Canada, Bill Graham, and his immediate predecessor, John Manley, have said recently that Israel should only take actions that are proportionate to Palestinian actions. Do they expect Israelis to murder innocent Palestinian civilians, at random, wantonly and without warning? Do they expect Israel to send suicide bombers into populated Palestinian cafés and pizza shops to murder babies and women? Do they expect Israel to send in murdering snipers shooting randomly at passersby?

Sorry. Jews, Israelis – indeed, any civilized people – cannot perform such acts of terror, even in times of war.

The world should be glad that Israelis are not taking proportionate action. There is no comparison between the actions of murdering Palestinian terrorists and Israel's selective actions against terrorists and the accidental killing of Palestinians who are used as human shields.

Graham and Manley should be fairer with their comparisons and take Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and his terrorist cronies to task and demand that he halt all violence and return to the negotiating table.

Gabe Gewurtz
Toronto

* * *

Jews need self-pride

The season for change has not yet come – not for the Canadian government. During the Canada-Israel Committee conference, its true colours emerged once again.

Prof. Gil Troy's call to speak "truth to power" (*CJN*, Feb. 28), is vital as an antidote to Jewish insecurity and complacency, but it won't shift Canada's politically correct, delusionary view of the Israel-Palestinian situation.

Maybe that will happen when we take real pride in being Jewish, empower ourselves collectively and unite actively to fight against anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism. After thousands of years of exile, we truly need to ask ourselves: are we going to allow the Jewish nation, the Jewish people, to pass out of history?

Sandy Stern
Toronto

* * *

Says Gerber not accurate

In her column "Who Will be a Jew?" (*CJN*, March 14) Jean Gerber attempts to clarify issues regarding the validity of "non-Orthodox" conversions. However, almost every point she makes is misinformed.

She says, "In biblical times, a woman who married an Israelite became a member of his tribe… Her children were Israelites by virtue of their father." Wrong! Although tribal ancestry is paternally dependent, belonging to Israel is determined by the mother alone.

This point is made in the Bible which sternly warns about intermarriage and, in the case of a Jewish girl marrying a non-Jew, states that their children may be led astray. This implies that the offspring are Jewish and may be led astray by their father. However, in the case of a son marrying a non-Jewish woman, there is no reference to Jewish offspring of the union, and so it is understood that the offspring of a non-Jewish women will not be Jewish.

When the Mishnah and Talmud codified this point, they were not creating a new classification, but rather were committing to print that had previously been studied orally.

As Gerber says, who is a Jew may be a "power issue" for some organizations, but for common "Jews in the street" for whom the sanctity of the Jewish nation affects the core of their being, who is a Jew is not a power issue but a highly spiritual one that will determine the unity and continuity of the Jewish nation.

Yaacov Schechter
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

JSA space concerns met

I would like to provide you with an update in response to the article written by Aaron Orkin about the McMaster University student centre (*CJN*, Feb. 28).

McMaster's Jewish Student Association (JSA) currently utilizes space allocated to them by the university. I have discussed the unique space requirements with the JSA's director, Judy Schwartz, and have informed her that the JSA can continue to use the current space that has been provided.

It is my understanding that this addresses the JSA's concerns.

Karen Belaire
Vice-President, Administration
McMaster University

* * *

Resources needed for "gifted" kids

Congratulations to Anna Morgan on a comprehensive and interesting educational supplement (*CJN*, March 14).

It is encouraging to see that our UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education schools are allocating more resources to students with special needs, thus opening up the system to a broader range of children. I note with sadness, however, that our community's "gifted" children must still leave the Jewish day schools if they wish to have their special needs met. What a shame it is for our community and its future leadership to be losing our brightest students. Perhaps, with more forward thinking, the current leadership will find the necessary resources to serve and thus retain these students, both for their own sakes and as an investment in our community's future.

Janice Rotman
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Has spending on simchahs gone too far?

By RABBI BARRY GELMAN

A recent report in the New York *Jewish Week* ("Waiter, hold the knishes," Jan. 7) states that a group of 27 influential rabbis from Agudath Israel of America will soon issue a religious decree to impose limits on the number of people invited to Orthodox weddings, the number of musicians hired and the types and amounts of food served.

The rabbis are motivated by the fact that weddings in certain Orthodox communities are becoming prohibitively expensive. It has gotten to the point where "people borrow money to pay for them [the weddings]; they take out second mortgages," says Shia Markowitz, a leader in the Agudath Israel movement.

Precedent:

Jews faced a similar problem 1,800 years ago. The Talmud states, "Funerals in Israel became so costly that the expense was harder to bear than death itself. Some relatives even abandoned the corpse."

In order to alleviate this situation, Rabbi Gamliel, the leader of his generation and a wealthy man, "left orders that his body be carried to the grave in a simple linen garment." Said Rabbi Pappa, "And now it is the general practice to carry out the dead even in rough cloth worth only a *zuz*."

In 1978, the Grand Rabbi of the Ger Chassidim issued a decree requiring his followers to limit attendance at their weddings to 120 people or fewer, and instructed them to invite family up to the first-cousin level only. Today the community adheres to it. It has been reported that a wealthy follower of the Rebbe complained that he should be exempt from the decree because he was rich. The Rebbe's response: "Then buy yourself a new Rebbe."

The rabbis who have signed the recent regulation will refuse to attend weddings that do not adhere to the new guidelines.

Application to our community:

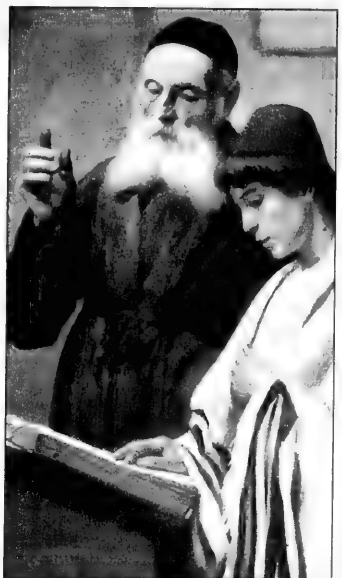
"The religious part of this moment [bar/bat mitzvah] is what happens in the sanctuary… But then comes the closing song of the service," Rabbi Jeffery Salkin writes in *Putting God on the Guest List: How to Reclaim the Spiritual Meaning of Your Child's Bar or Bat Mitzvah*.

"We say Shabbat Shalom to each other," Rabbi Salkin writes. "We leave the sanctuary. We are in profane territory… Then we can do anything we want. Briefly we were in the world of text, Torah, and holiness. But now, we are back in the real world, when the lessons and the Torah of the real world will be heard in all their glory."

I have seen a considerable number of families spend over $75,000 on a bar/bat mitzvah party. The costs include the hall, caterer, alcohol, entertainment, giveaways and clothing. But those who spend lavishly raise the bar for many who cannot comfortably afford it. Yet my concern about bar and bat mitzvah parties is not only about money. It is about Jewish values and the messages we send as we celebrate this important rite of passage.

Modesty does not just refer to dress:

There is a sad joke about an Orthodox family that plans an extravagant wedding complete with flowers flown in from Holland, free videos of the event for all, and mink-adorned dresses for the bridal party. Of course, since the family is Orthodox, there is a note appended to the invitation: "The families of the bride and groom request that all guests dress appropriately because we are very strict about the laws of modesty."



Oil on canvas by 19th century painter Edouard Moyse, *Rabbi and Talmud.*

The family in the joke thinks that modesty is only about the way we dress. But it is much more than that.

The characteristic of modesty demands a level of moderation and reserve in all areas of life. It asks us not to go "all out" in a given situation, but rather to show restraint, to find a middle ground between asceticism and excessiveness.

At precisely the age when we should be teaching our children the adult qualities of moderation, self-restraint and community responsibility, we are teaching lessons of entitlement and selfishness.

And while modesty doesn't only apply to dress, dress is a good place to start. Dressing our pre- and early teen children, especially the girls, in overly fancy and overtly sexual adult styles, as is the case at bar/bat mitzvah parties, forces them prematurely into a world of adult feelings. Of course, our children are exposed to all of this from the media, but that is a far cry from throwing them into those situations – and not just with parental approval but with downright enthusiasm. Our children undoubtedly suffer real consequences in these situations. Often, they are forced to encounter situations and feelings that they are unequipped to manage.

In *A Return To Modesty*, Wendy Shalit explains what she calls the "I have to" problem. "My daughter says she doesn't like wearing tight clothing all the time, but she says all the girls at school dress like that, so she's always saying 'Mom, I have to'!"

Adult culture:

There is another major challenge that confronts our community. Adults and children should "party" in different ways. But the truth is, most bar and bat mitzvah celebrations are simply a pretext for an adult party.

Consider this. Adults at the party often consume large amounts of alcohol. This sends our children a very clear message: the way to enjoy oneself is by drinking. It is not uncommon to see adults who are clearly drunk at these parties. Our children see this and are, at best, confused about drinking and, at worst, encouraged to drink themselves.

Similarly, parents often pay extra to have disc jockeys bring along dance animators. Do we really want to teach our 12- and 13-years-olds just how to "shake their booties" like 16 or 21-year-olds?

While it is common to hire a DJ, that does not mean we absolve ourselves of responsibility for the music at bar and bat mitzvah celebrations. We should pay attention to the messages we send through the music. DJs will certainly take instructions from their clients, who are, after all, paying the bill.

Where are the mitzvot and Jewish values?

The most disturbing factor in this entire area is that many of these parties have little religious flavour.

All too often at these parties there is little, if any, mention of the Jewish significance of the day. While there is the obligatory horah dance, one is more likely to hear the music and names of pop stars, movies stars and professional athletes then the name of a famous rabbi in a dvar Torah.

And what about kashrut? Even if a family does not keep kosher at home, there is spiritual significance to having a kosher bar mitzvah. Besides the traditional understanding of the reasons for kashrut such as remembering that "God cares about what we eat, that we can sanctify what and how we eat; that Judaism enters every sector of our lives, not only what we do in the sanctuary," Salkin reminds us that the bar/bat mitzvah is a communal celebration "and that all Jews should be able to eat at our celebrations, thus emphasizing the unity of the Jewish people."

The bar/bat mitzvah should be a time used by parents to impart Jewish values to their children. Some of those values include, appreciation, the quest for Jewish knowledge, modesty, self-restraint and community responsibility.

Some modest proposals:

Here are some ways in which some of the above challenges can be met.

• In his *Book of Jewish Values*, Rabbi Joseph Telushkin writes, "The Jewish community today needs a Rabbi Gamliel to change the nature of bar/bat mitzvah receptions… The time has come for some wealthy moral heroes to throw a simple bar or bat mitzvah celebration… If the first people to host such an event fear that their acquaintances will regard them as 'cheap:' or that rumors will spread that they are suffering financial difficulties, let them stand up at the party and announce that the $70,000 (or whatever sum) they are saving will be donated to charities of the bar or bat mitzvah's choice… the good they would do for many of their less fortunate fellow Jews would be almost incalculable."

• No more black-tie affairs.

The dress code of the party sets the tone of the party. We should remember that this is a celebration for 12- and 13-year-olds and not for adults. Keep the dress code informal. Children do not need to wear tuxedos and strapless, form-fitting party dresses.

• Here is an idea from Rabbi Salkin's book that may help parents implement some of these points.

"Parents of bar and bat mitzvah children make a pact with each other about how they will celebrate this rite of passage. Since their children are all in the same class… they want to ensure that there is a set of standards. So they agree: No themes. No parties until the wee hours. No outrageous music or spending."

Jewish day schools should initiate this conversation as early as Grade 1 with the advent of birthday parties.

• Families should scale back or even forgo the bar/bat mitzvah party altogether and replace it with a trip to Israel, an experience most families never forget.

• If celebrating with a "traditional" bar or bat mitzvah party, there are steps that can be taken to enrich the Jewishness of the event.

a. Choose a Jewish theme for the party. As Rabbi Salkin writes, "A friend told me that when a caterer inevitably asked, 'What's the theme of your daughter's bat mitzvah going to be?' he responded, 'How about Judaism?'"

b. As each guest is called up to light a candle, Rabbi Salkin says, they should be instructed (in advance) to offer the celebrant a blessing, word of encouragement or Jewish value that the young man or woman might embody.

What immediate lessons will our children learn from the decisions we make about how to celebrate their bar/bat mitzvah? When they look back on the event what will they remember? Let's hope that they will remember a modest and *freilach* event that celebrated family, life and Judaism, an event that served as a stepping-stone to goodness, to good living and a strong community.

Rabbi Barry Gelman is the spiritual leader of Shaar Hashomayim Synagogue in Montreal. McGill professor Gil Troy and Shaar Hashomayim's Jewish family life educator Jeremy Wexler contributed to this article.

An important decision

In a landmark decision, Israel's High Court of Justice recently ruled that persons who have undergone Reform or Conservative conversions must be listed on their state-issued identity card as being Jewish. This extends the Court's previous recognition of non-Orthodox conversions performed abroad to conversions performed in Israel.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

The 9-2 decision has paved the way for many thousands of immigrants from the former Soviet Union who, according to halachah, are not Jewish to be registered in Israel as Jews.

Supreme Court President Aharon Barak emphasized that he and his fellow justices steered clear of the issue of whether Reform and Conservative conversions are valid under halachah, saying that they focused instead on a precedent declaring that the Interior Ministry's population registry must list personal details as provided by citizens, without question.

Though this seemed to satisfy Israel's Chief Rabbinate, the Shas party threatened to introduce legislation that would circumvent the High Court, and the man in charge of issuing Israel's ID cards says he plans to list non-Orthodox converts as "Reform Jew" or "Conservative Jew" on their ID cards, and not merely as "Jewish."

That "solution" is clearly temporary, for sooner or later there has to be a more valid arrangement. One is either Jewish or one is not. Terms like Orthodox, Conservative and Reform merely describe the practices or convictions of people who are Jewish; the adjective does not impinge on that particular fact, it merely describes people's practice, but the people are Jewish – period.

Still, the compromise that has been achieved in this matter in Israel presents some progress as far as I am concerned. I believe in religious pluralism, and while this is a step in the right direction and is perhaps a major gain, pluralism still faces a difficult struggle there.

I am not unaware, of course, that in the view of many strictly observant Jews, religious pluralism is an oxymoron for, to them, being "religious" means to be halachically observant. On the other hand, non-observant Jews, while remaining Jews, are seen to practise their Judaism in an illegitimate and therefore undesirable way. In consequence, some rabbis here in Toronto will not even appear on the same platform with me, a Reform rabbi, for fear that they might legitimize my rabbinate. Not surprisingly, I hold a different view and I welcome the latest development in Israel.

I might add that the term "Orthodox" covers a wide spectrum of people, from those who totally reject different denominations to those who accept the fact that Judaism is interpreted and practised in different ways. Some find this to be a dangerous trend, while others welcome it as inclusive and progressive.

Two faces of religious Zionism

In the struggle for the definition of Israel's soul, religious Zionism has played a unique role. Historically, it has sought the middle ground between Zionism as a secular political movement and the ultra-Orthodox rejection of the modern Jewish state. Since 1967, it has been a battleground for the competing imperatives of democracy, religion, demography, security and nationalism.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

Effi Eitam and Moshe Halbertal represent two dramatically different faces of religious Zionism. For both, Israel as a Jewish state is a paramount value. But that's where the similarities end. Each of them arrives at dramatically different conclusions about Israel's shape in the future and its relationship with its Arab citizens and Palestinian neighbours.

Brig.-Gen. (reserve) Effi Eitam is Israel's charismatic rising star on the political right. He retired from the IDF in late 2000, amid controversy over his lack of advancement to the rank of major-general in the General Command. Eitam became observant during his colourful military career and claimed that his religious lifestyle was the impediment to his advancement.

Earlier, in the late 1980s, his career had faced a setback over allegations of responsibility for the fatal beating of Palestinians in the early days of the first intifadah. In spite of this, he was promoted several years later and in his last command was responsible for divisions in southern Lebanon. There, he opposed a unilateral Israeli withdrawal from the southern Lebanese zone.

Eitam the civilian has been an outspoken advocate for the supremacy of Israel's Jewish character over all other values, including those of a liberal democracy. And he is convinced that Israel has no choice today but to re-occupy, or "conquer," the territories to guarantee its security. The implications for the Palestinians are clear. They will not have their own state, because this would compromise Israel's security, nor will they have full rights within Israel, because this would quickly compromise its Jewish majority

Eitam's proposal is simple: Jordan is a Palestinian state, and it and other Arab countries should assume responsibility for Palestinian refugees, even if this means "expelling" much of the population of the territories into those countries. As for Israel's Arab citizens, he does not balk at restricting their voting rights in certain circumstances.

Eitam has emerged as an outspoken proponent of what is currently described not only as "re-occupation," but also as the soft "transfer of population" option. Other proponents of this approach are rightist leaders Avigdor Liberman and Benny Elon of the National Union, and Likud Internal Security Minister Uzi Landau. Many tout Eitam as the next leader of the National Religious Party, which has remained outside the Sharon government in active opposition, supporting Liberman and other voices to the right of Sharon.

Prof. Moshe Halbertal of Hebrew University and the Shalom Hartman Institute rejects the re-occupation or "transfer" option outright. He reaches a diametrically opposed conclusion, motivated by an equally powerful concern for Israel's security and Jewish character, but also by a compelling concern for its democratic nature.

For Halbertal, a Jewish state that is not a democracy is unacceptable. He sees a stark demographic reality. West of the Jordan, there are currently 5 million Jews and 4 million Arabs (1 million of these are citizens of Israel; the balance are in the West Bank and Gaza). Within a decade, the demographic balance will shift in the Arabs' favour.

If Israel remains in the West Bank and Gaza, its choices will be simple but unpalatable: To be a democracy, it will have to grant equal rights to all, and will quickly become a binational state like Lebanon, thereby losing its Jewish majority. To be Jewish, it will have to deprive 3 million Arabs of political rights, thereby forfeiting its democratic nature.

Halbertal believes that Israel can be true both to its Jewish and democratic values only by separating from the territories and dismantling most of the settlements. He rejects the absolutism of an Eitam. For Halbertal, security must be defined in more than strictly military terms and is firmly grounded in the moral character of the state that seeks it.

This is not a theoretical debate. It reflects the complex and harsh reality on the ground today, and it is painfully relevant to every Israeli and Jew.

Defending Israel in new Canadian environment

There is no point in parsing the texts – spoken and written – of Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham's speech to the Canada-Israel Committee dinner in early March. Nor will it likely help, one more time, to point out the moral difference between Palestinian acts aimed at the deliberate murder of civilians and Israeli Defence Forces acts aimed at disrupting terrorist groups and eliminating terrorist leaders, which also lead to innocent civilian deaths.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

The speech is indicative of some harsh realities that will challenge the Canadian Jewish community for years to come. The political landscape is changing.

Many Liberals, Conservatives and NDPers, in conjunction with officials in Foreign Affairs now buy the "root causes" approach to foreign policy and the Middle East. They feel that Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is the root cause of the current wave of violence. (That the real root cause may still be, in many Palestinian, Arab and Islamist quarters, the ultimate hope to weaken and destroy the Jewish State, is simply not entertained.) Despite the jihadist fall-out of Sept 11, they think Palestinian terrorists are really freedom fighters.

Canadian politicians also realize that the Muslim and Arab populations in Canada are growing fast. There is a new sophistication and clout to be found within the pro-Arab lobby in Canada. The prevailing Arab/Muslim conformity on these issues makes their lobbying efforts all the more effective. Dissent is rare. The prevailing orthodoxy is of the "yes, but" school: Yes, Saddam Hussein and Osama bin Laden are not to be admired, but..., and the litany of blame-the-West excuses begins.

On the Israel-Arab conflict, there is still no Arab/Muslim group comparable to Peace Now. There is also no mass mobilization among Arab/Muslim Canadians to, say, overthrow Saddam and liberate Iraq from this despot. Quite the contrary. Any pre-emptive American strike against Saddam would likely provoke a solid chorus of condemnation. Perhaps Arab and Islamic communal leaders in Canada are afraid. Perhaps they see no alternative. Perhaps some are sympathetic.

It is tempting for Canadian Jews to respond with a comparable hard-line support of the positions of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's government. But in Israel itself there are signs, from public opinion polls to nascent draft resistance, of an electorate deeply divided about a policy that seems all stick and little carrot.

What can Canadian Jews and other supporters of Israel do? They must, in fact, wage a two-track campaign directed both at both the Canadian government and the Israeli government.

One track must be a strong reactive and proactive defence of Israel's security needs and a condemnation of the Palestinian side's failure to reduce explicit acts of terror. The Canadian government and media must be reminded again of just how nasty Israel's immediate neighbourhood is.

But scoring debating points in a propaganda war, while important, is no longer enough for Canadian Jews. The other track must be a strong push for the resumption of negotiations, and support for American pressure towards that end. The second track has not been a priority of the Sharon government, and may be harder for the Canadian Jewish leadership to pursue at this time of travail for Israel. Ideally, the two sides could lurch back to the last Camp David offer by former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak, and pick up negotiations from there. A negotiated agreement would be better for Israel in the long run than unilateral withdrawal and separation from the Palestinians.

Not only would this dual approach meet Israel's interests, but it makes tactical sense in the new Canadian political environment.

Canadian Jews can urge Israel to pursue self-defence as if there were no negotiations, and pursue negotiations as if there were no terrorist intifadah. This is a familiar refrain for those who remember an earlier Zionist motto: to fight the British White Paper (a 1936 regulation restricting Jewish immigration to Palestine) as if there were no war against the Nazis, and to fight the Nazis as if there were no White Paper.

The Kirshner File

Popes promoted modern anti-Semitism

David Kertzer, a professor of anthropology and Italian studies at Brown University, causes extreme discomfort in the Vatican. One can easily understand why. In his newest book, *The Popes Against the Jews* (Random House), he levels two charges that the Vatican will be hard-pressed to refute. The first is that the Roman Catholic church was very much involved in the development of modern anti-Semitism. The second is that it shares responsibility for making the Holocaust possible.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Kertzer, who was in Toronto recently on a promotional tour, convincingly proves his thesis by scrupulously examining the blemished records of a parade of popes – from Benedict XIV and Pius IX on down – since the mid-18th century. It is devastating stuff.

Kertzer's appetite for the topic was whetted by *We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah*, a report issued by the Vatican's Commission for Religious Relations with the Jews on March 16, 1998.

Eleven years in the making, the report was commissioned by Pope John Paul II to determine what responsibility, if any, the church bore for the Holocaust. As Kertzer suggests, Vatican complicity in Adolf Hitler's Final Solution was first raised by Rolf Hochhuth's searing play, *The Deputy*.

We Remember made a crucial, if self-serving, distinction between anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism. The Vatican acknowledged that anti-Judaism, promoted by the church, engendered attitudes of mistrust and hostility toward Jews. The Vatican, however, relieved itself of blame for anti-Semitism. Aggravated by 19th-century racial theories, anti-Semitism led to the horrors of the Holocaust. It was unequivocally rejected by church doctrine. Or so the Vatican claimed.

Kertzer did not buy into this anti-Judaism/anti-Semitism dichotomy and, as he would learn, it failed the test of historical scrutiny. "I was skeptical about the commission's report."

Around the time the 1998 report was released, the Vatican announced that the archives of the Holy Office of the Inquisition would be opened to historians. "Sources never before seen by scholars were now available, offering the tantalizing prospect of new insights into church history."

Kertzer, naturally, jumped at the opportunity to examine these archives. Having previously written *The Kidnapping of Edgardo Mortara*, the story of an Italian Jewish boy who, in 1858, had been forcibly taken from his parents on the orders of the church and then converted to Christianity, Kertzer had already immersed himself in papal records.

Born in New York City, he credits his father for originally interesting him in the subject of the Vatican's relationship with Jews.

"When I was a child, he was director of inter-religious relations for the American Jewish Committee. It was right after World War II, and he spent a great deal of his time working with Catholic clergymen to improve Jewish ties with the church. He had great respect and affection for his Catholic colleagues, and he was never so proud as when he received a special medal from Rome honouring him for his efforts to bring about Catholic-Jewish reconciliation. I would like to think that, through a very different path, I am in this book doing something to build on my father's work."

In *The Popes Against the Jews*, Kertzer demolishes the facile distinction between anti-Judaism and anti-Semitism and thereby conclusively proves that the church played an integral role in setting the stage for the Holocaust.

As he writes: "The notion that the church fostered only negative 'religious' views of the Jews, and not negative images of their harmful social, economic, cultural and political effects – the latter identified with modern anti-Semitism – is clearly belied by the historical record. As modern anti-Semitic movements took shape at the end of the 19th century, the church was a major player in them, constantly warning people of the rising 'Jewish peril.'"

With the full knowledge of the popes, the church disseminated the major tenets of modern anti-Semitism: Jews are trying to take over the world; Jews are rapacious and merciless; Jews are a foreign body and are unpatriotic; Jews should be isolated and ghettoized.

In other words, Kertzer argues,'Catholic anti-Semitism was a link in the chain of eliminationist Nazi anti-Semitism.

The church, he is careful to say, never called for, or sanctioned, the mass murder of Jews. But the legislation enacted by Germany and Italy in the 1930s stripping Jews of their rights as citizens was, in fact, modelled on church measures.

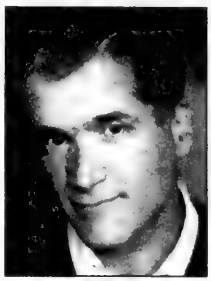
There is more.

Jews living in the Papal States were prosecuted when caught without the required yellow badge on their clothes. And as late as the 1850s, the pope tried to evict Jews from most of the towns in the lands he controlled, forcing them into ghettoes. In the Papal States, Jews were barred from holding public office, teaching Christian children or maintaining friendly relations with Christians. Driving home his point, Kertzer observes: "Church ideology held that any contact with Jews was polluting to the larger society, that Jews were perpetual foreigners, a perennial threat to Christians."

The Nazi objective of a racially purified society was dismissed by church fathers. Yet the Vatican believed that Jews had to be kept in social quarantine, or in the ghetto, a word whose origins are in the Italian language.

Pope Leo XII (1823-1829), for example, ordered Jews back into the ghetto "to overcome the evil consequences of the freedom that (they) have enjoyed."

In line with his jaundiced views, Leo XII also forced Jews to attend conversionary sermons and meetings during which Judaism was bitterly denounced.



David Kertzer

During this period, the procurator general of the Dominican order, Father Ferdinand Jabalot, wrote a booklet that crystallized the official Catholic perception of Jews. Wherever they live, he claimed, Jews "form a state within a state." Unless Christians reacted swiftly, he warned, Jews "will finally succeed in reducing the Christians to be their slaves."

Until the 19th century, Kertzer writes, pontiffs usually sided with Jews when they were accused of practising ritual murder. But as the 1800s wore on, the Catholic press, including publications close to the Vatican, harped obsessively on this malicious canard.

Kertzer devotes an entire chapter to Catholic periodicals, 130 of which were published in Italy in the 1870s. The most influential one of its kind, *Civilta cattolica*, was important in the rise of modern anti-Semitism.

One of its founders, Father Giuseppe Oreglia di Santo Stefano, was particularly vehement. Characterizing Jews as "eternal insolent children, obstinate, dirty thieves, liars, ignoramuses, pests and the scourge of those near and far," he lambasted them for (laying) "their hands on… all public wealth."

Anticipating race theorists, the priest observed: "For the Jews are not only Jews because of their religion... they are Jews also and especially because of their race." In accordance with this mindset, he reserved the bulk of his animus for assimilated Jews, who, he said, posed the greatest danger to good Christians.

Officially, the church stayed clear of the racial view that Jews were biologically different or inferior. The Vatican held that Jews had to be shown the error of their ways before they were converted. But, as Kertzer reminds us, the concept of blood purity was embraced by the church in 16th-century Spain. Lest he be accused of retreating to the far distant past to win an argument, Kertzer recites the case of a Jewish-born Czech Catholic who, in 1892, was showered with catcalls and jeers after his appointment as an archbishop. Monitoring the proceedings, the Vatican asked for, and received, his resignation.

The Dreyfus case, which convulsed France for about a decade, was yet another illustration of the church's propensity to defame Jews. Catholic organizations were in the forefront of anti-Semitic riots and calls for boycotting Jewish businesses, and *L'Osservatore romano*, the Vatican's official mouthpiece, was not surprised that Alfred Dreyfus, a Jewish officer, had betrayed his country. A commentary in 1897 noted: "The Jewish race, the deicide people, wandering throughout the world, brings with it everywhere the pestiferous breath of treason."

So, too, did the church exhibit anti-Semitic sentiments in staunchly Catholic countries like Poland and Austria.

Kertzer believes that, in the wake of the Holocaust, the Vatican has had to radically realign its attitude toward Jews. He gives the current pope, John Paul II, credit for having improved relations with Jews. Yet the stench of Catholic anti-Semitism, as espoused by popes past, still lingers in the nostrils.

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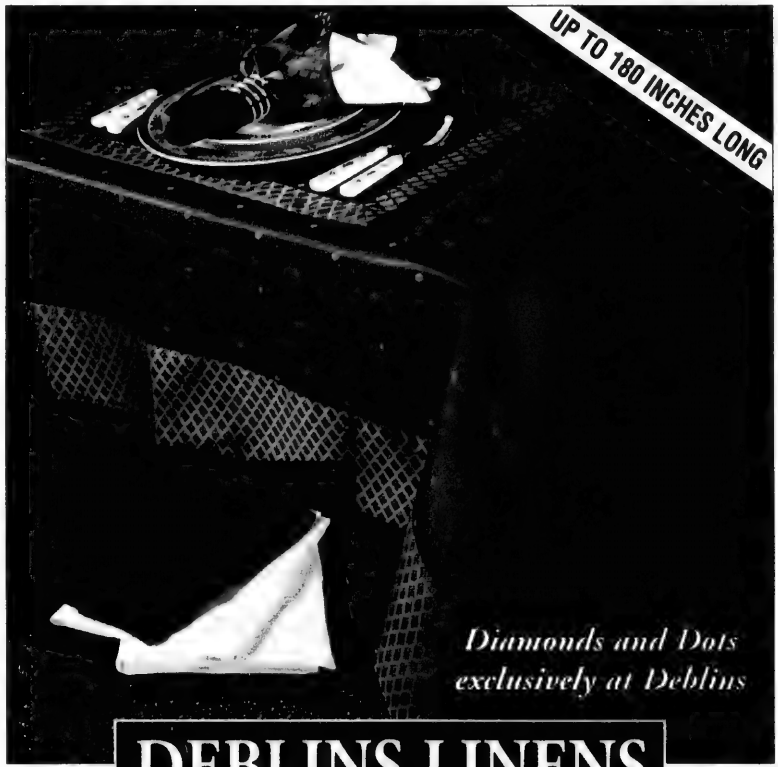
IN EACH GENERATION:

Associated Hebrew Schools Bet Hayeled (preschool) children participate in a model seder at the Kamin Campus. From left to right: Shayne Friedman, Lori Maresky, Gabriel Brenner, Jennifer Mammon and Amanda Libfeld.

A seder to remember . . .



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יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אלעק סילווער

שיר השירים

עסיי פון יוסף העפטמאן ע"ה

(סוף פון פריערדיקן „וינקל")

צו זיין א יתד היסט, איינגעלען, זיין שיפור מיט דער ספעציעלער יידישער משקה: האפענונג און אפטימיזם. סיזואלט נישט געקאנט זיין קיין יידיש פאלק ביזן היינטיקן טאג, ווען יתד וואלטן געווען ניכטער; ווען יתד זאלן ארומגיין אויף דער וועלט מיט צופיל זין פאר וויצקלעקקייט, פאר רעאליטעט; ווען יתד וואלטן **געזופן** פאר זיך די איינרעג וועגט, מיט די שטעכעדיקע דראטן, מיט וועלכע מען האט זיי כסדר ארומגעצוימט. דאס גליק איז, וואס יתד האבן עס טאקע געוווסט, אבער זיי האבן עס דאך נישט גענוג. זייערע אויגן זיינען געווען פארצויגן מיט א געפיל פון אפטימיזם און טרוימערייַ, מיט א נעפל פונעם אלטן פיר־טויזנט־יעריקן וויין, מיט וועלכן זיי האבן זיך אנגעטרונקען אין דעם וונקען מדבר.

דאס איז דער סוד פון „שיר השירים" אינעם יידישן לעבן. די דאזיקע פאעמע, דאס ליד איבער לידער, דאס אייביקע געזאנג וועגן דער אייביקער ליבע — איז א זיג־געזיקער פראטעסט געגעבן דער ניכטערקייט. ווארום, וואס אזעלכעס איז דער פלאקער פון ליבע, אויב נישט שיכרות, שוים פון בלוט אן נעפל אויף די אוגן? — אזן אט דער עקסטאז מיט וועלכן דער גאליבטער באזינגט אין שיר השירים זיין געליבטע, פונעם טויט איין בין צוום קלעפטן הערעלע פון איר קאפ, — איז עס דען נישט שיכרות? . . .

ס'געהערט צו פסח, צום יום־טוב פון פריהייט, אט די פאעמע פון שיכרות, אט דער געזאנג קעגן ניכטער־קייט, קעגן דער קאלטער פראזע. אזן „שיר השירים" אין די יידישע שלן, בעת דער פסח־וואך, איז די בעסטע כאראקטעריסטיק פון דער יידישער פסיכאלאגיע. אויף דער סדר־טיש, דאס מלכתדיקע געפיל, די בעכער ווייַן אזן דאס בריטע זיצן ביים טיש — איז קיגן דער ניכטערקייט. אזן דערביבער זאל עס אלץ קומען צוזאמען: מיט דער דערמאנונג פון אמאליקער פריהייט זאל אויך קומען די דערינערונג פון אמאליקער יוגנט, פון ליבע אזן פארגעניגן.

ווער וועט עס אפלייקענען, אז די פסחדיקע סדרים יאר־איין, יאר־אויס האבן אויפגעהאלטן דאס פריהייטס־געפיל ביי יידן? — ווער וועט עס נישט וועלן גלויבן, אז דערציילנדיק יאר־איין, יאר־אויס, וועגן דער אויסלייזונג פון מצרים, האבן מיר זיך איינגעווויגט צו פאראכטן שקלאפערייַ, אזן שטרעבן צו אן אויסלייזונג פונעם גלות?

— אזן אזוי אויך האבן די וועלטער פון „שיר השירים" אונדז כסדר דערנענטערט צו די אלע באגריפן, וועלכע וואלטן ביי אונדז שוין לאנג געווען אפגעשטארבן.

„לאמיר ארויסגיין אין פעלד אזן אזועקגיין באזינגען אין די ווייגערטנער". אזוי זינגענדיק יאר־איין, יאר־אויס, זיינען מיר ווידקלעך צוגעקומען נענטער צו די פעלדער אזן ווייגערטנער. ס'איז נישט נאר געווען א דראנג צו א ניילעך פרנסה, צו א ניעם עקאנאמישן געביט אט דאס וואס יתד האבן אנגעהויבן צו קלערן וועגן קאלאניזאציע, וועגן אן אייגן לאנד אזן פעלד. עפעס פון דער יוגנט איז געבליבן, אזן די וויינטן פון אמאליקע פעלדער האבן נישט געלאזט רוען. דער פארוואגלטער יתד האט געוונגען די אלטע ראמאנטן פון שלמה המלך, אזן האט זיך איבער־געטראגן מיטן נעדאנק אויף יענע בערג וווּ ס'איז זוניק אזן פריידיק: די סטאדעס וועלן געפידט ווערן ברוי־נעם מיידל אזן די ווייגערטנער שטיין אין בליען.

אזן אזוי ארום איז געקומען די פאנטאזיע, וואס האט אזוי פיל געשאפן די לעצטע צענדליקער יאר. דאס רעדן וועגן א פעלד האט טאקע געשאפן דאס יידישע פעלד, אזן דאס זינגען וועגן א שיינער יוגנט האט טאקע ארויס־געזופן די דאזיקע יוגנט צום לעבן.

די רעדאקציע ווינטשט אלע אירע לייענערס און דאס גאנ־צע פאלק ישראל א געזונטן, פריילעכן און כשרן פסח!

Synagogue, books damaged in arson

Continued from page 3

Nevertheless, the incident prompted Congress to send e-mails to hundreds of religious and community institutions in Ontario, urging them to be vigilant and reminding them to attend to security concerns, he said.

Rabbi Spero said he is feeling a mix of shock and gratitude – shock that someone would deliberately set fire to the synagogue, one of Toronto's oldest, and gratitude that the damage was limited.

"I said, thank you Hashem (God) that something happened to make us realize how precious it is to us, but we can continue to be part of your plan," he said.

In the days following the fire, Rabbi Spero fielded hundreds of calls from well-wishers and from those outraged that a place of worship would be targeted by arson. Hundreds of people have trooped down to Kensington Market to offer support and to help sort and preserve the shul's religious texts.

In addition to the spontaneous outpouring of support from within the Jewish community, two Islamic organizations condemned the arson.

Mohamma Ashraf, director general of the Islamic Society of North America, called the fire "a villainous act, and we hope that the perpetrators of this crime are apprehended soon and punished for their acts of unjustifiable criminality."

Saleha Khan, coordinator of the Canadian Association for Islamic Relations, wrote to Ed Morgan, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' Ontario region, saying the organization was dismayed at news of the fire. "It is absolutely unjustifiable that an act of arson be attempted in a place of worship and deliberate damage be done to holy books.

"Our sympathies and prayers are with the Jewish community and the congregation members of Anshei Minsk Synagogue."

In Toronto's west end, a United Church clergyman expressed "our responsibility to declare our solidarity. Jews are our sisters and brothers... Many of us are disgusted by the news reports of the arson at the synagogue," said Rev. Hugh Reid of Kingsway Lambton United Church.

Outside, facing a busy street, the church's six by 10-foot illuminated sign was changed to read: "An attack on Anshei Minsk is an attack on all of us. Return good for evil."

Congress also condemned the act. "The Jewish community is shocked and deeply saddened by this criminal act targeted at one of this country's most venerable and beloved religious institutions," Morgan said.

Meanwhile, in a news release, the Canadian Friends of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre mourned the loss of the synagogue's books.

"While we also express outrage about the damage to the building, it is the books that are the heart and soul of Jewish life. These books represent the history of Jews in Toronto.."

About 2,000 texts, some dating to the 1860s and 1870s, were damaged in the fire, the rabbi said. Most were Mishnahs, Gemarahs, Talmuds, philosophy texts, books on ethics and Kabbalah, with a few siddurim and machzorim among them.

The books had been stored in boxes upstairs, pending categorization and the construction of proper shelving for them, he explained.

Saving the books, and burying those that are unrecoverable, were the priority in the aftermath of the fire, Rabbi Spero said.

High school students from NIFTY, a Reform student group, volunteered to spend part of their March break at the shul, helping arrange the books, he added.

The Anshei Minsk Synagogue, with about 200 members, is the last remaining downtown Orthodox shul holding daily services. It was constructed between 1922 and 1930 and serves those living and working downtown. Even on the day of the fire, when the building was unusable, Shacharit services were conducted outside the building and later in the day, Minchah and Maariv services were conducted inside. A previously-scheduled Shabbaton was to go ahead last weekend as planned, Rabbi Spero said.

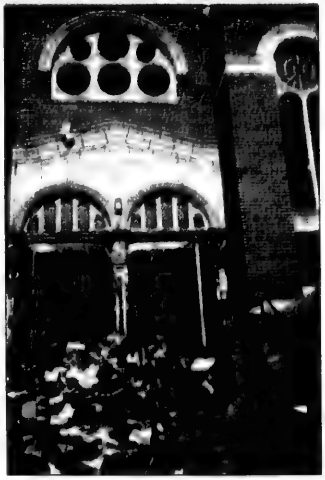
The rabbi is adamant that other aspects of shul life will continue as well.

"When books are burned, you build a library. You can't let the perpetrators' destruction control the events, so you re-build."

* * *

Late last week, Congress announced its efforts to help preserve the shul's texts has born fruit.

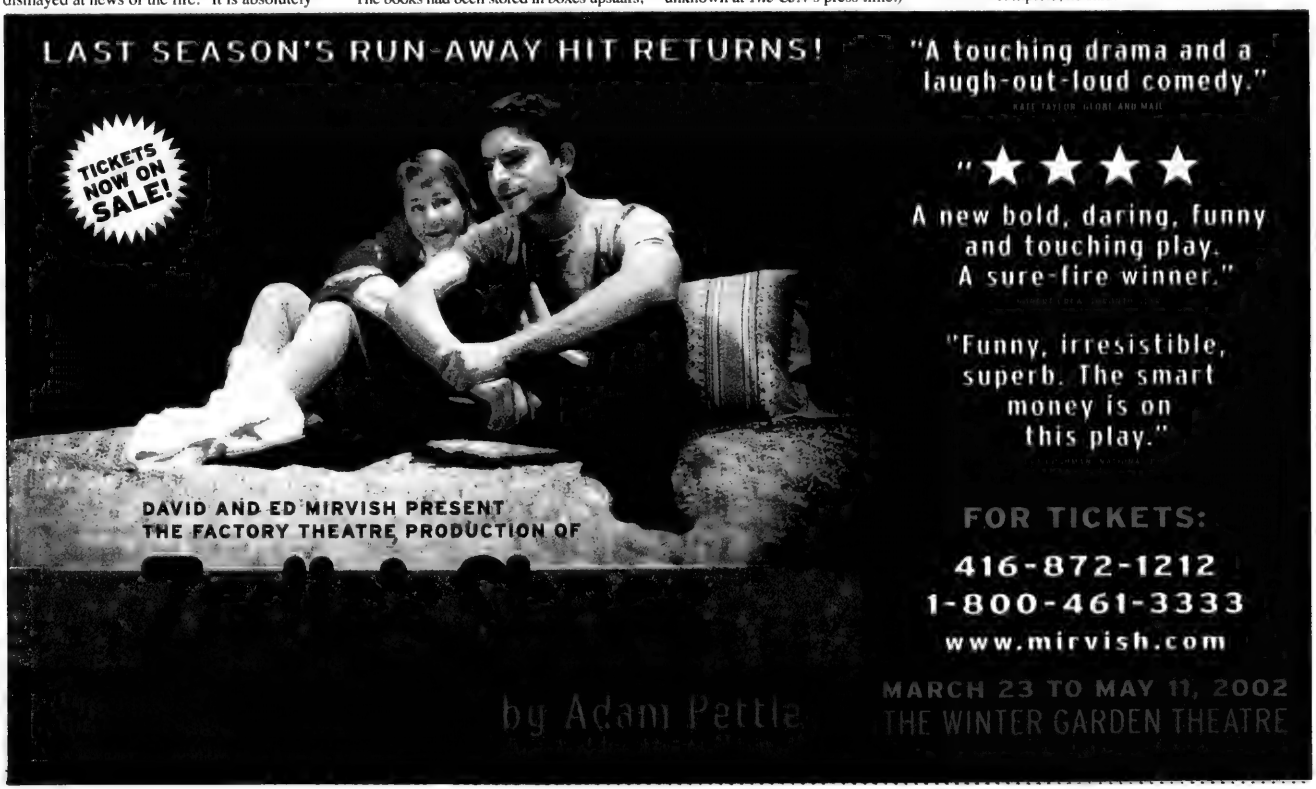
Congress spokesperson Bruce Kurta said the Canadian Conservation Institute has received a special grant from Heritage Canada to fund the restoration of the smoke- and water-damaged books. (The amount of the grant was unknown at *The CJN*'s press time.)



Anshei Minsk after the fire.
[Bruce Kurta photo]

The restoration process will see a refrigerator truck pump cold, dry air into the synagogue's basement, turning it into a giant refrigerator. The goal is to control the humidity and temperature and retard the growth of mould, Kurta said.

The books will then be catalogued and moved to the truck prior to being shipped to Montreal. There, the process of removing mould and moisture from the books will continue. The restoration process could take up to a year to complete, he said.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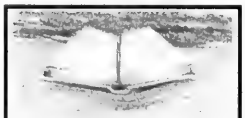
Jewish Life

Exodus tale resonates today

By RABBI IRWIN E. WITTY

Next week, Jews worldwide will begin celebrating Passover, sitting down at the seder to recount the miraculous deliverance of Israel from the bondage of ancient Egypt.

And while mention of the momentous event known as the Exodus is included in our daily recitation of the *Shema* and in *Kiddush* on the Sabbath and holidays, there is a special mitzvah on Passover known as *sipur yetziat Mitzrayim*, narrating in detail (not merely mentioning) what happened to the Israelites while they were enslaved by Pharaoh and the redemption they experienced when the Almighty freed them from their suffering.



To help fulfil this mitzvah, the positive injunction to recount our tale of woe and subsequent salvation, we turn to the Haggadah, the manual that crystallizes the story we are enjoined to relate.

Because the event being commemorated is more than 3,500 years old, it is possible one might feel almost completely detached from it. Since the mitzvah is one of retelling the Exodus story, it is not truly fulfilled, our sages say, unless we can identify completely with the Exodus, suffering its anguish and exulting in its triumphs.

What relevance is there, therefore, to an experience which is so recessed from our day that it is in danger of being recalled only perfunctorily, and with no consciousness that it is part of our lives today? Indeed, is there any relevance to it at all?

To overcome our remoteness from the Exodus experience, the compiler of the Haggadah inserted two arguments for the ongoing relevance of the Exodus story.

First is the declaration that if "God had not taken our ancestors out of Egypt, we and our children and our children's children would still be enslaved to [a] Pharaoh in Egypt." In essence, this thesis declares that, were it not for the redemption from Egypt, there would be no Jewish people today.

As the late great Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik pointed out, in recounting the Exodus "we are not recalling an historical curiosity, but rather we are accounting for our present-day identity."

The theme of relevance is developed further in a second section of the Haggadah. Says the text: "For not only one tyrant has risen against us to destroy us, but in every generation tyrants have sought to destroy us. And the Holy One, blessed be He, has delivered us from their hands."

Thus, the Exodus not only accounts for an essential element of our present Jewish identity and a signal event in our history, but it also serves as a vehicle to understand how we must relate to present-day persecution. Indeed, the Pharaohs our people must contend with today are more dangerous than ancient tyrants, because the means of destruction at their disposal are more fierce, but as in days of old, there is a Deliverer who remains the source of our salvation.

Little wonder, then, that as we read the Exodus narrative, and realize poignantly how relevant it is to the contemporary plight of our people, we declare that "in every generation a person should look upon himself as if he had personally come out of Egypt. Not only did the Holy One, blessed be He, redeem our ancestors, but us as well."

The past, despite the antiquity of the story, is therefore not only relevant, but current as well. Our liberation from tyranny, of which the Exodus story is paradigmatic, is the tale of Jewish history as a whole. Hence, it must be told and re-told, along with our thanksgiving and praise to God, both for miracles past and for deliverances present.

Rabbi Irwin E. Witty is director of the Albert and Temmy Latner Jewish Public Library in Toronto.

Not just another college break

By ANNA-RACHEL KRAKOWSKY

Guest Voice

While many college students spent their winter break soaking up sun in the Bahamas, a group of 200 students from Yeshiva University (YU) replaced the typical college vacation of drinking and partying with an intense week of education and outreach in Israel.

The group consisted of 100 men and 100 women who spent seven days on a mission called Torah Shield II. The goal was to show support to the land and people at a time when many Israelis feel hopeless and alone. This concept was not a new one for YU, which sent its first Torah Shield mission during the 1991 Gulf War.

Torah Shield II, which took place from Jan. 13 to Jan. 19, was not just a subsidized vacation for Zionistic YU students. Its purpose can be explained with the Hebrew expression *chazak venitchazek* – to strengthen and be strengthened. The participants were told prior to the mission that the goals were to bring hope and strength to Israel and its people, and bring back hope and strength to the Diaspora.

I was fortunate enough to be a participant and can attest that both of these goals were achieved. In just one week, we were able to travel from one end of Israel to the other, visiting army bases, communities, terror victims and political figures. We collected food, clothing and various other supplies and distributed them to orphanages, hospitals and communities in need. We were able to provide emotional support and encouragement to families of terrorist victims, soldiers and the alienated communities of Jews living in yishuvim throughout the country.

Yet the trip was intended to benefit not only Israelis but participants as well. We were privileged to hear insights from inspiring Israelis and spend time with the brave protectors of the country. We had the opportunity to travel through the Yesha communities (Judea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip) and spend time with families whose lives are at risk everyday. We had the opportunity to play with and visit Israeli children sick with cancer. And we had the opportunity to individually and personally thank every soldier we passed by.

Although we experienced all these positive things, as a group, we also saw many things that were far from pleasant. What sticks out in my mind are the oddly quiet streets, the empty stores, the vacant hotels. Although they seemed lonely and sad, with the arrival of a mere 200 people, they seemed full, happy and bursting with excitement. The group was, in fact, confused: the streets that were depicted by the media every day as dangerous, treacherous and fearful seemed not only safe but warm and comforting.

Nevertheless, precautions were taken and safety came first in every aspect of the trip. Everyone on the program discovered that the trip we all thought would be risky and dangerous felt more secure and safe than any vacation in Europe or on any island. Yes, we were extra careful, and yes, we had to use our judgment, but those things could not even begin to compare to the magic we felt in the Old City, the bonds of ancient history we felt in Hebron and the overwhelming sense of warmth and belonging we felt throughout the week. We all felt understood, cared for, and most importantly, incredibly safe and unafraid.

Although only seven days, the trip affected every participant enormously. Every Israeli we met thanked us profusely and we thanked them emotionally for protecting our land.

Yet I feel my mission in Israel is far more than the short time spent touring the land. Coming back from such an intense and moving week, I not only want to share my experience, I also want to encourage everyone else to have the opportunity to see what I saw and feel what I felt. While it is true that, especially now, Israel needs people, more importantly, we need Israel. The country is in one of its darkest hours and its people feel isolated and alone.

Ironically, every time Israel takes a turn for the worse, North American Jewry reacts in fear instead of in unconditional love and unlimited support for the country that is so vital to Jewish existence. Israel need tourists and visitors, but most importantly, Israel needs to feel the love and concern of its people.

Anna-Rachel Krakowsky is a Torontonian studying at Stern College in New York.

Jewish Life

More cleaning and preparing

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Last week, we began our look at preparing for Passover on the World Wide Web. Well, the cleaning's not done and neither is this topic.

When Marc Stengel of Owings Mills, Maryland, cleans out his pantry, he takes the opportunity to do another mitzvah at the same time. Instead of simply throwing out non-Passover food, Stengel organized a food drive to help a local food bank. His Web page has suggestions for bringing a Passover Project to other communities **[http://www.imall 2000.com/serv/24hffa/24hffa.html].** And in Newton, Massachusetts, children get into the holiday spirit during Passover Community Cleanup Week **[http://www.mazon.org/pages/nisan.pdf]**. The kids are sponsored for collecting trash from the local Jewish community centre and a neighbouring park. The money raised is donated to Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger **[http://www.mazon.org]**.

Cleaning a playground or a house may not be simple but it doesn't compare to the special challenges as Israel prepares for Passover. Even the Israel Defence Forces goes on alert for the holiday. According to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Web site, "The IDF takes no chances, embargoing all packages from home just before and during Passover week in case they contain chametz goodies, thus ensuring that bases will be kept strictly kosher so both religious and non-religious soldiers can serve shoulder-to-shoulder during the festival period." **[http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/go.asp?MFAH0k000]** And, according to the *Philadelphia Enquirer*, even Jerusalem's water supply comes under scrutiny before Passover. Rather than draw on water from Lake Tiberias that may be contaminated by chametz, secure well water is used in the city **[http://shlk.com/26]**. And if you think you've got cleaning problems, be thankful you don't run the Jerusalem zoo. They have to deal with hungry elephants that don't get their usual bread.

You may not own a pachyderm, but Fido and Fifi will have to say goodbye to chametz during Passover. New York dog owner Mark Levenson says, "Some people might think it's overkill, that there's no reason to do that. It's not the dog that's the problem; it's the dog food. According to 13:7, we may have no leaven in our possession" **[http://www.kcstar.com/item/pages/printer.pat,fyi/3acc9395.406,.html].**

I'm not quite sure how they conducted their survey, but according to the Brandman Research Institute, 43 million man hours are spent Israel in cleaning preparations for the Passover. Curious use of the term "man hours" since the study found that 29 million cleaning hours are done by women and 11 million hours by men. House cleaners account for the remaining 3 million hours **[http://www.jr.co.il/things/ptrivia.txt].**

Rabbi Berel Wein is very scrupulous about putting in his "man hours." His main task is cleaning the hundreds of books he has accumulated during a lifetime of learning. Rabbi Wein also finds time to revel in the memories each book brings back, as he says in his thoughts on Passover cleaning: "It may be chided, but never scoffed at. Pesach and its memories are why we are here and why we have the right to be here. It is paradoxical how getting rid of the chametz allows the memories suppressed by our everyday preoccupations to flood back into our minds and hearts. So, let us get on cheerfully with our Pesach cleaning. One never knows what one will find while cleaning the house for Pesach" **[http://www.jewishworldreview.com/0501/wein040301.asp].**

Finally, the *Jerusalem Post* tells us about Yael, a resident of Jerusalem's Old City who makes sure her cleaning pays off – literally **[http://www.jpost.com/Editions/2001/03/27/RealEstate/RealEstate.23625.html]**. "Every couple of years, Yael M. enters a frenzy of Passover cleaning, wiping out kitchen cabinets, washing out the refrigerator, emptying out closets and vacuuming the furniture in her apartment. Then she moves out." In exchange for renting out her home to a family eager to spend Pesach near the Kotel, Yael can earn $1,500 to $2,000 in cash. But then again, that means Yael has to move in with her parents for eight days.

Have a chag kasher v'samayach – a kosher and happy holiday.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Why the rush?

By RACHAEL TURKIENICZ

Passover approaches soon, and once again we gather in family settings to celebrate freedom and redemption. For the duration of the holiday we must eat matzah to commemorate our rapid departure from Egypt.

It seems a little unbalanced that on the one hand, we engage in ritual that addresses such complex issues as freedom and redemption, while on the other hand, we commemorate how rushed we were. Is it the inconvenience of having to leave so quickly that infuses the matzah with meaning? How did we move from such abstract, complex issues to such mundane, petty misgivings?

Maybe it is not the act of being rushed that we remember, but rather the reasons for the rush. One strong, recurring theme throughout the Passover narrative is the idea of seizing the opportunities that unexpectedly arise.

Miriam seizes the opportunity of intervening with Pharaoh's daughter, resulting in Moses' being reunited with his mother so that she could nurse him. Moses seizes the opportunity of defending an Israelite slave from an Egyptian taskmaster, resulting in his leaving Egypt and encountering God at the burning bush. Ultimately, we all seize the opportunity to leave Egypt in that window of time before Pharaoh changes his mind.

Freedom and redemption are things you grab the instant you first see them; you cannot plan too long or deliberate. You must rush.

Moses and all of Israel were ready to leave Egypt the night of the 10th plague. In fact, the nation was instructed to prepare to depart so quickly that there was not enough time for the baked goods to rise. This instruction went beyond seizing the opportunity, for certainly the death of the first-born of Egypt should have convinced Pharaoh once and for all.

There is also a more subtle reason connected to the rushed state of departure, which comes through when we look closely at that last plague.

The Torah records that at midnight, the last plague begins. It does not last for an instant in time. It is not that all the first-born in Egypt die immediately at midnight, but rather that the plague is beginning at that moment. We know that not all the first-born die, because Pharaoh is still alive to summon Moses. It appears that the plague is cycling through Egypt bringing waves of death. It is uncertain whether the death is progressing by generation or by region or perhaps by house, but what is clear is that the longer Israel stays in Egypt, the more the plague will progress, and more people will die.

Our freedom and our redemption come at a high price in human suffering. We do not rejoice over this and we certainly do not celebrate it. The Talmud, the midrash and the seder ritual have moments when they insist we reflect on the pain that touched others. This does not deter us from our goal. We do not hesitate to seize our freedom, but neither do we languish and make the moment last while others are suffering – we rush.

We are commanded to eat matzah for many reasons. One of the messages is to remember that sometimes our survival necessitates that others suffer. We could not let the bread rise because delaying our departure meant more people would die. The midrash reminds us that we must focus on our goals, yet at the same time, it tells us: "It is forbidden to pray that a wicked man should die."

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Spreading the word of the Rebbe in the schools

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There is a small Hebrew sign outside the former Bank Leumi building at the corner of Lawrence Avenue and Bathurst Street that identifies the premises as the Lubavitch Yeshiva, Ohalei Menachem Mendel, Toronto.

Established in 1996, the yeshiva currently schools 110 boys, ranging in age from 13 to 19 years old – many of them away from home for the first time.

Inside, the boys sit at rectangular plywood tables as they immerse themselves in books. Around them, the walls are filled with talmudic texts and well- used tomes of scripture.

Besides the four full-time and seven part-time faculty members at the yeshiva, there is a group of mentors – young boys in their early 20s – who are available to help the younger students with their learning or to simply lend a hand when being away from home is too hard for a young boy to handle.

"If boys are coming from far away, we become older brothers for them," Gershon Avtzon, 21, from Brooklyn, New York, said in an interview at the yeshiva.

Gershon is one of the many boys who spend several years as mentors and role models in yeshivot around the world.

Varying in age from 22 to 24, the young men come from as far away as Australia to spend two years involved in various "inreach" and "outreach" programs before they get married and settle down.

Surrounded by a group of seven of his peers and several rabbis, Gershon told this reporter about the role and goals of the mentoring program that was initiated by Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn.

The Lubavitcher Rebbe instituted a policy where older boys become role models and mentors for the younger ones, Gershon said.

For these mentors, it's a matter of fulfilling the wishes of the Rebbe and at the same time learning about the satisfactions associated with teaching.

"When we explain [a difficult text] to the younger boys, it gives us an excitement and fuller understanding of why we're doing what we're doing," Gershon said.

In the schools, they help the boys achieve the goal of becoming independent learners.

When the boys first come to the yeshiva they need guidance, Gershon explained. However, by the time they're 16 years old, they're expected to study independently.

While they listen to lectures from the Rosh Yeshiva for deeper understanding, Gershon said, it is up to their other teachers and mentors to guide them.

The students spend their entire day in Torah studies – half a day on their own, Gershon said, adding that the other half is spent with teachers and mentors who help them prepare for tests.

The mentors also help the boys in the nearby younger boys school – Shmuel Zahavy Cheder Chabad – where the students range in age from six to 13.

"Every week, we set up learning for the younger kids to come in and get a taste of the yeshiva," Gershon said.

"We also organize a Jewish version of the boys scouts," Gershon said, "called Chayalei Beth David."

The group of about 40 kids, between 10 and 13 years old, meet once a week in each others' homes and socialize.

"The boys learn how to host each other," Gershon noted.

It's important for us to be role models for the younger kids, Gershon explained.

"The future of Judaism is based on young people and it is our duty to show them what true Judaism is about," he added.

...and in the community

TORONTO — Their work seems never ending – they drive the Lubavitch mitzvah mobiles, go door to door to check mezuzot and encourage Jewish men to put on tfillin.

As part of an outreach program implemented by the Lubavitch Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn, many young boys go out on a daily basis to perform what the Rebbe termed "spiritual acts of charity."

Every holiday, these boys – Yossi Grossbaum, 21, from Melbourne, Australia; Gershon Avtzon, 21 from Brooklyn, N.Y.; Yehuda Hoch, 21 from Pittsburgh, Pa.; and Mendy Wolf, 20, from Chicago, Ill.; to name but a few – go out to get as many Jews as they can to participate in the mitzvot associated with the holiday.

For Purim, they give out as many misholoach manot packages as they could.

"We give it to people and they then give it back to us," Gershon said in an interview.

"Then, we give it back to them. That way we all participate in the mitzvah of giving," he said with a smile.

On Friday afternoons, the boys go out to visit different homes to encourage the women to light Shabbat candles; the men to put on tfillin and put up mezuzot.

"We get sponsors to invest in mezuzot so that we can ensure that every Jewish home will have a mezuzah," Gershon noted.

This past Chanukah, the boys gave out 4,000 chanukiyot with booklets explaining how to fulfil the mitzvah of lighting candles.

They also had a menorah parade with 40 cars bedecked in electrical menorahs, and 10 mitzvah mobiles.

The boys used 10 mitzvah tanks in honour of the Rebbe's 100th birthday, which will take place this year.

"We covered the entire city," Yossi said proudly.

The next major event will take place on the eleventh day of Nissan – March 24th – when it will be the Rebbe's actual birthday, Gershon said.

In recognition of the event, the entire Lubavitch community is planning another parade under the auspices of Chabad Lubavitch, Ontario, said Rabbi Yona Shur, executive director of Cheder Chabad.

Beginning at Chabad Gate at 10 a.m., 11 mitzvah mobiles will bring the message of Passover to the community by giving out brochures explaining the holiday and shmurah matzah to whoever wants it, Rabbi Shur said.

"Why 11, you might ask?

"To symbolize the fact that we must always grow [last holiday there were only 10] and to commemorate the 11th day of Nissan – the Rebbe's birthday," Rabbi Shur said.

Please see photo on page 18.

–A.M.

ב"ה

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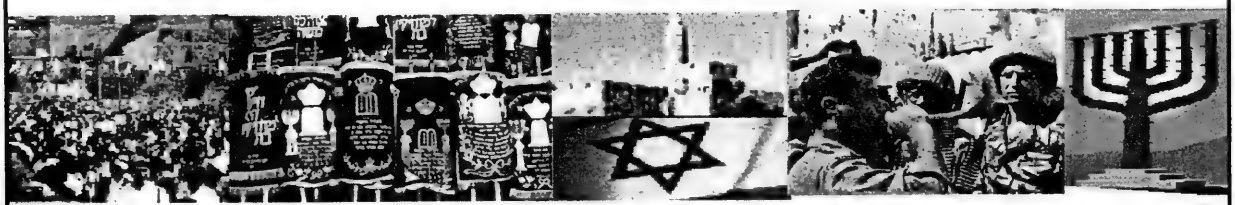

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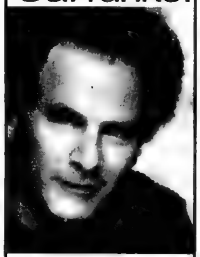
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MK sees no alternative to territorial compromise

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There was a time in Israel's history when *ein brerah* meant there was no alternative to steadfastness in the face of Arab hostility.

Today, when Meretz member of Knesset Avshalom (Abu) Vilan employs the term, it is to suggest that "at the end of the day, there is no other solution but historical, territorial compromise."

Without it, he continued, "we will not have a democratic, Jewish state."

Vilan was in Canada recently as part of a 10-day North American visit that included a stop in Ottawa to participate in the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) parliamentary dinner. He also spoke to synagogue and student groups in the United States and Canada and addressed a gathering in Toronto sponsored by Hashomer Hatzair, a left-leaning Zionist youth group.

Vilan said there is no doubt the intifadah was launched by Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in a bid to extract better terms than those offered at the failed talks at Camp David in the summer of 2000. But he said it's up to the "international community, the United States and Europe together, to make it clear to him there is no alternative but the negotiating table."

Vilan, who in the early 1970s served with former Israeli prime ministers Ehud Barak and Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel's elite Sayeret Matkal commando unit, said senior European diplomats have told him personally that they understand Arafat's machinations and share the view that only diplomacy can solve the differences between the two sides.

But the United States is currently distracted by its campaign in Afghanistan and its preparations for military action against Iraq. "They prefer to deal with Saddam [Hussein] in Iraq before they do something in the Middle East. That makes the situation in Israel very difficult," Vilan said.

"I think that if we find ourselves in a situation without real help from the international community, it will be very difficult to bring both parties back to the negotiating table."

Vilan, who has been involved in high-level political negotiations with the Palestinians at Oslo and served as a go-between between Barak and Arafat, said the Palestinian leader was not ready to make a deal at Camp David.

Arafat felt "trapped in a cage," Vilan said, and despite being offered 97 per cent of the land he was seeking, as well as a solution to the question of Jerusalem and a $20 billion (US) fund to help solve the refugee problem, "Arafat thought he had time."

He thought he could extract better terms if the Republicans won the November 2000 U.S. presidential election, Vilan said, and was expecting the violence he initiated would be similar to the limited "tunnel riots" of 1996, rather than a full-blown intifadah.

"Arafat hoped for more casualties on Israel's side, but he doesn't care what happens to the Palestinian people. In his view, he's in the middle of a historic march. That makes things more problematic. We're in a lose-lose game."

Vilan said continuation of the status quo is "very dangerous for the Israeli public. There can be a better alternative to living on our sword, like Sparta."

While saying that Israel must combat Palestinian terrorism – and that Israel could re-occupy the Palestinian territories in 72 hours if it chose – Vilan said that ultimately, "there is no military solution to the problem." Furthermore, it is not in Israel's long term interest to dominate another people.

The alternatives, he suggested, were a Lebanon-like conflict or a negotiated settlement.

Vilan said he preferred a political solution, for which "the Israeli public will have to pay a very heavy price," including the evacuation of more than 100 settlements in the West Bank and Gaza.

He agreed that was not likely under the current Sharon-led national unity government, but he said even the Likud prime minister believes Israel will one day live alongside a Palestinian state.

He discounted suggestions that Arafat could be bypassed in future talks. "Arafat is their national symbol and nobody has the chance in the short run to take over from him."

Furthermore, "if he wants to control [the militants], he could do so in a few days. Arafat, with Fatah, is in total control in every small town and village. You cannot [attribute] their strength to the other groups."

CELEBRATION: Lubavitch mentors from around the world are getting ready to mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneersohn. From left to right are Shmuel Shmuell, Yehezkael Landa, Yehuda Hoch, Gershon Avtzon, Avraham Werner, Mendy Wolf, Chaim Hershkowitz and Yosef Grossbaum. **Please see related story on page 16.**

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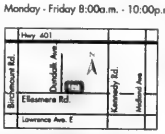

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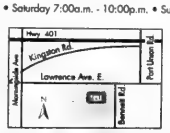

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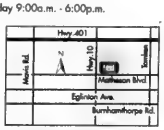

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WZO stresses klal Yisrael

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Zionist movements need to renew the concept of klal Yisrael, says Rami Kornblum, director general, department for Zionist activities, World Zionist Organization (WZO).

He was here recently to meet with executive members of the Canadian Zionist Federation (CZF) and other Jewish organizations to determine the role of the Zionist movement in Canada.

Kornblum, 65, also secretary of the Zionist Congress, said Diaspora communities have tended to look inward, and have lost the feeling of klal Yisrael.

"We have lost it, and maybe rightfully so, but it affects the unity of the Jewish people," said Kornblum, who has served as a Young Judaea shaliach in the United States and in Australia.

He said the Jewish Agency and the WZO has declared the Jewish communities in Argentina, France and South Africa to be in distress.

"Argentina is in an economic crisis, and in France and South Africa there has been a rise in anti-Semitism. The conference in Durban was a festival of anti-Semitism, and that affects every South African on the street.

"We are paying very close attention to these communities, and communities around the world are recruited to take part," he said.

It is natural for these countries to look after their own needs, said Kornblum. "Their concern for Israel cannot be the same, but we cannot afford to lose the unity of the Jewish people."

Zionist organizations have to emphasize the importance of the centrality of Israel in all walks of Jewish life, he said.

"That is the raison d'etre of Zionist movements. Other communal organizations cater to the benefit of their members; it is not their mandate to be Zionist.

"These organizations are doing excellent work, however, and they show their concern for Israel through advocacy, by sending young people, and by going on missions."

Local organizations have been very supportive of having a strong Zionist federation in the community, said Kornblum. "Every now and then, though, we have to assess if the Zionist federations are adequately serving the needs of the community.

"The relationship between Israel and the Diaspora has its ups and downs. We need to redefine the role of CZF to make the organization relevant."

An important change is taking place at the upcoming 34th Zionist Congress which will take place in June in Jerusalem, he said.

"What is very important is that for the first time, out of the 500 elected delegates – Canada has 19-25 per cent that will be between 18 and 30. The constitution has been changed, and young people now have a voice."

The congress cannot rely on the successes of the past, he said. "Zionist ideals brought about the State of Israel; if it still has a role it has to come from the voice of young people. That is our future."

With this change, he said, young people will be able to define for themselves what they feel should be the aims of Zionism.

"The times of dictating to youth what should be done, are over. Things either have to be left to them or we have lost all hope," said Kornblum.

He is disturbed, he said, that the history of the Zionist movements is not on the curriculum of Hebrew day schools.

"We are blaming ourselves in Israel because it is up to us to draw their attention to it. We need to recruit shlichim to come over and create some interest in the subject."

The WZO has launched a movement to develop young leaders between the ages of 30 and 45, "which in our opinion is a lost generation for any community organization. Between juggling work and young families, these people have very little time."

On a positive note, he said, a North American Zionist federation conference was held two years ago in Florida, and out of about 400 young people who attended, about 40 were Canadian.

"The Canadian contingent is still active. They still get together to discuss matters relating to Israel and the Jewish community. They are trying to find themselves within the ranks of community leadership."

CORRECTION:

In the photo caption "Medieval Man" in the March 7 issue of *The CJN* (page 18), the third child from the left should have been identified as Laurel Etkin-Spigelman. *The CJN* regrets the error.

Canadians receive rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva U seminary

NEW YORK — Several Canadians are among the 147 students who recently received their rabbinic ordination from Yeshiva University's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary (RIETS).

The new rabbis include Shmuel Marcus, son of Rabbi Raphael Marcus of B'nai Torah Synagogue in Toronto; Steve Lacob; Joshua Joseph, son of Rabbi Howard and Naomi Joseph from Montreal; Rafael Lipner, a teacher at Community Hebrew Acadamy of Toronto (CHAT); Uri Etigson; Seth Binus; Solomon Kalkstein; Chaim Motzen, son of Cantor Yaakov Motzen of Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue in Toronto; and Michael Engel.

The graduates received their ordination from Rabbi Norman Lamm, rosh yeshiva and president of RIETS, at the March 10 ceremony, in which Rabbi Lamm received the Aluf Torah Award, established in memory of Rabbi Joseph Soloveitchik, considered the spiritual leader of modern Orthodoxy.

Also at the ceremony, Israeli president Moshe Katsav, delivered an address to the graduates, and received an honorary doctor of humane letters.

Aid to Magen David Adom spans generations

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Yael Shier, 12, twins Katy Korman and Shainey Himal, 50, and Gerald Berley, 80, don't know each other but they have something in common.

They all recently celebrated milestone birthdays and all their birthday gifts were contributed to Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel.

Yael's bat mitzvah invitation included a message in which she said part of the responsibility that comes with becoming bat mitzvah is to help Jewish people in need.

Yael Shiar

"Magen David Adom, the Israeli equivalent of the Red Cross, is responsible for providing essential medical services in Israel to all its population – at the scene of terrorists attacks, automobile accidents, natural disasters," the message read.

Yael, a student at United Synagogue Day School, noted in the message that MDA is responsible for the blood supply to all of Israel's medical institutions.

"Today the demands are great. Even ambulances coming to the scenes of terror have been attacked and destroyed."

She also noted that because MDA gets only a small percentage of its funding from the Israeli government, it must rely on donations at home and abroad to buy equipment and supplies.

Gerald Berley

Helaina Silver decided to plan a surprise 50th birthday party for her mother Shainey Himal and her aunt Katy Korman.

Many of Silver's acquaintances had served as MDA volunteers in Israel, so when planning the party, she asked guests not to bring gifts but rather to donate to MDA and the purchase of an ambulance. She says her mother and aunt were pleased with her choice.

"After Sept. 11, my daughter became even more aware of the importance to support the State of Israel and to provide emergency life-saving equipment for Magen David Adom," says Himal.

Berley, who was a longtime volunteer at the former Jewish community centre in Toronto near Leslie Street and Steeles Avenue, spearheaded the launching of MDA's office here. Today he is the vice-chair of the organization's Toronto chapter, a vice-president of the Ontario board of directors and ambulance chairman, looking for people to fund the cost of ambulances (it costs about $80,000 Cdn for one standard ambulance).

"I was pleased to direct my birthday gifts to this most valuable and needy humanitarian cause," says the octogenarian. "It is my hope that others will chose Magen David Adom when they are celebrating happy occasions, memorializing a loved one, or to bequeath money."

Twins Shainey Himal (left) and Katy Korman.

Berley adds that MDA helps the entire population of Israel regardless of religion or ethnic background.

"MDA responds to every emergency within minutes. The Israeli National Blood Services is a division of the non-profit MDA which is responsible for the collection, processing, testing and distribution of blood units and blood products throughout the country."

He adds that along with training ambulance drivers and emergency medical technicians, both Jewish and Arab, the organization is constantly adding and upgrading its ambulances to handle life-threatening situations.

Berley is proud of the generous individuals and organizations in Toronto who have contributed ambulances for MDA.

"We have sent eight ambulances in the past two years and it is my hope to continue to collect enough money to send many more," he says.

CORRECTION

In a photo caption on page 7 of last week's *CJN*, Yochai Porat, Magen David Adom's late co-ordinator of foreign volunteers, was incorrectly identified. He was pictured on the far left. *The CJN* regrets the error.

Graham heading to Middle East

Continued from page 1

Fogel said that in Israel, it's all but certain Graham will hold talks with Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and other top Israeli officials.

The CIC will meet with the minister before the trip and brief him on issues of concern, Fogel noted.

Fogel said Graham will probably also visit Egypt and Jordan, "and possibly – but I doubt it – Saudi Arabia."

Graham has visited Israel and the Palestinian territories before. In 1996 , he went as part of a CIC-sponsored trip for Canadian parliamentarians.

Fogel speculated that for Graham, a trip to Israel and the Palestinian regions will duplicate a similar journey by his predecessor, current Deputy Prime Minister John Manley, in May of last year.

Traditionally, trips by Canadian officials to Israel and the Palestinian areas have been fraught with controversy, and Manley's was no different. He made waves by saying that Israel "absolutely needs to stop" building settlements "as a condition for peace."

He called Israel's occupation of post-1967 territories "dangerous."

Manley returned to the region in late October, and called on Sharon to pull Israeli troops out of the West Bank. Instead, Israel pushed in deeper. A resigned Manley acknowledged that when it comes to Israeli policy, "they are not going to phone Ottawa before they act, that's clear."

No one's willing to predict what will be on Graham's mind this time.

However, Fogel remarked that the transparency of the Palestinian Authority's spending of international relief funds "is always an issue."

Since 1993, Canada has contributed $165 million to meet the humanitarian needs of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza. Last May, Manley announced that Canada was contributing $5 million to help create jobs and reduce poverty in the West Bank and Gaza.

Fogel noted that Canada does not give money directly to the PA, but rather to a variety of humanitarian and aid agencies, the Red Cross and various non-governmental groups, which then channel funds to various projects within the PA.

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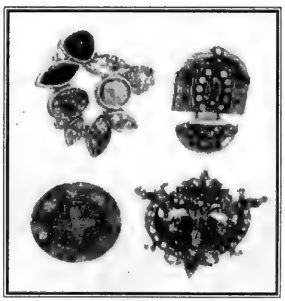

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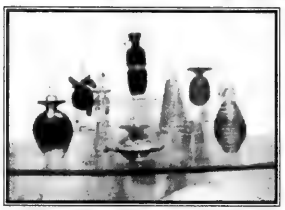

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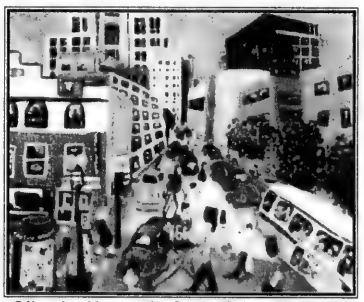

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Passover Food Ideas

A perfect wine presentation from *The Passover Table* published by HarperPerennial.

HOLIDAY SNACKS

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

When I was a kid, one thing I hated about Passover was that there never seemed to be anything to eat for my after-school snack. I remember yanking open the fridge door, peeling the tin foil off a neatly wrapped plate, pouting and slamming the fridge door shut, again and again. Sure, there was leftover chicken, boiled eggs and a shank bone, but like other kids, I was used to having homemade cookies or even a sandwich to tide me over until dinner. Things just weren't the same.

Well, this year, kids can turn their frowns upside down with these delicious and easy-to-make Passover snacks. Depending on their age, kids can make some of these treats on their own, but other recipes require the help of an adult. Enjoy!

MATZAH PIZZA

1 piece of matzah
tomato or pizza sauce
handful of grated mozzarella cheese
any toppings you like (mushrooms, olives, green pepper, pineapple)

Cover a toaster oven pan with tin foil, place matzah on top. Spread sauce on matzah, sprinkle on the cheese, add the toppings and broil until cheese bubbles, watching that it doesn't burn.

LICKETY-SPLIT BANANA SHAKE

1 ripe, frozen banana, peeled and cut in chunks
3 ice cubes (optional)
½ cup milk
a handful of other frozen fruit, such as strawberries or blueberries (optional)

Throw all ingredients into a blender or food processor and blend until smooth and thick. Pour into a tall glass and serve immediately. This delicious and nutritious shake can be enjoyed year-round.

Continued on page 23

Passover Greetings from the LCBO

Choose from a fine selection of Kosher products including Baron Herzog and Herzog International Selections.

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Holiday snacks for a blissful evening

Continued from page 22

BAKED APPLE A LA MICROWAVE

1 cored apple, peel on (McIntosh and Spartan work best)
1 tbsp. water
tsp. cinnamon
p. sugar
ll handful of raisins or other dried fruit (optional)

Place apple in centre of microwaveable bowl. In a separate bowl, combine raisins, cinnamon and sugar. Stuff apple with mixture. Add half of water to bowl and other half to raisins. Microwave on high until apple is soft and mushy, about 1 minute. If it is still not soft, try 30 seconds more. Allow to cool before eating.

EASY PASSOVER COCOA BROWNIES

This recipe comes from 1,000 Jewish Recipes *by Faye Levy.*

1 cup margarine or softened butter
2 cups sugar
4 large eggs
1 cup unsweetened Passover cocoa powder
⅔ cup matzah cake meal

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9-inch square cake pan and set aside. Beat margarine with sugar and eggs in a large bowl with an electric mixer until very light and fluffy. Add cocoa and cake meal. Beat slowly to combine, then beat at higher speed until mixture is fluffy. Spoon batter into pan. Bake for 30 to 35 minutes until toothpick comes out dry and colour has changed evenly on top. Serve at room temperature.

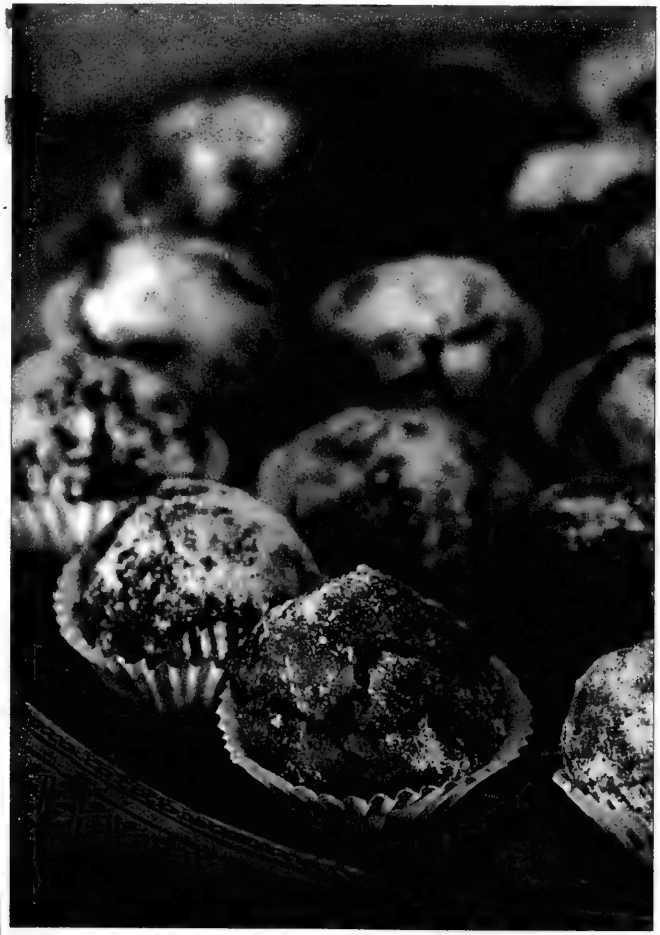
CHOCOLATE MANDLEBROIT

2 cups white sugar
1 cup margarine or butter
6 eggs
2½ cups cake meal
½ cup potato starch
½ tsp. salt
1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Topping:
2 tsp. sugar
1 tsp. cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a large cookie sheet and set aside. In a large bowl, cream together sugar and margarine until smooth. Beat in eggs one at a time. In another bowl, combine cake meal, potato starch and salt. Add to margarine mixture. Mix in nuts and chocolate chips. Form into 2 long loaves and place onto baking sheet. Sprinkle on cinnamon and sugar topping. Bake for 50 to 55 minutes until toothpick tests clean. Turn off oven. Cut loaves diagonally into strips then turn each cookie on its side. Put back in oven until crisp, about 10 minutes.

This recipe has been modified from an Internet submission. For more kosher for Passover recipe suggestions, visit http://holiday.allrecipes.com/directory/845.asp.



Almond and walnut macaroons as found in *The Scent of Orange Blossoms*, published by Ten Speed Press.

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1 cup	2% cottage cheese
1/2	250g pkg light cream cheese, softened
3	eggs
2-3 tsp	chopped fresh dill
1/4 tsp	black pepper
2	green onions, chopped
1	can (170 g) Clover Leaf® Chunk Sockeye Salmon, Skinless and Boneless, drained
1/2 cup	crumbled light feta cheese
1	unbaked 9-inch (23 cm) deep dish matzoh meal pie shell

- In food processor or blender, process cottage cheese until smooth. Add cream cheese and process until smooth. Add eggs, dill and pepper; blend until smooth.
- Stir in salmon, green onions and feta. Pour into pie crust.
- Bake at 375°F (190°C) 35–40 minutes or until set. Serve warm or chilled.

HINT *Instead of feta, substitute other favourite cheeses: cheddar or Swiss. This pie may be prepared up to a day ahead; cover and refrigerate. Reheat at 350°F (180°C) about 20 minutes.*

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Stuffed breast of veal as seen in *The Passover Table*, published by Harper-Perennial

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INTERNET PASSOVER

By NORENE GILLETZ
Special to The CJN

I admit it – I am an Internet junkie and spend countless hours wandering the Web searching for interesting recipes and ideas for my cooking articles. I have foodie friends all over the world who send each other recipes instantly with just a quick click of the mouse. In culinary cyberspace, we are called pan-pals.

Here are some delicious recipes for you to try this Passover. Enjoy!

* * *

Jamie Stolper is the co-founder and food editor for www.shalomboston.com. This excellent Web site has an extensive food section, with menus, recipes and tips for the cook. Jamie is one of my pan-pals and we enjoy exchanging recipes, stories and food memories.

This is the recipe that Jamie's mother-in-law, Frances Stolper, came up with to replicate the *bulkies* that her mother made every Passover when Frances was growing up. She served them for the seder, then used the leftovers to make sandwiches for school lunches. She also made Passover bagels from the same recipe, shaping the dough into rings on a cookie sheet.

FRANCES STOLPER'S PASSOVER *BULKIES*

1 cup water
⅓ cup unsalted butter or pareve margarine
1 cup matzah meal
½ tsp. salt
5 extra-large eggs

Preheat oven to 450. Grease generously the top and insides of a muffin tin, preferably a non-stick one. (The dough will puff up and spread over the sides of the openings.)

Continued on page 26

Happy Passover

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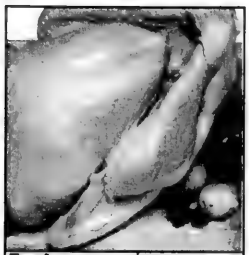
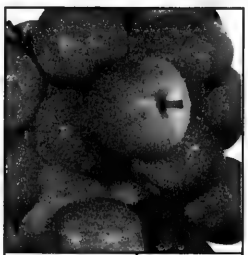


Fresh or Frozen Turkey
Chai Kosher
5.05/kg
2.29 lb



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1.29 lb

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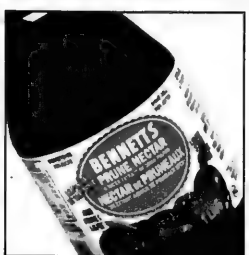
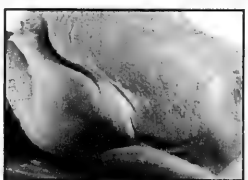
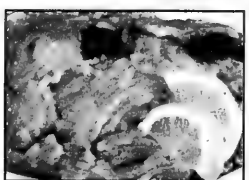
2.99 227 g pkg



Bennett's Prune Nectar
1.99 1 L btl



Fresh Whole Chicken
Chai Kosher
2.05/kg
2.29 lb



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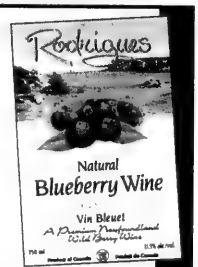

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A traditional seder table from *The Passover Table*, published by HarperPerennial.

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INTERNET PASSOVER

Continued from page 24

Bring water and butter or margarine to a boil in a small pot. Pour in matzah meal and salt all at one time and continue cooking and stirring until the dough no longer sticks to the sides of the pan. Remove from the stove and place dough in a mixing bowl. Beat the dough for one minute at high speed until it seems lighter in consistency. Continue beating and add the eggs, one at a time. Beat another 1 to 2 minutes, scraping sides and bottom to make sure all the dough is mixed in.

Mound the batter in 8 of the muffin compartments and bake at 450 for 20 minutes. Without opening the oven, reduce the heat to 325 and bake approximately 35 minutes longer, or until puffed and browned.

Let the *bulkies* cool in the pan for a few minutes and then remove to a rack. Serve at room temperature. Makes 8 large *bulkies*. Recipe may be doubled.

* * *

This easy sponge cake comes from Julie Weisman, who works for www.ShalomBoston.com and comes from a family of great cooks. This delicious cake has only five ingredients and doesn't require separating the eggs. If you have a heavy-duty stand mixer that will beat on its own, this recipe is a snap to prepare.

"This marble cake is a staple in our house during Passover. We eat it for breakfast and the kids take a piece for lunch. It is one of the food items my family most associates with Passover," Julie says.

JULIE WISEMAN'S PASSOVER MARBLE CAKE

8 eggs
2 cups sugar
1 cup cake meal
2 tbsp. potato starch
2 oz. bittersweet chocolate

Preheat the oven to 350. Beat the eggs and sugar on high speed for 15 minutes. Add the cake meal and potato starch, beating at the lowest speed until mixed in. Melt the chocolate (you can melt it while beating the eggs and sugar). Pour ¾ of the batter into an ungreased 10-inch tube pan. Add the melted chocolate to the remaining ¼ of the batter and stir until evenly mixed. Spoon the chocolate batter into the pan and swirl it through with a knife.

Bake for 50 to 55 minutes. Immediately hang tube pan upside down on a long-necked bottle and let cool. Makes 12 servings.

* * *

"Hi: I'm Marianne Kaufmann and live in Montevideo-Uruguay in South America. My parents came here before the war, between 1937 and 1939. They met here and I was born here.

Continued on page 27

INTERNET PASSOVER

Continued from page 26

"I am sending you one of my favourite recipes that I discovered in a WIZO cookbook. It can also be done with bread crumbs, but I make it with matzah meal for Pesach. It's very easy and delicious. I will probably bake this cake for my mother's birthday, which is on March 28. Although the recipe is called praline cake, there aren't any nuts in the recipe."

MARIANE KAUFMANN'S PRALINE CAKE

1 cup butter
6 egg yolks
6 tbsp. icing sugar
½ lb. bittersweet chocolate, chopped
¼ cup coffee
2 tbsp. Passover cognac
2 tbsp. matzah meal
6 egg whites
additional butter and matzah meal to coat the pan

In the top of a double boiler over simmering water, combine butter, egg yolks, icing sugar, chocolate, coffee and cognac. Mix well. Heat gently until butter and chocolate have melted and mixture is smooth, stirring constantly. Add matzah meal and mix well.

Beat egg whites until stiff but not dry. Carefully fold into the chocolate mixture.

Brush an 8-in. or 10-in. round cake pan with butter and sprinkle with matzah meal. Pour a little more than ⅓ of the chocolate mixture into the pan and spread evenly. Bake in a preheated hot oven (400) for about 20 or 30 minutes, or until it's baked. Cool completely.

Meanwhile, place the remaining ⅔ of the chocolate mixture into the freezer for about an hour, until well-chilled but not frozen. Pour the chilled mixture into the pan and spread evenly over cake, as if you were frosting it. Cover and refrigerate. Serve cold; cut into small pieces because it's like a rich chocolate bombe. Makes 10 to 12 servings.

* * *

NORENE'S LEMON MERINGUE CLOUDS

3 egg whites, at room temperature
1 tsp. lemon juice
6 tbsp. sugar
1 tbsp. grated lemon zest

Preheat oven to 250. Spray a foil-lined baking sheet with nonstick spray. In a large glass or stainless mixing bowl, beat egg whites with an electric mixer until foamy. Drizzle in lemon juice and beat until soft peaks form. Gradually beat in sugar 1 tbsp. at a time. Continue beating until stiff and shiny. Fold in lemon zest. Drop cookie mixture from a tablespoon onto baking sheet in small mounds.

Bake at 250 for 1 hour. Turn off heat but don't open the oven door. Leave cookies in the oven 1 hour longer. Remove cookies from oven and cool completely.

Makes about 2 dozen cookies. These can be frozen, or store them in a tightly covered container.

Vegetable Cutlets as found in *The Passover Table*, published by HarperPerennial.

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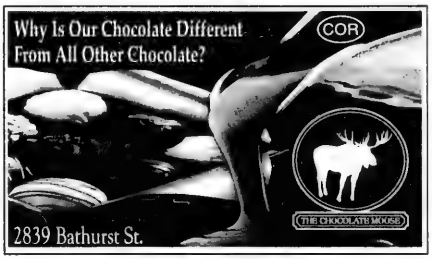

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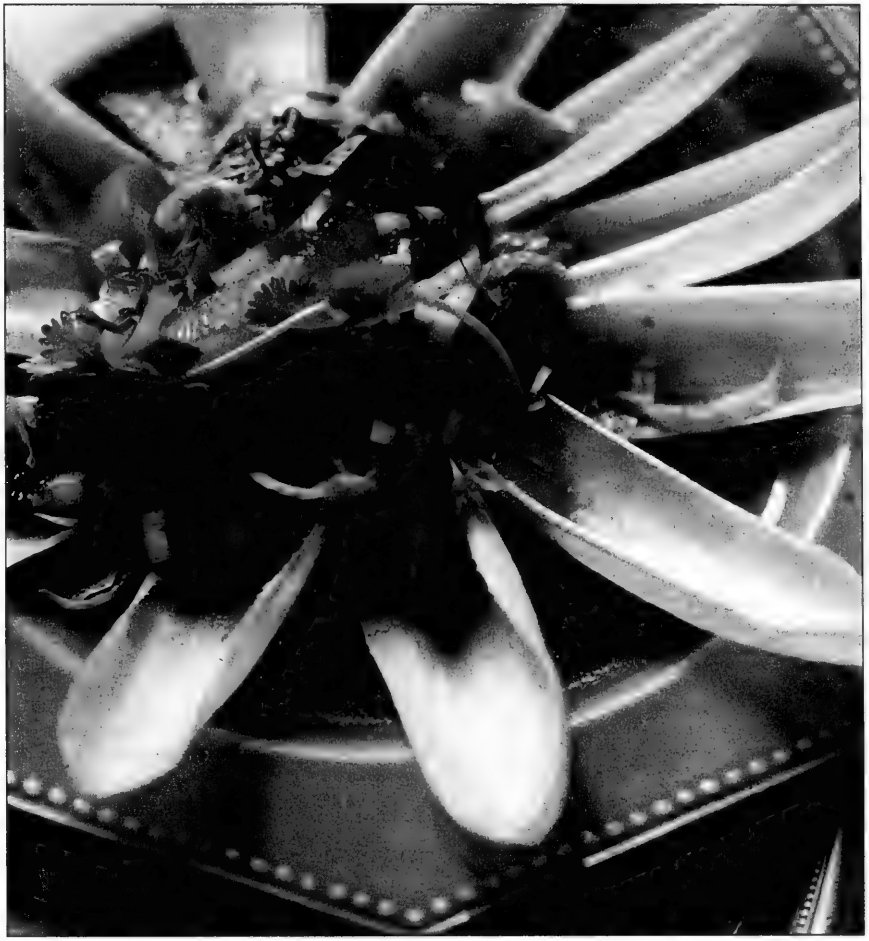

Endive Salad with Tangerine, Beets and Olives as shown in *The Kosher Palette*, published byWimmer press.

Gilletz has a love affair with food

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Norene Gilletz, food consultant, cooking teacher and cookbook author, likes to take the easy way out.

"I can't follow complicated instructions and I don't like to spend lots of time cooking what will be gone in a few minutes."

As a result, all the recipes in her newly revised *The Food Processor Bible* (Whitecap Books), which first came out about 20 years ago, are easy to read, easy to follow and easy to cook, she says.

Gilletz, who self-published and self-marketed the first edition of the book, then called *Pleasures of Your Food Processor*, says that "every page has now been rechecked and rechecked and there are about 100 new recipes.

"The book is a mix of old and new, low fat and high fat. It's for people who are trying to eat healthy every day, and it's for those who want something rich for a special occasion. It's a book for everyone.

"My recipes are not rocket science. I want my words to make a picture. If I can't get visual, my readers can't. I use basic ingredients, and I'm flexible. Readers do not have to follow the instructions blindly," she says.

"I'm a real person; I want to be in and out of the kitchen quickly, and I don't want to stand and cook all day.

"I see thousands of recipes in a week and I see how I can incorporate some of them into my style of cooking. If there are too many steps, I pass it over. I try and keep instructions easy."

She says her favourite foods are hot dogs and corned beef and that she is a confessed sugar freak.

"I grew up watching my mother cook. She wouldn't let me cook though, and I still don't interfere on someone else's turf. I did learn how to make peanut brittle, fudge, brownies, chocolate pudding and macaroni and cheese."

Continued on page 30

Sobeys

To all our friends, family and the entire Jewish Community, We extend our warmest wishes for a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful Passover!

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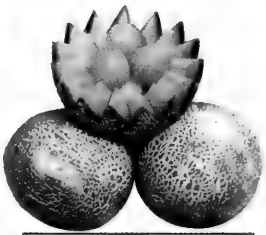

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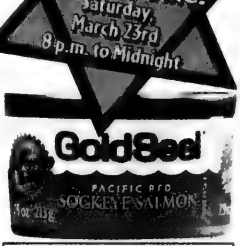

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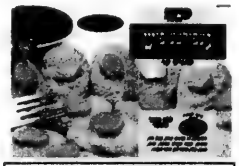

Hanamal Gefilte Fish Meal frozen 5.99 400 g

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Noreen Gilletz with a collection of food processors. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

Gilletz has a love affair with food

Continued from page 28

Cooks can manage without food processors, she says, "but it makes life easier, and if we cook when we are stressed, the food does not taste as good.

"I talk to my food; I like to have a relationship with what I am cooking. I have a love affair with food."

A Passover section is crucial to any Jewish cookbook, she says, and *The Food Processor Bible* is no exception. "In addition to the recipes in the Passover section, many recipes throughout the book are suitable for Passover or can be adapted easily. These are marked in the index with an asterisk.

"We've created a Passover mini-index so it's really a book within a book. People have enough going on during Passover. I'm here to help make it easier."

Gilletz, whose other books include *MealLeaniYumm!*, *MicroWays* and *Second Helpings Please,* which she helped compile, says she would like to write a Jewish food memory book.

"Food memories live on long after the meal. If you smell a certain food, you can literally go back to where you were at the time. You can hear the clatter of dishes and the hum of conversation."

The following recipes are from *The Food Processor Bible.* Although the book is not in binder format, she says, it is user-friendly. "It opens easily without being propped up, and the coloured tabs make it simple to locate a chapter."

> ***'People have enough going on during Passover. I'm here to help make it easier'***

FARFEL, CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE KUGEL

- 3 cups matzah farfel
- 2½ cups hot chicken broth
- 2 medium onions
- 2 stalks celery
- 1 cup mushrooms
- ½ green or red bell pepper
- 2 cups cooked chicken (discard skin and bones)
- 1 to 2 tbsp. oil
- 2 tbsp. each fresh parsley and fresh dill
- 2 cloves garlic
- 3 eggs (or 2 eggs plus 2 egg whites)
- salt, freshly ground black pepper and paprika to taste

Preheat oven to 375. Combine farfel and broth in mixing bowl and let soak for 5 to 10 minutes. Drain excess liquid.

Slicer: Cut vegetables to fit feed tube. Slice, using medium pressure. Slice chicken with sharp knife or on the processor, using firm pressure. (If chicken is cold, it will slice more easily.)

Heat oil in large nonstick skillet. Add vegetables and brown quickly over medium-high heat. Add chicken and cook 1 to 2 minutes longer, stirring to mix well.

Steel blade: Process parsley, dill and garlic until minced, 8 to 10 seconds. Add to farfel along with remaining ingredients; mix well.

Spread mixture evenly in sprayed 7x11-inch glass baking dish. Bake for 45 minutes, until golden.

Variation: Bake in sprayed muffin tins for 25 to 30 minutes, until golden. Muffins make a delicious lunch for the kids. Makes 12 to 15 muffins.

Reheats and/or freezes well. Recipe may be doubled for a large crowd. Yield 8 to 10 servings.

PASSOVER CRANBERRY SWEET AND SOUR MEATBALLS

- 2 lbs. lean ground beef or veal
- 2 cloves garlic
- 1 egg (or 2 egg whites)
- ½ tsp. salt (or to taste)
- ¼ tsp. freshly ground black pepper
- ½ tsp. dried basil
- ¼ cup matzah meal (or 1 small grated potato)
- 2 14-oz. cans cranberry sauce
- ½ tsp. ground cinnamon
- 2 cups tomato sauce (or 2 10-oz. cans tomato-mushroom sauce)

Steel blade: Place meat in large mixing bowl. Drop garlic through feed tube while machine is running; process until minced. Add egg, salt, pepper and basil; process a few seconds. Mix into meat along with matzah or grated potato.

Place cranberry sauce and cinnamon in processor. Add tomato sauce through feed tube while machine is running. Process for 10 to 15 seconds. To avoid leakage from bottom of bowl, immediately remove bowl and blade from base.

Continued on page 31

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Passover Food Ideas

Gilletz has a love affair with food

Continued from page 30

of machine. Pour sauce into large pot and heat to simmering.

Form meat mixture into tiny meatballs, wetting your hands for easier handling. Drop meatballs into simmering sauce. Cover and simmer about 1½ hours.

Freezes well. Yield 10 servings as an appetizer or 6 as a main course.

PASSOVER KNISHES

4 potatoes, peeled, boiled and mashed (about 3 cups)
2 tbsp. margarine or oil
1 egg (or 2 egg whites)
½ cup matzah meal
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste
1¼ cups cooked brisket or chicken
leftover gravy or broth, if needed

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Preheat oven to 400. Combine mashed potatoes with margarine or oil, egg, matzah meal, salt and pepper; mix well.

Steel blade: Trim fat from meat or chicken; cut in chunks. Process until minced, about 10 seconds. If mixture is dry, moisten with a little gravy or broth. Season to taste.

Oil the palms of your hands and shape potato mixture into flat patties. Place about 2 tbsp. meat filling in centre of each patty; wrap potato mixture around filling to enclose it. Flatten slightly and make an indentation in centre of each knish with your finger. Place on sprayed baking sheet and bake for about 35 minutes, until golden brown.

Variation: For a vegetarian alternative, substitute cooked chopped broccoli, spinach or sautéed mushrooms and onions.

These reheat very well or may be frozen. Yield 8 to 10 knishes.

Figs filled with almond paste and other dessert ideas can be found in The Scent of Orange Blossoms, published by Ten Speed Press.

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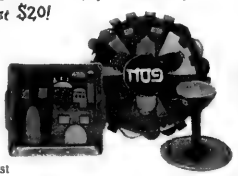
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More CJN staff recipes

Here are some more Passover recipes from *CJN* staff.

PITTA
(submitted by Grace Zweig)

6 matzot
1 box chopped spinach, defrosted
1 pkg. farmers cheese or 1 carton dry cottage cheese
2 eggs
1 tsp. salt

Soak matzot in warm water for 5 minutes. Place on towel to drain. Grease shallow 7x9-inch baking pan. Carefully place a layer of matzah in pan. Mix defrosted spinach with cheese and eggs. Add salt. Spread this on top of matzah, and top filling with another layer of wet matzah. Add another layer of cheese mixture. Repeat until all the matzot and filling are used. Cover pan with aluminum foil and bake at 400, approximately 35 to 40 minutes.

Variation: Substitute sauteed onions (6) for spinach to make an onion casserole.

HUNGARIAN-STYLE GOULASH STEW
(submitted by Sheldon Kirshner)

Fry one pound of stewing beef cut into small chunks, with onions and garlic. Add 17 ounces of crushed tomatoes and sliced up green peppers. Then add a bit of water. Cook under low heat for about three hours, until beef is tender. Voila!

ALMOND MACAROONS
(submitted by Frances Kraft)

These were inspired by a recipe in *Martha Stewart Living*, April 1995.

¼ c. sugar
2 c. unsweetened shredded coconut
½ c. ground almonds
2 large egg whites
1½ tsp. almond extract (or to taste)
pinch of salt

Combine all ingredients in a large bowl. Use hands to mix well. Shape into one-inch balls and place on cookie sheet lined with parchment paper, about one inch apart. Bake in pre-heated 350-degree oven for 15 minutes, or until golden.

KUGEL
(submitted by Frances Kraft's neighbour)

You can substitute any vegetable; cut before freezing.

2 boxes latke mix
1 tbsp. oil
1 head broccoli, cut small and cooked
½ head cauliflower, cut small and cooked

Make up 2 boxes of latke mix as for latkes. Add about 1 tbsp. oil (the same amount you'd use for the bottom of the pan if making latkes). Add vegetables, already cooked (e.g. microwaved), cut small. Bake at 350 for about an hour in a 9x13-inch pan. Top should be a little brown. Can adjust up or down (e.g. 1 box for 8x8-inch pan etc.). Cut before freezing. Makes 20 servings.

Continued on page 33

Mushroom stuffing recipe can be found in *The Passover Table*, published by HarperPerennial.

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More CJN staff recipes

Continued from page 32

CARROTS

2 lbs. frozen baby carrots
1 cup honey
1 cup orange juice
1 can pineapple chunks, drained

Cook baby carrots. Boil honey and orange juice together in microwave or on top of stove. Pour over carrots. Put drained pineapple chunks on top. Makes 8 servings.

PASSOVER QUICHE
(submitted by Bev Bergman)

1½-2 cups grated cheese
4 eggs
¼ tsp. salt
dash pepper
1 medium onion, chopped
¼ lb. mushrooms, sliced
½ each medium red and green pepper
1½ cup milk
1 tsp. potato flour

Place cheese in bottom of 8-in. pan. Cover cheese with vegetables that have been sauteed in butter. Season with salt and pepper. Beat together eggs, milk, salt and potato flour. Pour over vegetable layer. Sprinkle with paprika and bake at 375 for 40-45 minutes.

CRUNCHY CASHEW FISH
(submitted by Louise Wolman)

tourmaline or turbot or any thick white fish
cashew nuts crushed or finely processed
salt
pepper and garlic
1 egg (or egg white)

Wash fish, pat dry on paper towel. Dip in egg white. Roll in nut mixture. Pan fry in oil until crunchy on one side. Turn carefully once (pecan nuts can also be used). Fish never tasted so delish!

Sharing Secrets

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Rona Cappell and Elise Mecklinger call their new cookbook, *Sharing Secrets*, a Jewish cookbook with a nouvelle spin.

They edited *Sharing Secrets* as a fund-raising project for Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary, and it was created to be a "user-friendly reference book to which all manner of cooks can refer."

Cappell, a social worker, and Mecklinger who has a master's degree in library science, say the book is "a marriage of our professional and research skills.

"We had worked together on an ad book for an auxiliary gala and we wanted to work on another project. Cooking has always been our passion, and when we approached the auxiliary board with our idea for a cookbook they said, 'Go for it,'" says Cappell.

All proceeds from the book go towards the auxiliary's $6-million Breathe Life into Birth campaign, committed to the establishment of the hospital's Centre for Excellence in Mothers' & Infants' Health.

In planning the book, the pair collected recipes from members of the Mount Sinai community and had all recipes taste tested.

"Every month, 12 auxiliary members got together to cook and critique each other's recipes. It was a potluck lunch with a flair.

"At the end, we added certain recipes so the book would be well-rounded. We wanted to make sure that, come *yontif*, we could offer heimishe recipes that have endured for years," says Mecklinger.

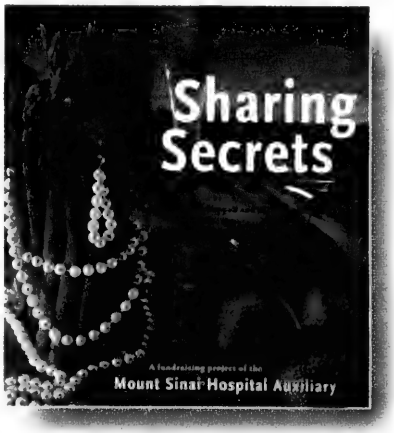
The book was launched Dec. 6 and "it has gotten unbelievable feedback. We initially printed 2,500 copies, and five weeks later we had less than 700 left. The response was phenomenal," says Cappell.

Both women are vice-presidents on the hospital's auxiliary board and they give credit to board president Marlene Borins for her "complete support of the project. She was a constant source of encouragement."

They also owe thanks, they say, to local cookbook author and cook Norene Gilletz who helped proofread recipes. "We're grateful for her expertise."

The pair plan to approach synagogue sisterhoods and other Jewish organizations in order to market *Sharing Secrets*.

"We're also going to do cooking demonstrations. We want to reach an untapped group of people. We've spent two years focusing on getting the book down; now we want it marketed.



"We raised the money for the book, organized the recipes, proofread it, indexed it and styled it. Would we do it all over again? In a second."

This Passover, try the following recipes from *Sharing Secrets*.

CABBAGE ROLLS
By Esther Mecklinger

To separate the leaves, put the cabbage in the freezer overnight. The next day put the cabbage in boiling water. The leaves will easily separate.

For an added treat put a pound of flunken into the pot after cooking the onion.

1 tbsp. olive oil
1 large cooking onion cut into ¼-in. dice
1 28-oz. can tomatoes
¼ cup ketchup
¼ cup brown sugar
2 tbsp. lemon juice
¼ cup matzah meal
2½ lbs. mix of any of ground beef, veal, turkey, or chicken
salt and pepper to taste
leaves of 1 cabbage

In a large saucepan heat oil over medium heat. Add onion and cook 2-3 minutes or until browned. Add tomatoes, ketchup, brown sugar and lemon juice and stir until thoroughly blended. Let mixture come to a boil. Cover and reduce heat to simmer.

Reserve ¼ cup of liquid. In a large mixing bowl, mix together meat, matzah meal and reserved liquid with a wooden spoon. Place an equal portion (approx. 1 tbsp.) of filling in the middle of each cabbage leaf and roll up envelope-style.

Uncover saucepan and gently lower rolls into the sauce. Cover and simmer for about 2 hours.

Place saucepan uncovered in a preheated 250-degree oven for another 2 hours.

FARFEL CHICKEN AND VEGETABLE KUGEL
By Suzanne Shuchat

3 cups matzah farfel
2 cups chicken stock
3 tbsp. oil
2 onions, finely chopped
1 tsp. fresh minced garlic
2 stalks celery, thinly sliced
1 cup mushrooms, thinly sliced
½ green pepper, finely chopped
2 cups cooked chicken, cut into bite-sized bits
3 eggs, lightly beaten
salt, pepper, and paprika

Continued on page 35

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Pesach & the diabetic

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish law considers those with diabetes to be *cholim* – people with a life-threatening illness; nevertheless, the disease can usually be controlled and diabetics should try to observe as much as possible of Jewish ritual, says Rabbi Chaim Sacknowitz, director of guidance at Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT).

Even if the obligation of the mitzvot is not binding on *cholim*, nevertheless, on Pesach a diabetic should act as much as possible as if he or she was healthy, Rabbi Sacknowitz said at the pre-Pesach meeting of the Jewish diabetes chapter of the Canadian Diabetic Association, held at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

After 10 a.m. on the day of the first seder (March 27 this year), he said, one is not permitted to eat chametz or matzah. Since people with diabetes have to eat on a regular basis, they should eat fish, meat, fruit or vegetables to keep their blood sugar stable.

Eating at the seder is somewhat more difficult, Rabbi Sacknowitz acknowledged, especially since the meal generally comes much later than regular mealtimes. The rabbi suggested that the diabetic should try to eat a meal before the seder, being careful to leave room for the matzah.

It is a specific mitzvah to eat matzah at the seder, Rabbi Sacknowitz said. The issue is how much matzah constitutes fulfilling this obligation.

One must eat a *keziut* of matzah three times during the seder, he said, once during the Hamotzi, once with the Hillel sandwich (when matzah is eaten together with maror) and once with the afikoman.

A *keziut*, in the most lenient opinion, is one-third of a machine-made matzah or one quarter of a round, hand-made one. This means that a diabetic, for whom the bare minimum is acceptable, the rabbi said, need only eat one whole machine-made matzah or three- quarters of a hand-made one.

Wine is another problem. The rule is to drink four cups of wine ("drink, not sip," Rabbi Sacknowitz added). Here too there is some controversy about the amount.

Each cup, he said, must be a *reviit*, which, again in the most lenient interpretation, is three ounces. While wine is generally very high in sugar, one is permitted to dilute it up to 3½ times its volume, preferably with grape juice, but if necessary with water.

During the seder, then, one must drink 12 ounces of wine, which can be diluted if necessary.

Another option is to drink dry wine, which by definition has no sugar in it.

Other foods eaten at the seder, such as celery, are not much of a problem for diabetics, he said.

With these leniencies, it should not be difficult to have an appropriate amount of wine and matzah and still control one's blood sugar, Rabbi Sacknowitz said. "It comes from the biblical description of mitzvot as '*vechai bahem*,' that you should live by these laws and not die by them."

Another problem on Pesach is medications. Many medications contain starch, usually corn flour, he explained.

"Rabbis and some pharmacies have lists of approved medications, and if one can substitute without any harm, one should do so. If not, or the adjustment would need a long time, then just keep on with the regular one."

Shirley Glatt, co-founder of the Jewish diabetes chapter along with Esther Schwartz, made a plea for volunteers. Over 100 people come to nearly every program, she told *The CJN*, but the same few people have been active almost since the beginning.

She said there are not really formal titles for the positions; everyone just does what needs to be done. Among the jobs are planning the programs, arranging for commercial displays and door prizes, and manning the door for events. For more information or to volunteer, call Shirley Glatt at 416-225-1989.

OMISSION

In last week's story "Norene Gilletz's Passover food tour," we introduced a chicken dish from her cookbook *MealLeaniYumm!* and then inadvertently omitted the recipe. Here it is now.

GLORIA'S LIMELIGHT ROAST CHICKEN

3½-lb. (1.6-kg) whole chicken
salt and freshly ground pepper, to taste
1 tsp. dried basil
3 limes
1 or 2 stalks celery, cut into chunks
¼ c. chopped parsley or coriander (cilantro)

Rinse chicken and dry well. Loosen skin; rub seasonings inside the cavity and under skin of chicken. Squeeze juice of one lime over chicken. Marinate for 1 hour at room temperature or cover and marinate in the fridge overnight. Pierce limes with a fork. Place limes, celery and parsley inside the chicken. Close up openings with metal skewers. Place chicken on its side in a roasting pan.

Preheat oven to 425. Roast uncovered for 20 minutes. Turn chicken onto its other side and roast 20 minutes more. Reduce heat to 350 and roast breast side up 20 minutes longer, until golden and crisp. Remove chicken from oven. Strain fat from pan juices. Place pan juices in a gravy boat. Cut up chicken; remove skin, limes, celery and parsley. Garnish with additional lime slices.

Makes 4 to 6 servings. Reheats and/or freezes well.

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Sharing Secrets

Continued from page 33

Combine farfel and broth in a large mixing bowl. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium heat. Add onions, garlic, celery, mushrooms and green pepper. Sauté 2-3 minutes. Add chicken and sauté 2 more minutes.

Add mixture to farfel and combine. Add eggs and stir until blended. Sprinkle with salt, pepper and paprika. Transfer to 2-quart baking dish that has been sprayed with cooking spray. Bake in the oven at 350 for 1 hour, until golden. Yield: 8-12 portions.

FROZEN LEMON PIE

By Barbara Grossman

For an alternative crust, combine 1½ cups macaroon crumbs, 4 tbsp. melted butter or margarine, and 2 tbsp. sugar. For an extra treat serve with a raspberry coulis.

Crust

12 large Passover mandlebroit, crushed into crumbs
½ cup butter or margarine, melted

Combine crumbs and butter in a mixing bowl. Place in the bottom of a 9-inch spring form pan that has been sprayed with cooking spray.

6 eggs
6 egg yolks (reserve whites for meringue)
1 cup lemon juice
zest of 1 lemon
2¼ cups sugar
6 egg whites
6 tbsp. sugar

Place eggs, yolks, lemon juice, zest and sugar in the top of a double boiler. Whisk together over medium low heat until thick, about 3-5 minutes. Set aside to cool. Meanwhile place egg whites in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the wire whisk. Beat at medium speed about 2 minutes. Add sugar and continue to beat until stiff peaks form. Fold meringue gently into lemon mixture. Pour into spring form pan. Freeze for at least 12 hours.

Meringue

6 egg whites
5 tbsp. sugar

Place egg whites in the bowl of an electric mixer fitted with the wire whisk. Beat at medium speed about 2 minutes. Add sugar and continue to beat until stiff peaks form. Cover frozen lemon pie with meringue. Broil a couple of minutes until brown. Refreeze until ready to serve.

BAKE WHILE YOU SLEEP MERINGUES

By Ellin Kert

These are wonderful for Passover. Kids love them! This recipe makes about 30 cookies.

2 egg whites
⅔ cup white sugar
pinch of salt
½ tsp. vanilla
1 cup chocolate chips
1 cup chopped nuts

Preheat oven to 350. Place egg whites and salt in the bowl of an electric mixer set up with the wire whisk. Beat at medium speed until egg whites are stiff. Gradually beat in sugar. Add vanilla. Fold in chocolate chips and nuts (if using). Drop by teaspoonfuls on ungreased cookie sheet. Place in oven and turn oven off. Go to bed. These cookies will bake while you sleep.

HONEY GARLIC CHICKEN WINGS

By Eleanor Long

½ cup liquid honey
¼ cup lemon juice
½ cup water
3 tbsp. ketchup
1 tsp. minced fresh garlic
½ tsp. ground ginger
½ tsp. salt
3 lb. chicken wings (cut each wing into 2 pieces)
¼ cup margarine

In a small saucepan, heat honey, lemon juice, water, ketchup, garlic, ginger and salt over medium heat until just boiling. Pour marinade into a mixing bowl. Add wings to the bowl and coat thoroughly. Marinate in the refrigerator for several hours, turning pieces often.

Put margarine in a 9x13-inch baking dish and place in pre-heated 400-degree oven for a few minutes, until melted. Remove chicken from marinade, shaking pieces to remove excess liquid. Reserve marinade, refrigerating it until needed.

Place wings in baking dish, turning them over in margarine to coat on all sides. Bake uncovered for 25 minutes. Turn pieces over and bake another 20 minutes. Pour reserved marinade over top and bake another 10 minutes. Yield: 4 to 6 servings.

BEEF STEW

By Lesley Campbell

1 tbsp. vegetable oil
1 tsp. minced fresh garlic
1 medium onion, cut in ½-in. dice
2 lbs. stewing beef
1 10-oz. can tomato sauce
1 10-oz. can tomato soup
½ tsp. sugar, 1 tsp. paprika, 1 tsp. salt, 1 tsp. pepper
4 carrots, cut in 1-inch chunks
5 medium potatoes, quartered

In a large Dutch oven or stockpot, heat oil over medium heat. Add garlic and onions and sauté 3 minutes, until softened. Remove from pan and set aside. Add beef and sauté about 3 minutes per side. Remove from pan and set aside. Drain fat from pot. Return beef to pot. Add tomato sauce, tomato soup, sugar, paprika, salt and pepper. Reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for 1 hour. Add carrots and potatoes and continue to simmer for 45 minutes, or until tender. Yield: 4 to 5 servings.

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On Campus

Law student Yigal Rifkind, in front of his charcoal sketch, was one of the artists at Colouring Ourselves, Toronto's annual Jewish students' arts festival. [Frances Kraft photo]

Arts festival brings colour to winter days

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A vivid colour photograph of a gekko lizard, its skin rich with texture; a detailed charcoal rendering of a hand; and an exuberant painted homage to her mother by one of the participants were among the pieces on display at the kick-off event for this year's campus arts festival.

Colouring Ourselves: A Festival of Jewish Creativity – a project of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto (JCS) – ran over four days recently at four different venues. It was the largest event of its kind since the festival's inception four years ago.

The fifth annual showcase of art and performing art included a visual art display at Holy Blossom Temple's Cecile & Harry Pearl Gallery, comprising 45 pieces by 23 artists; a screening of eight films at the Bloor Cinema, a theatre/dance/spoken-word evening at Artword Theatre, and a music night at Berlin Nightclub.

The festival was almost a year in the making, said Sarah Zelcer, JCS arts and culture co-ordinator, who worked with a team of about 20 student organizers.

At the kick-off event at Holy Blossom, Zelcer credited JCS for supporting arts and culture programming. Without the festival, she said at the opening ceremonies, there would be "a very wide void" in Jewish student life.

Glennie Lindenberg, addressing the opening of the festival on behalf of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto (JCS' largest funder), said the festival "reflects the community's commitment to outreach and to enhancing Jewish identity initiatives."

The festival is part of a yearlong program of seminars, workshops and weekend retreats that bring together a diverse group of students who wouldn't necessarily involve themselves in Jewish campus life, said Zac Kaye, executive director of JCS.

"These are students who are happy to express their Jewishness through their art, their music, their drama, and their film," Kaye said. "That was something we wanted to connect with."

For 22-year-old Jodi Goldfinger, a photography student at Humber College who shot the gekko at the Tampa Zoo and who also had a second photo on display, the festival was an opportunity to connect with other Jewish students her age. Humber, she said, has no Jewish student organization and few Jewish students.

Fellow photographer Zavi Lerman, 18, a first-year fine arts student at York University, had four black-and-white shots, taken at Camp Gesher, on display. Three were carefully composed scenes, sharp and linear; the fourth, she explained, was serendipitous, capturing a camper who had paused in a downpour.

Lital Bar, 24, a former York fine arts student who switched to anthropology, had two striking pieces in the exhibit, a watercolour and an oil painting exploring spirituality and the birth of Eve in a semi-abstract style.

Yigal Rifkind, a 23-year-old student at Osgoode Hall Law School, has participated in past festivals, and this year had the charcoal sketch of his own hand, as well as a sculpture, to his credit. "You can always afford a few hours," he said, when asked how he has time to create such detailed work.

Filmmaker Josh Shultz, of Concordia University, paid tribute to a family elder in his film *Zaidie*, as did University of Moncton graduate Michaëlla Etienne, 25, who spent months on a sequin-studded tribute to her mother.

In Etienne's painting, which includes a quote from Birkat Hamazon requesting a blessing for "my mother, my teacher," the blonde mother and her daughter, whose dark skin reflects her Haitian heritage on her father's side, are embracing, their hands clasped and a sheltering wing extending from each around the other.

"My mother's [wings] are much more developed than mine," said Etienne, who also lauded the work of JCS, noting that there is "an activity for every student."

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Winnipeg camp celebrates 50th anniversary

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Camp Massad kicked off its 50th anniversary celebrations earlier this month with a Shabbat service and a gala banquet at Winnipeg's Victoria Inn that captured the essence of the Massad experience – the use of the Hebrew language – in song and skits.

The Massad campsite is located 50 miles north of Winnipeg at Winnipeg Beach, a summer resort community that has long been popular with the city's Jewish community. Like other camps, Massad offers swimming, boating and sports, but it also emphasizes arts and crafts, drama and dance, as well as singing and evening programs such as Maccabia, Televisia and Festival designed to promote Jewish identity and creative expression.

Hebrew is the working language of the camp, but fluency is not a prerequisite for attendance.

The 50th anniversary Shabbat service attracted about 200 camp alumni and their families, says Miriam Baron, a past president of the camp's board of directors and a co-chair of the Shabbat program.

"With the help of the community, we created a shul environment in a room in the hotel," Baron says, noting that the Torah was borrowed from Winnipeg's Grey Academy and the siddurs from local synagogues.

The service itself was a typical Camp Massad Shabbat service. The Camp Massad Alumni Choir sang a number of liturgical works, many of them composed by Winnipeg's late Cantor Benjamin Brownstone, and the parshah of the week, Parah, was acted out in the form of a cooking show in biblical times.

"The hallmark of Massad is to learn from our traditions and try to modernize them," Baron says.

About 220 people attended the evening banquet, reports evening co-chair Joel Braemer. Highlights were a speech by Leona Billinkoff, who was the camp director for over 25 years, and performances by alumni David Gale (of the WTN's *Loving Spoonfuls*) and singer Lesley Corne. Based in Los Angeles, Corne sang excerpts from her new one-woman show, *This Thing Called Love*, which is scheduled to open in L.A. in the spring. Gale did his comedy routine.

The camp's yearlong celebrations will culminate Aug. 23 to Aug. 25 with a reunion at the campsite that Baron says is expected to draw alumni from far and wide. There will also be the usual Shabbat service with singing and dancing, as well as plays and songs on the Saturday evening.

"We had about 100 people for our 40th anniversary celebrations," says Braemer. "We are expecting more this time because this is a bigger event."

History made by everyone, says columnist

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish history was not made by the famous, the rich, or even the extraordinarily talented, but rather by "those who look around them, see what needs to be done, and then do it," says noted columnist and lecturer Jonathan Rosenblum.

Rosenblum is director of Jewish Media Resources, an organization whose aim is to educate the foreign media about Torah Judaism. He writes articles and editorials for *The Jerusalem Post*, *HaModia* and *The Jewish Observer* and has published several Art Scroll biographies, including *The Vilna Gaon* and *Reb Shraga Feivel*.

He was speaking at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation in Thornhill, giving the third annual Ruchama Zlotnick Memorial Lecture, which was named for a 16-year-old Beth Jacob High School student killed three years ago in a traffic accident.

No Jew, he said, has had "a greater impact on Orthodox life in Europe or North America than a seamstress in Krakow, Sarah Schenirer," who founded the first Bais Yaakov school for girls in 1918.

Schenirer realized, he said, that the fathers and brothers went away to study on Shabbat and Jewish holidays, but didn't realize that their daughters "were reading novels and going to gymnasia [state secondary schools]."

With only minimal Jewish education, no status as a single woman, and no money, she won the approval and support of the Gerer Rebbe and the Chofetz Chaim, put out signs, encouraged young girls to give lectures and eventually began the Bais Yaakov school system in approximately 1910, which, when brought to North America around the time of World War II, "transformed the world," Rosenblum said.

Other obscure but influential individuals Rosenblum cited were Yosef Rosenberger, a penniless Holocaust survivor, who invented a simple, inexpensive test for shatnes (clothes made of linen and wool, which are forbidden under Jewish law), and thus made observance of this mitzvah "part of the American reality;" second grade teacher Shmuel Avraham Misky, who started a free loan program that eventually lent over $100 million (US), all of which was repaid; and businessman Mike Tress, who bankrupted himself to help Holocaust survivors come to America.

Rosenblum urged the audience of nearly 2,000 people to realize that "you haven't failed if you didn't do all that they did." The point is, he said, to keep your eyes open to what others are going through, and to recognize how much still needs to be done.

The key to Jewish survival in these troubled times, he said, is "a reconstituted sense of Jewish unity, which is sadly lacking in Israel," as elsewhere.

That is one reason he likes coming to Toronto, he said, "the only city where I can speak to Mizrachi in the morning, and Agudah at night."

Proceeds of the event went to Tomchei Shabbos, an organization that provides food boxes for families in need on Shabbat and Jewish holidays.

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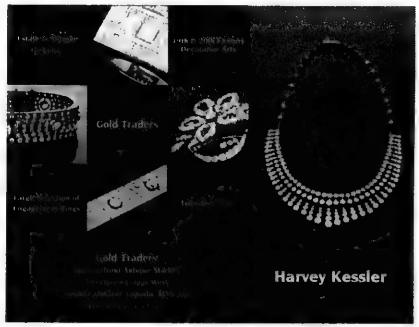

Coast to Coast

Misconceptions standard in Mideast conflict

Multiple items this week:

1. In a shocking display of ignorance, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan called Israel's occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip "illegal" in his address to the Security Council on March 12. His remarks were widely reported in the media the following day.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

Having fought a war of self-defence in 1967, Israel came into possession of territories which, under terms of UN Security Council Resolution 242 (1967), were to be exchanged, but only in the context of full peace and security guarantees. The extent of Israel's withdrawal was also to be subject to negotiations.

The central point is that the "land for peace" formula embodied in Resolution 242 makes Israel's presence in the territories perfectly legal under international law, pending a negotiated settlement that provides Israel with genuine peace and security. Recognition of this led veteran Israeli diplomat and UN ambassador Abba Eban to note that 242 "legitimized" Israel's presence in the territories (*New York Times*, June 13, 1991).

While we see frequent mention of Israel's "illegal" occupation in various media reports, we should not expect to see such a reference coming from the head of the UN. Reporting from the UN, Steven Edwards of the *National Post* correctly noted (March 14) that the Security Council – the only body that establishes international law – "has never used the term ['illegal'] to describe Israel's overall administration of the territories." (For further clarification, refer to the section on "242/338" in the CIC's publication "For the Record" on our Web site at www.cicweb.ca.)

2. Another widely promoted, yet common misconception is that Palestinian violence is a "justified resistance to occupation," and that if Israel were only to leave the territories it would cease. Under Resolution 242 (and 338, which binds the parties to fulfil the terms of 242), the sides are to settle their differences *through negotiations*, not through violence. Therefore, the Palestinians, led by Yasser Arafat, are in violation of 242 and 338. These two resolutions were the agreed-upon basis of the Oslo accords in which Arafat committed, in writing, to renounce violence and to pursue only negotiations with Israel.

But beyond that lies the depressing realization that for most of Palestinian society and the broader Arab world, the crux of the Arab-Israel conflict is not Israel's occupation (which was drawing to an end until the Camp David offers were rejected by Arafat). Rather, it is their refusal to accept the right of Jews to a sovereign country in the Middle East.

This was recently expressed in several media outlets: most eloquently, by Margaret Wente in her "Counterpoint" column in the *Globe and Mail* (March 9), as well as by Norman Spector in the *Globe and Mail* (March 12) and Gerald Steinberg on CBC Radio's "As It Happens" (March 12).

3. In his feature on how Palestinian society promotes suicide bombers as "martyrs" ("Dying for the Cause," Global's National News, March 11), Martin Himel described how the families of "suicide assailants" – the word "terrorist" is not used – receive $15,000 from Iraq and free trips to Mecca for the holy pilgrimage from Saudi Arabia, in addition to support from Hamas. However, when Himel interviewed Abdel Aziz Rentisi, a spokesperson for Hamas, viewers unfortunately did not learn what Hamas really stands for: the death of Jews and the destruction of Israel.

Paul Michaels is director of communications with the Canada-Israel Committee.

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What's New and About People deadlines: Friday, March 22 is deadline for April 5 issue and Tuesday, March 26 is deadline for April 11. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416- 391-0829.

Thursday, March 21

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL
Participate directly in helping Israel by volunteering to serve on an IDF supply/maintenance base for a minimum of 2 weeks. Information session on the Sar-El program 7:30 p.m. at 788 Marlee Ave., Room 308. RSVP 416-781-6089.

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Friday, March 22

THE LIVES OF WRITERS
Solel Congregation and B'nai Brith Halton Peel lecture, The Lives of (Jewish) Writers, with **Eleanor Wachtel**, CBC radio host, at Solel Congregation. 2399 Folkway Dr., Mississauga. Services at 8 p.m.

Saturday, March 23

SHABBAT HAGADOL
Rabbi Moshe Stern delivers the annual Shabbat Hagadol drasha, titled The Exodus from Egypt: Are There Any Lessons for Present Day Salvation, at 4:45 p.m. at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue. All welcome.

LIBERATION SERVICE
Shabbat Hagadol Liberation Service, presented by Congregation Shir Libeynu and Danforth Jewish Circle, to celebrate liberation, past, present and future. Service at 10 a.m. led by **Rabbi Deborah Brin** and **Aviva Goldberg**, at Eastminster United Church, 310 Danforth Ave., followed by luncheon noon to 1 p.m. and study group 1-2:30 p.m. 416-825-7431 or 416-465-5488.

EGALITARIAN SERVICE
Kehillah Ahavat Hesed creative, egalitarian service discussing and sharing sections from the Haggaddah, related readings, songs and verse, 10 a.m., 788 Marlee Ave. 3rd floor. **Marion** 416-449-0004.

SATURDAY MORNING LIVE
Interactive family Shabbat program 11 a.m. at Westmount CI. Come with your children, ages 3 and up. Join **Meir Balofsky**, youth director at USDS, for fun, information on Jewish holidays, events and history. 905-764-1818, ext. 309.

BINGO EXTRAVAGANZA
Simcha/Kadima, a Thornhill chapter of Na'amat Toronto, annual charity bingo extravaganza 7:30 p.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 2772 Codsell Ave. Door prizes, live auction. 416-636-5425.

Sunday, March 24

HUMANISTIC SEDER
Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism celebrates Passover with a humanistic seder, 4:45 p.m. in the Burgundy Room at North York Memorial Hall, 5110 Yonge St. Potluck dinner after seder. RSVP 416-385-3910.

WINGATE BRANCH
Wingate Branch, Royal Canadian Legion, general members meeting, 9:15 a.m. breakfast nosh. 788 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024.

Monday, March 25

THE JEWISH PSYCHE
Beth Tzedec Congregation's Max & Beatrice Wolf Library presents **Dr. Norman Doidge**, psychiatrist and columnist, speaking on The Jewish Psyche and the Middle East: Psychological and Political Analysis, 7:30 p.m. 416-781-3511.

Continued on page 41

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Continued from page 40

And What Else Is New

TORAH STUDY FOR WOMEN

Mekorot Institute of Torah Study for Women brown bag seminar with **Hilda Weil** on the topic Moshe's Response to the Challenge of Leadership in Bamidbar, Wednesdays 12:30-1:30 p.m., April 10, 17, 24, at the offices of Heenan Blaikie, Royal Bank Plaza, south tower, 26th floor. Special session April 29 on the Book of Ruth. 416-398-1510.

PASSOVER SING-ALONG

Enjoy renaissance and contemporary music and a community sing-along of popular songs from the Haggadah and Shir Hashirim, 7:30 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple. 416-789-3291, ext. 224.

SECULAR THIRD SEDER

Sponsored by Morris Winchevsky School featuring Passover songs by **David Wall, Eric Stein**, Naivelt Klezmer Band, children from the school, plus a display of panels from the Middle East Peace Quilt, traditional Passover dinner, Saturday, March 30, 5 p.m., Hevan's Banquet Hall, 2301 Keele St. For tickets, call 416-789-5502.

CLUB FOR THE BLIND

The Hebrew Club for the Blind, established almost 50 years ago, provides social programs for visually impaired members. Club meets first Monday of each month at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Club welcomes new members and volunteers of all ages. For membership, **George Kline** 416-633-3524. For general inquiries, **Ben Bauer**, co-ordinator, 905-731-7447.

EAST EUROPEAN JEWRY

Beth Tzedec Congregation visiting scholar **Stephen Berk** of Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., speaks on Eastern European Jewry: History and Geography, Friday and Saturday, April 5 and 6. Reservations required by March 27 for Shabbat dinner and luncheon. Also, call for lecture details. 416-781-3511.

PASSOVER SEDER

The West Toronto Jewish Community Association annual community potluck fun-filled egalitarian Passover Seder for singles and families at Swansea Town Hall, Thursday, March 28. Reserve. **Francine** 416-588-9436.

HEBREW LANGUAGE

Build foundations in reading and study of the Hebrew language, acquire fluency and an understanding of our Jewish heritage in a study of traditional sources of prayer, siddur and Torah with Torah scholar **Hana Werner**, every Monday 7:30-9 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel. 416-633-5500.

SHALOM ALEICHEM

Canadian Magen David Adom for Israel presents **Saul Reichlin's** Shalom Aleichem: Now You're Talking, bringing the tales of Shalom Aleichem to life, Sunday, April 7, 8 p.m. at Shaarei Tefillah Synagogue. For information, 416-780-0034.

VENDORS WANTED

For a Spring Gift Show at Temple Har Zion in Thornhill, on Wednesday, April 24, 7-10 p.m. **Patty Bloom** 905-762-9291 or **Samantha Bacher** 905-660-2442.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. For information or to register, **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Adolescent Social Skills information night to help adolescents understand and experience what this age group is about. Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m., Lipa Green Building. RSVP.

Discussion series on Adult Children Who Have Lost a Parent. Topics include coping with grief, loss and legacy, and resolving unfinished business. Tuesday, March 26, 7:30-9 p.m., Lipa Green Building.

FOR SENIORS

Association of Jewish Seniors annual second seder, Thursday, March 28, 7 p.m., at Bernard Betel Centre, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. Tickets at 530 Wilson Ave. W. or Betel Centre. **Goldie** 416-635-2860.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2001. Casino Rama April 3, 17; March 24 dance cancelled; Lecture, Electrical Safety in the Home, Wednesday, April 10; Dance April 13, 27, 7:30 p.m.; Thousand Island trip May 28-31; Sunday dance with live band April 7, 21. Dancersize class with **Kitty Cohen** Thursdays at 10 a.m., Woodcutting with instructor, Mon-Thurs 9 a.m. to noon. 416-395-7881.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building) March 21, free evening of stories and discussion; March 28, closed for Passover. Get ready for Yom Ha'atzmaut party in April. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Senior's Cultural Club meets every Tuesday 10 a.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Outings and activities for LZA Senior's Club resume in April. 416-630-9444.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

A Musical Passover Video, Tuesday, March 26, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler** ext. 134.

Osteoporosis group demonstration and discussion: Be Taller, Stronger, Longer Home Exercise Program, 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Joan Turner** ext. 126.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. **Anna** ext. 110

Movie, *Mr. Mom*. Sunday, March 24, 2:30 p.m.

WAGMAN CENTRE

55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500.

Bereavement group for spouses 55 and over, offers understanding about loss, loneliness, pain and healing. **Heather Lisner-Kerbel** ext. 2550.

Baycrest Adult Choir meets Friday, March 22, at 11 a.m. Singing selections in English, Yiddish and Hebrew. **Mara Swartz** ext. 2275, or **Anna** ext. 3573.

For information about computer courses and concerns, call Mara.

Calling all Montrealers! If you have recently moved from the Montreal area and would like to share your past experiences from Montreal, phone Mara.

Seders: If you are interested in attending a Passover seder at the Wagman Centre, check at the Wagman Service Desk.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Lunch & Learn, Thursday, March 21 at noon, **Randal Schnoor,** The Jewish Gay Experience in Toronto. Lunch included. Co-sponsored by the Michael Bernstein Chapel of the Nadal JCC.

The Miles S. Nadal JCC and Mount Sinai Hospital present Eat Well, Be Well, a new program to promote fitness, recreation, health and wellness. On Monday, March 25, 6-7 p.m., The ABCs of Healthy Eating, with dietician **Nuryt Raif.**

A variety of Passover seders are open to the community in downtown Toronto. Call the Nadal JCC for information.

Tom's Place annual spring warehouse sale runs to March 24 in the gymnasium.

Good Age Club program Thursday, March 21, 2 p.m. Women in Literature, facilitated by **Gillian Levine.**

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum fun seder Sunday, March 24, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Create a matzah mural, cross the Red Sea, learn to spell your name in Egyptian hieroglyphics. Ext. 456.

Bathurst JCC and Mount Sinai Hospital ABC classes, discussion and support group for parents of newborn babies, instructor **Sandy Cole** at the BJCC Fridays 10 a.m., April 5-17. Register. Ext. 229.

Yom Ha'atzmaut event at Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum, a full day of Israel-themed activities, Sunday, April 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Ext. 456.

The Habima Players 55 plus senior adult performing group of talented actors under the direction of **Roselle Stone.** If you would like to book the Habima Players, 416-633-2057.

PURIM SHPIEL: Maon Noam, the Russian synagogue, held its annual Purim at the Borochov Cultural Centre. It included a full meal, Megillah reading, children's program and a Purim shpiel performed and written by the actors about the situation in Israel. The essence of the shpiel was "If not us, who? If not now, when? If not around Torah, what?"

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 42

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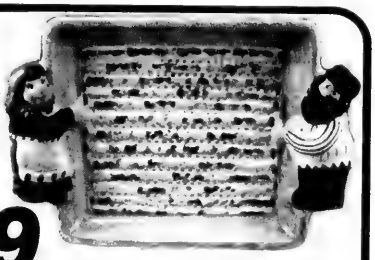

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Coast to Coast

Diaspora's role in Israeli universities threatened

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Israel's universities are facing "unprecedented interference" by the government that threatens to weaken their link with the Diaspora, says the immediate past rector of Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Prof. Menahem Ben-Sasson, who completed his four-year term in the university's top academic post at the end of 2001, warned during a recent Montreal visit that Hebrew University's board of governors may be "stripped of its powers" and reduced to "overseers" if Education Minister Limor Livnat's proposals are enacted.

According to the *Jerusalem Post*, Livnat is recommending that the Council for Higher Education – the public body with the sole power to accredit new universities, colleges and higher-education programs – bring in new members to make it more broad-based, thereby taking control of higher education from the universities. (Until now, two-thirds of the 25-member council has been composed of university officials. Livnat's change would cut it to less than 50 per cent.)

'Unprecedented interference' by government, says former Hebrew U official

Livnat also wants two-thirds of each university's board executive committee to be composed of Israelis.

Ben-Sasson, who now teaches in the university's Institute of Jewish Studies, said in an interview that Hebrew University has appealed to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to stop the reforms from going through. The university is also making its case to Knesset members, 60 per cent of whom are Hebrew University graduates.

Since Hebrew University opened in 1925, the majority of its 250-member board of governors – about two-thirds – has been composed of people from overseas, most of them major financial supporters, and its chair has always been from abroad. (For the first time, it has an Israeli chair, Yigal Arnon, although this is a coincidence.)

Hebrew University's board of governors, which meets once a year, acts as the university's supreme administrative body, approving its budget, opening and closing its schools, listening to concerns of its faculty and students and setting its general priorities, said Ben-Sasson. (The board's executive committee meets twice annually.) It also officially bestows the degrees upon the students, he said.

Ben-Sasson is urging the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, one of its strongest per capita fund-raising arms, to support the institution in the debate.

"We could not do without the backing of our friends around the world," he said. "They provide for almost everything outside of our working budget: the physical plant, the labs, the student dormitories, the scholarships... This is a fight we can't win by ourselves."

Ben-Sasson said he fears reducing the power of the governors will dissuade many of them from taking the same interest in the university.

"Its role would essentially become meaningless, and that would be a disaster for the university," he said.

Bernard Shuster, a Canadian governor from Montreal, said many of the people on Hebrew University's board of governors are leaders in their communities and in the business world.

"They are a successful, hands-on kind of people," Shuster said. "They like to have a say where their money goes. If you take away that input, there could be financial repercussions."

Canadians have always played a strong role in Hebrew University's board of governors. The most recent Canadian chair was Ralph Halbert of Toronto. There are currently 12 full-time Canadian governors, 12 associate members and 15 honorary members (those over 75).

The Canadian Friends of Hebrew University was established in 1944, but as far back as 1925, there were Canadian supporters of the university, who associated with the American Friends, said Montreal Friends' executive-director Carolyn Steinman.

It is through the influence of the Friends organizations that the university has formed alliances with major corporations, Ben-Sasson said. In Canada, these include Bombardier, Jean Coutu, CIBC World Markets, Air Canada, Shoppers Drug Mart, the Royal Bank, Bank of Montreal-Nesbitt Burns, CanWest Global (its president, Izzy Asper, is a governor), among others.

Ben-Sasson said the proposed reforms could also lessen the emotional tie between the Israeli institution and the Diaspora.

"This is has been a true partnership," he said. "We feel our friends from abroad are family."

"The Hebrew University's slogan is, 'The university of the Jewish people,' Shuster added. "For better or for worse, all the Jewish people are not in Israel."

Ben-Sasson said he does not believe the government wants Israelis to take greater responsibility for matters traditionally in the domain of the Diaspora.

"If it ain't broke, don't fix it," he said. "I think some ministers just want to put their own stamp on things, knowing that this could be a short-term government."

Coast to Coast

'House of Hope' celebrates 10 years

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — It's been 10 years since Beth Tikvah was founded in Hamilton, and those involved are celebrating their achievements as much as the anniversary itself.

The aptly named Beth Tikvah, Hebrew for "House of Hope," offers a home with 24-hour support for individuals with developmental disabilities.

Inside, the house is much like any family home – colourful drapes, comfortable furniture and a TV in the lounge. The residents take turns with household chores, including vacuuming, doing dishes and laundry. On Shabbat, they help prepare salads and soups and set the table.

Executive director Raveen Harakh heads the team of dedicated staff who make sure the residents are happy, fulfilled and leading their lives as independently as they are able.

"Visitors comment on how well our residents function and ask why they need an environment like this," said Harakh. "Well, the reason they are so independent is because we give them well thought-out, structured support to help them succeed.

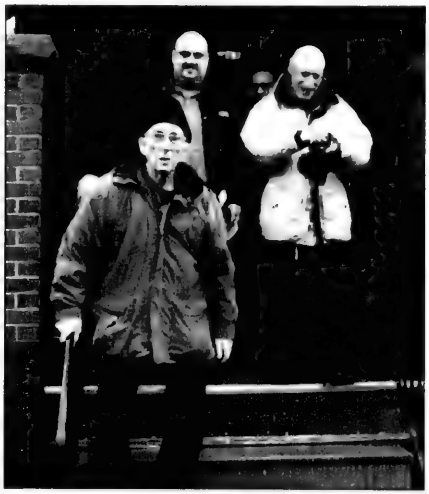
"We don't compromise on food or on staff – no one here has less than a [Bachelor's degree] in social work - and we make a conscious decision to celebrate the Jewish holidays, regardless of cost," said Harakh, who is not Jewish but has learned ritual and observance in his 10 years with Beth Tikvah.

During the week, staff members generally cook kosher meals for the household. "We are big on choices, so when it comes to menus, our clients have to approve everything. They decided to try a whole bunch of recipes to see what they liked. So we experimented to see what was popular and developed week-long meal plans that we rotate over four weeks," he said.

"There are options for what is in season or important for the holidays, and if a client doesn't like what's on the table, we offer to help them make something else."

For birthdays, the staff bake a cake with each person's favourite flavours and colours in mind, and the entrance hall is decorated – all part of making the resident feel special.

The clients are able to tap into as many activities as possible at Hamilton's Jewish Community Centre or programs such as bowling, pottery and swimming. They are often joined by four non-resident day clients whose care is also managed by Beth Tikvah staff.



Theo Tick leads an outing for lunch. Following behind him are, from left, Beth Tikvah counsellor Kevin Teel, executive director Raveen Harakh and Theo's brother Bernie. **[Photo by Julia Kollek]**

The quality and personalized care offered at Beth Tikvah is the envy of visiting staff from other supported living projects in the wider community.

Kevin Teel, who has been working there since a few months after it opened, is one of the four full-time staff members "hooked on Beth Tikvah." Having worked in group homes in three provinces, he talks favourably about Beth Tikvah.

"I've worked in places where from the moment a client comes into the home, their rights disappear. Because of their disability, many residents have grown up in an environment where they are expected to be compliant and subservient

Continued on page 45

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Gray gets rare honour in House of Commons

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

OTTAWA — Herb Gray was paid an unprecedented tribute in the House of Commons last week by former colleagues and adversaries alike, two months after he was dispatched from government in a huge cabinet shuffle.

The most senior Jewish politician in Canadian history was "called to the bar" of the House of Commons, a very rare privilege in which a non-parliamentarian is permitted to sit on the floor of the House and to address MPs.

It was an occasion to praise a staunch Liberal who served his country for just shy of 40 years. Speaker after speaker lauded Gray's loyalty and his devotion to public service. Some, in good-natured jest, referred to the unflappable Gray by his well-known nickname, the Gray Fog, which grew from his shrewd ability to deflect MPs' queries with the phrase, "I reject the premise of the member's question."

Gray, 70, the first Jewish federal cabinet minister and Canada's first full-time deputy prime minister, was chosen by the constituents of Windsor West in 13 straight elections, beginning in 1962, and through the terms of eight prime ministers. He held nine cabinet posts and served for a year as Opposition leader.

Some media outlets had taken Prime Minister Jean Chrétien to task for the way the House's most senior member was moved out of government.

Gray was dumped from cabinet before the House had reconvened from its winter break, precluding a proper send-off. Overnight, he went from being deputy prime minister to Canadian chair of the International Joint Commission, which monitors cross-border environmental issues between Canada and the United States. It was rumoured that he had spurned Chrétien's offer of a Senate seat.

The departing Gray was, however, awarded the title of Right Honourable, which is usually reserved for current and former prime ministers.

But there were no signs of bitterness last Wednesday following question period, when Chrétien rose to warmly praise his one-time colleague.

"He was a tough partisan fighter, and I considered it a privilege to have fought by his side," Chrétien stated. "One of the greatest pleasures of my time in the House was to watch him perform in question period, to watch the 'Gray fog' roll in and to see him defeat attack after attack. For me, he always will be the master of the forum. Indeed, I would like to ask him to name his favourite answer, but I fear that he will reject the premise of my question.

"It has been an honour for me to serve with him in opposition and in government. We all admire him and we will miss him a lot."

Opposition leader John Reynolds of the Canadian Alliance noted, tongue in cheek, that throughout his long career, Gray fielded thousands of questions, and "never actually answered a single one." Reynolds praised Gray as "a fierce opponent in the House, but always a gentleman."

NDP leader Alexa McDonough ceded her address to her party's most senior member, Lorne Nystrom, who lauded Gray's durability: "I think of Herb as the comeback kid. He was in cabinet. He was later relieved of his cabinet duties. He later came back to cabinet. He was also the comeback kid in terms of health. He came back from a serious illness [esophageal cancer] and is now fit and trim. Both these events are a tribute to his strength, perseverance and determination."

Nystrom, first elected in 1968, noted Gray's well-known love of rock'n'roll music. "He also had a sense of humour. Mind you, being a member of the Liberal government requires a sense of humour."

Bloc Québecois leader Gilles Duceppe praised Gray as a master parliamentarian and a worthy adversary.

Tory leader Joe Clark wryly said he regards Gray "as a sort of companion in charisma." Clark lauded Gray's "integrity, his strength of character, his great respect, and his understanding of the entity known as the House of Commons. These are qualities to which any parliamentarian should aspire."

Herb Gray

Finally, it was Gray's turn. He said it "was only yesterday, in 1964 [that] I met the lady who was to become my wife at a young Liberal Party reception in room 209 of the West Block." Gray's wife, Sharon Sholzberg, and his children, Jonathan and Elizabeth, were in the visitors' gallery for the occasion.

His long career, Gray said, is a reflection of Canadian ideals: He is, he said, "the first generation of his immediate family to be born in Canada. My parents came to this country from eastern Europe, from Belarus, as Jewish immigrants in search of freedoms and opportunities not available to them in the land of their birth. They found those opportunities here. Like so many other families who form part of our great Canadian family, they made a wonderful contribution and enabled me to serve my community and my country in the House of Commons and in the government of Canada in so many wonderful ways."

His Jewish heritage "inspired me in my work as a member of Parliament and as a minister. I have always been inspired by the words of the Hebrew prophets when they called out for us to do judgment and justice, when they called out for us to do judgment for the afflicted and the needy."

Gray quoted the Talmud: "One thousand years ago, a great Jewish sage said in the book of Pirkei Avot, the Sayings of the Fathers, 'Pray for the welfare of the government because without it, men would swallow each other alive.'

"These wise words are relevant today. These words are also relevant in terms of our parliamentary institutions and how they form part of government today."

Ever the parliamentarian, Gray urged the House "to continue your work... and with all Canadians so that together you will strive to seek, to find, and not to yield in building an even better Canada in a much better and peaceful world."

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Coast to Coast

Beth Tikvah celebrates 10th anniversary

Continued from page 43

and never to say no. And with each counsellor responsible for between three to 12 clients, it's an assembly-line approach to care."

Reflecting Beth Tikvah's more individualized approach, Teel has come in on his day off to take residents Theo and Bernie Tick out for their favourite lunch of fish and chips.

Before Beth Tikvah was founded, there was no Jewish resource in Hamilton like it. Families of people with developmental disabilities had no other option but to look to Toronto.

But Stan Tick, founder and past-president of the Beth Tikvah Foundation, was determined that his older brothers Theo, 71, and Bernie, 77, be able to stay in their home town.

"My brothers lived all their lives here Jewishly. We grew up in a kosher home and went to an Orthodox synagogue. They were not comfortable living in a non-Jewish environment and it's not what I wanted for them either," said Stan, the youngest in a family of four children.

"My parents gave up their whole lives to take care of them," Stan said. "They never had a holiday for 40 years because of family and business commitments."

Both Bernie and Theo have always needed help with everyday life skills, such as cooking, personal health care, managing money and organizing social activities, Stan said.

"They grew up in a time when the schooling available for them was really warehousing," he said. "After school, they both worked – Bernie was in a factory during the war and Theo worked for the city as a gardener.

"But today, people who function at the same level as them would have much better opportunities to become more independent, and they might have lived on their own in an apartment with help from a caregiver."

When their father died, their mother took over the responsibility, and after her death, Stan tried to keep his brothers in the family. He encountered the uncomfortable dilemma many in his situation face.

"I had my own young family at the time, and while I was lucky that I could look after my brothers financially, I couldn't care for them with the quality of life they deserved."

Unable to find suitable caregivers, Stan got his brothers into a local lodging home.

Theo takes up the story:

"I didn't like it there. The food was not nice – it was spicy so I didn't eat it. People kept walking into my room so I asked for a lock for my things but I was told, 'No, you can't: this is a lodging home,'" he said.

"The people who were supposed to be cleaning sat around drinking coffee all day, so the place was dirty, and my blanket was so filthy, it smelled like a sewer. The counsellors never helped us and I had to shave Bernie myself. Also the director would take any food brought in by my family and give it to the other residents, and the other people living there kept stealing my things to sell."

The brothers were unhappy, and so was Stan. He realized he would have to create a home for them. He began to look in an area close to the synagogues and Jewish grocery stores, and although he had never set up a foundation before, he sought help and advice, including from the Reena Foundation in Toronto, and turned to community members for help with funding.

"The late Morris Lax was our angel. He gave us an interest-free loan to buy the house I found, and I asked my friend Sheldon Frank to help me set up the board," Stan said. The vision was to provide a family setting that gave residents a happy and fulfilling life.

When Beth Tikvah opened, Theo and Bernie had to apply for a spot just like everyone else.

The original plan was to have four residents, but while the foundation waited almost three years for government funding to come through, the house needed renovations to add more bedrooms and bathrooms to accommodate the two extra residents who applied to live there.

"I knew there was a need in the community," Stan said. "Families in our situation are expected to care on our own, and tend to be insular. People also have to admit that they have relatives or loved ones that need help. We filled the gap.

"I was doing this selfishly for my brothers, but I figured that if it was good enough for them, it would be good for other people too," he said.

"At Beth Tikvah, they have everything that gives them the quality of life of ordinary people. They have a wonderful time – they go out walking, go to shul and to parties."

There have been important personal achievements too. Theo was president of the local branch of the advocacy group, People First, travelling to speak at its Canada-wide convention, as well as writing letters on disability issues to the editor of the local paper. He has also made two visits to Israel.

"Beth Tikvah is probably the most important thing I've done in the community," Stan said. "I've sat on many boards, but when you're part of something from the beginning and you see it grow – that's special."

ALEPH BET CEREMONY: Grade one students at Leo Baeck Day School celebrate their Hebrew language learning at an aleph bet ceremony. Students (from left) Melissa Herman, Samantha Hussman and Josh Weinstein look through Shaarei Shabbat, The Gates of Shabbat, the inscribed book they received to commemorate the special day.

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AJC Foundation leader says final goodbyes

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — Jack Prince arrived in Halifax in June 1939 and was told the flags waving on downtown streets were in his honour.

But Prince has been eternally grateful to Halifax and Nova Scotia, and the opportunity at age 10, to escape from Nazi-threatened Poland.

He retired recently as chair of the Atlantic Jewish Council's Foundation which allows donors to recognize their local communities through endowments. There were no flags flown but hundreds of words of commendation were uttered.

Prince, a lawyer, was raised in a typical Jewish Polish family home with life oriented on Judaic customs and laws. When he was sent to Canada to live with a cousin, that family made their home kosher, a practice Prince and his family have retained. His feeling for Judiasm, synagogue and Israel has never waned.

Prince and fund-raising have been synonymous in the Halifax and Atlantic Jewish communities.

He was the first chair of the Beth Israel Synagogue Endowment Fund, a post he held for 20 years, raising $500,000 in principal and several hundred thousand dollars in interest.

Under his direction, the Atlantic Jewish Foundation has raised several hundred thousand dollars.

Through his law practice he was instrumental in having a number of Jewish people leave substantial amounts of money to the synagogues, Israel, Atlantic Jewish Foundation and other Jewish and non-Jewish charities.

Recently, he was the sole executor of the estate of Ida Rosanne Griffin, a non-Jew who left her estate of approximately $450,000 to the United Israel Appeal, to be used for the benefit of Jewish children in Israel.

Disappointed by shrinking communities in region

Years after spending many summers as a camper and counsellor at Camp Kadimah, Prince served on the camp committee. When the camp celebrated its 50th anniversary, he and wife Barbara, raised over $110,000 to build a cultural centre.

He was a founding member of Oakfield Country and Golf Club in suburban Halifax in 1960, so Jews, unwelcome to play golf at local clubs, would have the opportunity.

He ensured that the club board incorporated a bylaw that no person could be barred as a member.

Prince and his wife established scholarships at the Hebrew University and Bar-Ilan University, as well as a bursary at Dalhousie University to enable two Black students to attend law School.

Like most Atlantic Canadians, he is frustrated to see the diminishing in size of Jewish communities in the region.

"Perhaps the only communities that have a chance to survive are Halifax, Fredericton and Moncton," he says.

"I strongly feel, particularly in Halifax, we can have a vibrant community for many decades to come if we utilize all our resources.

"We certainly have a number of young people with tremendous leadership qualifications. We do not have the wealth of the large Jewish communities but we do have sufficient funds to sustain us and to grow."

At a tribute reception, then-AJC president Victor Goldberg said, "I felt trepidation when Jack indicated to me he would step down as foundation chair, and that someone younger should take over. But he is not retreating where it counts."

He said that when funding cuts led to cutbacks in the time Rabbi David Ellis, AJC chaplain, could spend visiting smaller communities, "Jack, knowing our predicament, generously donated $24,000 to the foundation to be used for chaplaincy, a figure that will ensure the position is retained for a year or so."

Goldberg called Prince "unique in that most people of your generation step back and say they have done it. You have never taken that attitude and have been an inspiration to people like me."

LifeStyle

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Sol Goldkind

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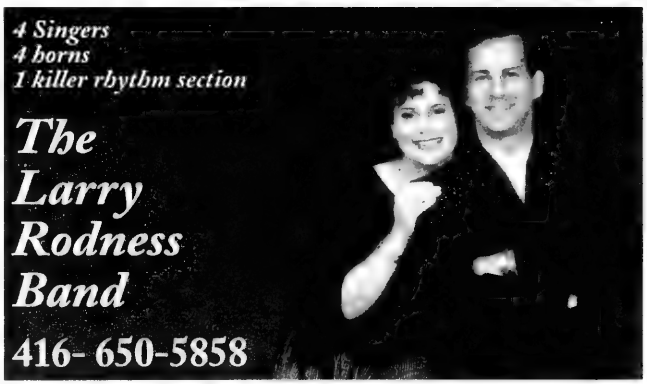

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Teenager dies, 44 hurt, in Kfar Sava and Jerusalem attacks

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — An 18-year-old Israeli woman was killed and 44 civilians were injured Sunday, in two separate terror attacks in Kfar Sava and Jerusalem.

The two terrorists who carried out the attacks were killed. A third terror strike was avoided when a suicide bomber died in a "work accident," while preparing an explosive device.

Israeli security officials believe that the Fatah organization was responsible for all three attacks.

A gunman opened fire on pedestrians Sunday at 12:50 p.m. at the western entrance to Kfar Sava. Noa Orbach, a Kfar Sava resident, was killed in the attack. Another 16 persons were hurt, most of them not seriously.

The Kfar Sava police station and magistrate's court, as well as a high school are located near the scene of the attack. A number of restaurants in the area were crowded at the lunchtime hour.

Security officials identified the perpetrator of the Kfar Sava attack as a Fatah operative from the Nablus area. The terrorist might have received assistance from Hamas men in Nablus, the officials suspect.

The Jerusalem attack occurred at 2:30 p.m., at the French Hill junction in the north of the capital. Twenty-eight people were injured when a suicide bomber detonated an explosive device between a bus and a taxicab at the junction. Police spokespersons said that stepped-up deployments at the junction had forced the attacker to stay clear of its crowded central area and carry out his attack at the end of a road. Police investigations established that the explosive had been medium sized and had contained nails and other metal objects.

The French Hill attacker was subsequently identified as a resident of the nearby Bir-Naballah village. Though the Islamic Jihad organization claimed responsibility for the attack, Israeli security officials doubt the credibility of the organization's statement and suspect that Fatah was behind this second attack as well.

Some 90 minutes after the French Hill incident, a Palestinian died in an area between the village of Anata and the Givat Ze'ev neighborhood, north of Jerusalem. He was carrying an explosive device in a bag and Israeli security officials described his death as a "work accident," saying the man had apparently been a Fatah activist from the Ramallah region who had planned a suicide attack in Jerusalem.

The security officials believe that Fatah's military wing refrained from taking responsibility for Sunday's wave of attacks so as not to embarrass Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat during U.S. peace envoy Anthony Zinni's visit.

Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon greets U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni even as more violence flared in the territories and Jerusalem. [Isranet Photo]

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Analysis

Israel braces for onslaught at the UN

— By MICHAEL JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

As violence between Israelis and Palestinians has escalated over the past month, so has UN pressure on Israel.

The Palestinians, aided by their diplomatic and bureaucratic allies throughout the UN system, have stepped up rhetorical attacks from all directions against the Jewish State, say pro-Israel advocates.

And last Tuesday, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan demanded that Israel end what he described – for the first time, aides said – as "the illegal occupation."

The attacks have come even as a Saudi peace proposal gains steam and U.S. mediators lobby for a cease-fire.

Jewish observers are braced for this week's reconvening of the historically anti-Israel UN Commission on Human Rights in Geneva – the first such session since the United States lost its seat last year to other western countries.

"It could be a difficult session" for Israel without its trusty defender, an American official said.

But the slew of anti-Israel resolutions anticipated at the Geneva forum will, at most, be symbolic victories that fuel the Palestinian-led campaign against Israel, observers say.

Of greater import, they say, is what happens at the UN Security Council, because of its legally binding authority. The Security Council is responsible for ensuring global peace and security.

It was in a speech to the Security Council that Annan criticized both the Israelis and Palestinians, saying he was disturbed that "escalation has been met with escalation with little – in some cases no – regard for innocent civilian lives."

But he seemed to concentrate a bit more on Israeli responsibility for the bloodshed.

Annan decried the "increasing use of heavy weaponry by Israel in civilian areas" against those "already subjected to severe physical and economic hardships."

Actions like these "further fuel the fires of hatred, despair and extremism among Palestinians," he said. "You have the right to live in peace and security within secure internationally recognized borders," he said to Israel. "But you must end the illegal occupation."

As for the Palestinians, Annan said, they "have played their full part in the escalating cycle of violence, counter-violence and revenge" and described their acts of terror and suicide bombings as "morally repugnant.

"You have the inalienable right to a viable state within secure internationally recognized borders," he said. "But the deliberate targeting of civilians is doing immense harm to your cause, by weakening international support, and making Israelis believe that it is their existence as a state, and not the occupation, that is being opposed."

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, Yehuda Lancry, downplayed Annan's remarks, telling Reuters that Israel had already agreed in principle to a Palestinian state, but that negotiations were required to get there.

He was quoted as saying that Israeli forces were "compelled" to follow their strategy because of a Palestinian terrorist campaign that often did more damage than the Israeli army.

Several of the Security Council's 15 members, particularly Syria, are now said to be chomping at the bit to enter the Middle East fray – which is why many eyes are turned to the Arab summit scheduled for March 27-28 in Beirut, where the focus is expected to be on the Saudi proposal to grant Israel diplomatic relations with Arab countries in exchange for Israel's withdrawal to pre-Six Day War borders.

Depending on the summit's outcome, Palestinian supporters are expected to bring to the Security Council a resolution that will either reiterate a call to send international monitors to the disputed territories, or will demand a complete Israeli withdrawal to the 1967 borders – or both.

In either case, Israel will resist.

"It's not for the Security Council to resolve this conflict, but for the parties themselves," Aaron Jacob, Israel's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, told JTA.

"The Palestinians should live up to their commitment to renounce terrorism, and resolve all outstanding issues through negotiations with Israel."

The American official, who asked not to be identified, said Washington will seek to discourage the Security Council from taking action.

"Being responsible for peace and security, there's a frustration on the part of several council members that there's this terrible violence and the council hasn't responded in a way they feel is appropriate," the official said.

"However, what we've tried to impress upon them is to let the various U.S. officials on the ground do their work. Passing a resolution is not going to do anything constructive to bring about a cessation of violence.

"At the end of the day, the only way to get a resolution is for the parties to sit down and work out their differences for themselves."

With U.S. support for Israel, no one-sided, anti-Israel resolution has much of a chance of reaching the Security Council and becoming law.

Resolutions generally make it to that level only if there is a likelihood of them passing by consensus, since the council generally prefers to appear united, say UN watchers. That is why proposed resolutions sometimes get killed before they reach the floor.

When the Palestinians succeed in winning wide backing for anti-Israel initiatives, the Americans sometimes use their veto vote to quash it.

Since the intifadah broke out in September 2000, a handful of anti-Israel resolutions have come close, but only one has passed – when the United States abstained from a vote in October 2000. Behind the current anti-Israel diplomatic activity, observers say, is a two-pronged Palestinian and Arab strategy: in the long term, an effort to "delegitimize" the Jewish State; in the short term, a renewed push to "internationalize" the conflict.

Palestinian supporters, the reasoning goes, seek to marginalize the United States in favour of a third party more sympathetic to their cause, such as the UN or European Union.

The UN is clearly preoccupied with the Palestinians, Jewish observers say, by dint of a huge Arab-Muslim bloc of member states that routinely dictates its agenda.

Over the years, in fact, a number of UN agencies have been established to address the Palestinian plight exclusively.

The Arab-Muslim bloc and other Palestinian supporters are also able to dominate various UN forums, most notably the much-touted UN World Conference Against Racism held late last summer in Durban, South Africa.

Anti-Israel forces there succeeded in inserting into a formal UN document language that painted Israel as a "racist, apartheid state" guilty of genocide and ethnic cleansing, among other crimes.

Israel and the United States walked out in protest, but the document did not die. It was adopted three weeks ago, over Israeli protests, by the UN's "Third Committee," which is responsible for social, humanitarian and cultural issues.

The final document is expected to be endorsed by the UN General Assembly this fall.

As for the future of Israeli-UN relations, it's unclear if anything can be done to rectify the perceived unfairness as long as the Arab-Muslim bloc holds sway among the membership, with no serious future prospects for reform, say Jewish observers.

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UN Security Council Resolution 1397

Following is the text of a Security Council resolution drafted by the United States, "affirming a vision" of a Palestinian state and demanding the immediate cessation of all Middle East violence. It was adopted last Tuesday on a 14-0 vote, with Syria abstaining.

The Security Council,

Recalling all its previous relevant resolutions, in particular resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973),

Affirming a vision of a region where two states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders,

Expressing its grave concern at the continuation of the tragic and violent events that have taken place since September 2000, especially the recent attacks and the increased number of casualties,

Stressing the need for all concerned to ensure the safety of civilians,

Stressing also the need to respect the universally accepted norms of international humanitarian law,

Welcoming and encouraging the diplomatic efforts of special envoys from the United States, the Russian Federation, the European Union, the United Nations special co-ordinator, and others, to bring about a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East,

Welcoming the contribution of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah,

1. **Demands** immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including all forms of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction;

2. **Calls upon** the Israeli and Palestinian sides and their leaders to co-operate in the implementation of the Tenet work plan and Mitchell Report recommendations with the aim of resuming negotiations on a political settlement;

3. **Expresses** support for the efforts of the secretary-general and others to assist the parties to halt the violence and to resume the peace process;

4. **Decides** to remain seized of the matter.

U.S. faces Damascus dilemma

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Comment

The renewed tension on Israel's northern border following last week's attack on vehicles traveling between Kibbutz Metzuba and Shlomi that killed six Israelis, has come at a very sensitive time for the Israeli-Syrian-Lebanese triangle. Jerusalem has chosen not to react to the attack, seen as the work of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, so as not to open up a second front in the north or disrupt renewed efforts at negotiation.

Last Friday, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Anthony Zinni, special U.S. envoy to the Middle East, that Hezbollah carried out the attack, spurred on by Iran and Syria, to provoke a strong response from Israel against Lebanon and to disrupt preparations for the Arab League summit in Beirut next week. Peres believes this was the extremists' way of destroying the chances of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah's peace proposal succeeding.

The U.S. Administration has been deliberating long and hard over its relations with Syria and is attempting to formulate a new policy. Washington's initial impression that the United States is having a hard time influencing Damascus is growing stronger, and the American messages are only partly being received by Syrian President Bashar Assad. A special team has begun examining the administration's relations with Syria, though it has yet to reach any conclusions.

Syria, Sudan and Libya, are three "borderline" Arab states that, despite their support for terrorism and their aspirations to acquire weapons of mass destruction, have been left out of U.S. President George W. Bush's axis of evil. The administration has made do with including Iraq, Iran and North Korea on its blacklist, but there are differences in its attitude toward the three: Iraq is on Bush's "to do" list – he'd like to topple Saddam Hussein's regime. The U.S. attitude to Iran has not changed much, but Bush has offered North Korea a "dialogue."

The U.S. hopes to tip the "borderline states," with Syria at the top, over to the side of the "good guys" The United States had dealings with Syria last year on two issues. The principal point of unrelenting pressure on Assad was to rein in Hezbollah and prevent a renewed conflict on the Israel-Lebanon border. The U.S. administration also had tough words on Syria's closeness to Iraq, mainly over the flowing of Iraqi oil through Syria and the smuggling of prohibited goods over the border.

Following the Sept. 11, a new channel of dialogue was opened, this one an intelligence channel, in which Syria provided America with information on the Al Qaeda network and other Islamic organizations. The CIA is very satisfied with this co-operation, but Syria has not yet changed its basic behavioural pattern. Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other Palestinian resistance groups, as well as Hezbollah, all have offices that operate openly in Damascus.

The U.S. State Department has suggested broadening the dialogue with Syria, and including incentives. Former U.S. ambassador George Djerejian visited Damascus in January, meeting with Assad, who asked for American assistance in developing the Syrian economy. Assad also told Djerejian he was ready to reach an agreement with Israel if there was also progress on the Palestinian channel. But as long as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict continues, the timing is just not right.

As expected, the Pentagon's people took up a position against the State Department's "Arabists," dividing the world into the good and the bad and placing Syria on the problematic side. The Pentagon believes pressure on Syria must be increased until it stops supporting terrorism and breaks off its links with Saddam.

Israel is meanwhile trying to influence the U.S. administration not to get too close to the Syrians. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon presented the Americans with a list of demands regarding Syria, including a full withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon. But Israel has in recent weeks whittled down these demands to just two key points: removing the Iranian Revolutionary forces from Lebanon and dismantling the missile and rocket systems installed by Hezbollah with Iranian help. At a later stage, Israel will also demand Hezbollah's withdrawal from the border area and for the Lebanese army to take its place.

The missile and rocket systems in Lebanon, which threaten Israeli territory in the north, have created a deterrence force that is of deep concern to the top ranks of the Israel Defence Forces and politicians in Jerusalem. U.S. pressure on Syria concentrates on managing the conflict and avoiding escalation, rather than dismantling its military might in Lebanon. The Americans have yet to decide if and how to take steps against Hezbollah, even though the organization is on its list of terror groups. Syria meanwhile continues to benefit from the administration's indecision on the issue.

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South African Jews support Israel at Zionist conference

By MICHAEL BELLING
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

CAPE TOWN — Hundreds of delegates recently rallied behind Israel at South Africa's largest Zionist conference in some 20 years.

The 45th conference of the South African Zionist Federation, held 1½ weeks ago in Johannesburg, recalled the vibrant movement that played a leading role in the community until the late 1980s.

With the 80,000-strong Jewish community feeling less secure than it has for many years because of what they perceive to be the government's pro-Palestinian bias, the conference was a significant show of solidarity.

Speakers included South Africa's deputy foreign minister, Aziz Pahad; the leader of the opposition Democratic Alliance, Tony Leon; and the chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Sallai Meridor.

In his remarks, Pahad said South Africa unequivocally supported "the right of the State of Israel to exist within defined borders, in full peace and security with its neighbours."

He also said the condemnation of "any terrorist outrage committed against the civilian population of Israel" was another "immutable principle" of South African policy, which also calls for the creation of a Palestinian state.

He said the South African government has been as unequivocal in its condemnation of the military policies of the Israeli government as it has been of Palestinian terrorist attacks on Israeli civilians.

Leon, who is Jewish and married to an Israeli, said, "Too often, leading members of the government misuse my religion, or my wife's national origin, in a despicable attempt to place a bar or ceiling on my party's support."

He described a report on the Middle East issued last year by South African legislators as "outrageous," saying it "glossed over" Israel's legitimate security concerns.

"To treat the problem of Israel/Palestine simply as a matter of the illegal occupation of foreign territory and to dismiss Israel's concern for security is to wilfully misrepresent the reality. It also suggests an attachment to ideology that is much stronger than an attachment to peace," Leon said.

He said the South African government tends to characterize the Israeli-Palestinian problem as simply a matter of illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and as the racist and colonialist oppression of a dispossessed and less powerful group.

"The essence of the conflict in Palestine is really very different from the conflict in South Africa," he said.

Meridor used his remarks to call on South Africa's Jews to make aliyah. Israeli officials have offered a special package of incentives for those moving to Israel from South Africa.

Many delegates at the conference signed a declaration supporting the Jewish State. Issued several weeks before the conference, it has been signed by 9,000 South African Jews.

Along the Grape Line

In every corner of Israel, across every generation, from Israel's biblical origins to the 21st century, no other product has been so savoured and sanctified. Wine is the vehicle for religious expression, social conversation and, in many cases, financial success. A winery tour of Israel could cover Israel's length and breadth, but here are just some of the wineries from which to choose.

Carmel-Mizrachi – Israel's largest winery operates two major facilities in Rishon LeTzion and Zichron Ya'acov, a quaint and historic community, south of Haifa.

Barkan – Now Israel's second largest winery, Barkan is even growing grapes in the Negev desert region. The winery is situated at Kibbutz Hulda, south-east of Tel Aviv.

Golan Heights Winery – Located in the Golan capital of Katzrin, this visit could cap a day of northern mountain touring.

Castel – A smaller winery, Castel is distinguished by its forested surroundings near Jerusalem.

Tzora – Also near Jerusalem and owned by a kibbutz, the Tzora Estate Winery produces over 4,000 cases annually. The winery store sells other products as well.

Dalton – A new winery in the Upper Galilee, Dalton is a small operation, which produces Cabernet Sauvignon, Sauvignon Blanc, Merlot and Chardonnay varieties.

For more information on Israel's wineries, try tour guide Daniel Rogov's review at www.stratsplace.com/rogov/israel/israel_wines.htm or www.corkpops.com/Wineries/WineryLinks_Israel.html.

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March 11

• Israeli continued attacks in Kalkilya in the West Bank and Jabalya in Gaza; 18 Palestinians were reported killed.

• An estimated crowd of more than 100,000 gathered in Tel Aviv and called on the prime minister to dismantle the Palestinian Authority.

March 12

• Six Israelis were killed and seven wounded while travelling close to the Lebanese border when the vehicles they were in came under fire. Another Israeli was killed and one wounded when their vehicle came under fire near Modi'in.

• Two right-wing cabinet ministers resigned from the government after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said he was releasing Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat from house arrest in Ramallah.

March 13

• An Italian journalist, Raffaele Ciriello, was killed in Ramallah during crossfire between the IDF and Palestinians. The IDF said it would probe the circumstances of the death. Foreign Minister Shimon Peres conveyed the government's dismay over the death.

March 14

• Israel's attorney general ordered the interior minister to immediately register more than 20 Reform and Conservative converts as Jews on their identity cards. Elyakim Rubinstein warned that if Interior Minister Eli Yishai did not do so, Rubinstein would inform the High Court of Justice that Yishai and his employees are in contempt of court.

March 15

• The reserve soldiers who organized the movement to refuse to serve in the West Bank and Gaza now plan to reverse the policy they adopted from the start of the campaign and go to the foreign press with their story.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Helping bereaved Jewish families at Pesach

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Passover is a time when bereaved parents feel the loss of their child more strongly, says Paul Goldstein, the president of Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario.

"You need to be good to yourself, look after your own needs and not spread yourself too thin," he said. "And you need to know it's going to be a difficult time."

Goldstein, whose daughter Shelley died almost 17 years ago at age 21, said in a phone interview that it doesn't matter whether it's been six months, six weeks or six years – the loss is always there. But the richness of life does come back, he said.

Among the services offered by Bereaved Jewish Families are family nights relating to the Jewish way of life, and eight-week self-help groups, based on the model used by Bereaved Families of Ontario. The Jewish organization was started about 13 years ago by people who wanted the type of support the larger group offered, but within a Jewish context.

The founders approached Jewish Family & Child Service (JF&CS) at the time and, ever since, the group has been closely affiliated with JF&CS, which provides facilities and consultation. Beth Feffer, manager of JF&CS' York Region branch and herself a bereaved parent, provides supervision to group leaders, who are alumni of the self-help groups and who train with Bereaved Families of Ontario.

Participants run the gamut from Orthodox Jews to non-believers, with bereaved parents ranging from younger adults to those in their 80s. Some have lost adult children; others, infants. They died in accidents, from drug overdoses, suicide or illness. The differences don't seem to matter, said Feffer.

Initially, however, those differences caught Goldstein off-guard. When he first attended a group session as a newly bereaved parent, he thought he'd made a mistake. "I'm not ready for this," he thought. But he went back for a second session to give it one more chance. The group took him out of isolation, he said. "That was very helpful."

The members of his group bonded and continued to meet informally, in what Goldstein said is a common scenario.

"Ultimately, you do let go, usually after five to six months, or a year," said Goldstein.

The organization's executive director, Sheila Browne, whose son died in an accident more than 20 years ago, says simply that the self-help group saved her life.

It's true that groups are not for everyone, she said. "I hear it all the time – 'I'm not a group person.' But some people don't want to leave.' "

Some parents may need more than a self-help group can offer, noted Goldstein. "Some need professional help, but quite often they get all they need to try and live their lives normally [from the self-help group]."

Goldstein and his wife once again enjoy the "fullness and richness of life" and take great joy in their grandchildren, he said, although there is also "a certain emptiness."

Having led groups with Bereaved Families of Ontario before the Jewish group was formed, Goldstein said that in helping others, he found that he helped himself.

But, as Feffer noted, potential leaders need to have had "a fair bit of time" after their loss.

The non-profit organization, which both receives community funding and raises funds itself, is involved in community projects that help others – funding sessions at summer camp for Jewish children who have lost a parent or who have a seriously ill parent, for example. Currently they are refurbishing a room in the emergency area of the Hospital for Sick Children.

They have also planted memorial trees and a rose garden at Earl Bales Park. "People feel they've done something in memory of their child, and it's a community effort that says they're part of the community," said Feffer.

In early May, the organization will hold a reunion for the more than 100 self-help group alumni. The evening, which is open to the public, will run as one of the group's family nights at Adath Israel Congregation. Ann Finkbeiner, Baltimore-based author of *After the Death of a Child: Living With Loss Through the Years*, will speak at the event.

For further information on Bereaved Jewish Families of Ontario, call 416-638-7800, ext. 202.

New health series at Nadal JCC

TORONTO — Living well just got easier with a new series of free public education sessions on fitness, nutrition and health care, entitled Living Well, to be offered at the Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre.

"This is a new age of health and wellness service delivery. I am very excited about the prospects for our membership and the local community," said Bill Emery, executive director, of the Nadal JCC.

The Nadal JCC and Mount Sinai Hospital will present several sessions on nutrition, as well as a session on breast health care and other talks on women's health issues, including menopause, osteoporosis and women in the weight room.

"This partnership enables us to share our expertise and promote healthy living in the community," says Joseph Mapa, Mount Sinai's president and CEO.

"After all, the key to good health is through health promotion and education."

The first session, on women in the weight room, takes place March 23, while the second, on nutrition, runs March 25. The remaining six sessions run through to June. Summer and fall sessions are being planned.

For more information contact: Alison Lee, Nadal JCC fitness and recreation manager, at 416-924-6211.

Miles Nadal JCC was built in 1953 on the corner of Bloor Street and Spadina Avenue and has been the focal point of the downtown Jewish community ever since. Through athletics, education and health programs, cultural arts and community service, the JCC touches the lives of more than 100,000 people every year.

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Arts & Travel

Songwriting is therapeutic for 19-year-old

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

TORONTO — What do you do if you're a budding singer/songwriter and just broke up with someone you considered your soulmate?

Make a CD based on your experience, of course. That's exactly what Aubrey Stork, 19, did after breaking up with his girlfriend of four years.

"It definitely was very therapeutic for me," Stork says. "I'd gone through some hard times and wanted to create something that everybody can relate to. Anybody from young teens to 100-year-olds can relate to it."

Aubrey Stork

His CD, *Metaphor of Life*, contains 12 songs written last summer just two months after his breakup. The lyrics read like pages from a diary and go through the ups and downs of his emotional rollercoaster.

"The songs are based around a long-term relationship that I had and the politics that are involved," he says. "It's about how it affected me emotionally."

Despite his youth, Stork's lyrics aren't your typical "boy meets girl, boy loses girl" bubblegum pop. They indicate a mature introspection, and are more a collection of emotional thoughts and responses than a simple chronology.

"We're still friends," he says about his ex. "Naturally, I spoke to her before releasing it. She felt a little awkward but was OK with it. She understood where I'm coming from."

He says he's been listening to a lot of The Doors, Bob Dylan, CSNY and similar '70s acts recently and it shows. The songs on *Metaphor of Life* are stripped down blues-folk acoustic guitar and vocals with a bit of harmonica. Many have strong melodies and vocal harmonies. At times I'm reminded of The Beatles' *Across the Universe*.

The CD also contains a segment that, when played in a PC, allows you to read the stories behind the songs.

Stork, who recently graduated from Toronto's Harris Institute for the Arts' recording arts management program, started playing the guitar when he was 12 and realized quickly that, for him, "there's no other place than being on stage." With his youth and drive, he said he hopes to become a full-time musician and artist manager.

To this end, Stork created his own label, Purple Flag, and released *Metaphor of Life*. If all goes well, he'd like to start releasing other bands' music on his label as well.

"My ultimate goal is to make a living in what I love to do--playing and writing songs," he said. "I don't need to be a rock star, just make a living at it."

Stork plays in and around the city a few times a month. His next gig is April 26 at the Vox Restaurant & Bar, 474 Adelaide St. East, at 11 p.m.

You can find *Metaphor of Life* in many CD stores around Toronto or by visiting Stork's Web site at www.acousticaubrey.com.

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

NORMAN LEVINE WINS $20,000 WRITERS' TRUST MATT COHEN AWARD

Canadian short-story writer **Norman Levine** recently won a prestigious literary prize – the Writers' Trust of Canada's Matt Cohen Award – in honour of a lifetime of writing. The prize, established more than a year ago by the Writers Trust and a group of anonymous donors, consists of a cash award of $20,000.

Levine, who is 79, lives in England and does not have a phone. He was not at the awards ceremony to receive his prize, which a Writers' Trust spokesperson describes as a "lifetime achievement award." The recipient is chosen by committee and writers can't apply for it. **Mavis Gallant** was the inaugural winner.

Levine has published two novels, but he is best known for short-story collections such as *From a Seaside Town* (1970), *Thin Ice* (1979), *Champagne Barn* (1984) and *Something Happened Here* (1991). His most recent collection, *By A Frozen River*, was published by Key Porter last fall.

Patsy Aldana, the widow of writer **Matt Cohen**, read a citation explaining why Levine was chosen for the prize. She explained that he has long been better known in Europe than in Canada and that many of his stories were published in German before they appeared in English. Further, she noted that his travel book, *Canada Made Me*, appeared in England two decades before it was published in Canada.

"In presenting Norman Levine with this award, we hope in part to redress that imbalance," she said. "For there is no doubt that Norman Levine is one of the most accomplished and important writers that Canada has made."

* * *

Mamet Play: The East West Theatre Company presents *The Old Neighbourhood*, a play by Pulitzer-prize winning playwright **David Mamet** that features a middle-aged Jewish character in the lead role.

After his marriage breaks up, Bobby Gould returns to his old neighbourhood and looks up his former girlfriend as he struggles to find out which way his life should turn. The play opened to good reviews on Broadway in 1997 and in London in 1998.

The Toronto cast includes **Wayne Ward**, **Kathyrn Winslow** and **Rae Ellen Bodie**; the director is **John Gordon**. Artword Theatre, 75 Portland St. $27 - $22. April 11 to 28. 416-366-7723.

* * *

Hope and Heroes: Barry Shainbaum is a Toronto-based commercial photographer who "shoots from the heart." His book, *Hope and Heroes: Portraits of Integrity*, offers inspiring portraits of 47 people from all walks of life, including **Dr. Helen Caldicott**, **Uri Geller**, **Jane Goodall**, **Rick Hansen**, **Nelson Mandela**, **Bonnie Raitt** and **Martin Sheen**. Biographical profiles, based on interviews, were written by **Madelaine Palko** and **Shannon Fitzgerald**, and **Uri Geller** has supplied the foreward.

For details, visit the Web site www.barryshainbaum.com.

* * *

Book on Nazi Imagery: The recent exhibition "Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/Recent Art" at New York's Jewish Museum presents works of art that use Nazi and concentration camp images in unsettling ways, with the result that many Jewish commentators have been sharply critical of the show and the Jewish Museum.

Together with the museum, Rutgers University has published a catalogue of the exhibition that includes a series of essays on various related artistic, ethical and historical issues. The book *Mirroring Evil: Nazi Imagery/ Recent Art* is edited by **Norman L. Kleeblatt** and is distributed in Canada by Scholarly Books, 416-504-6545.

* * *

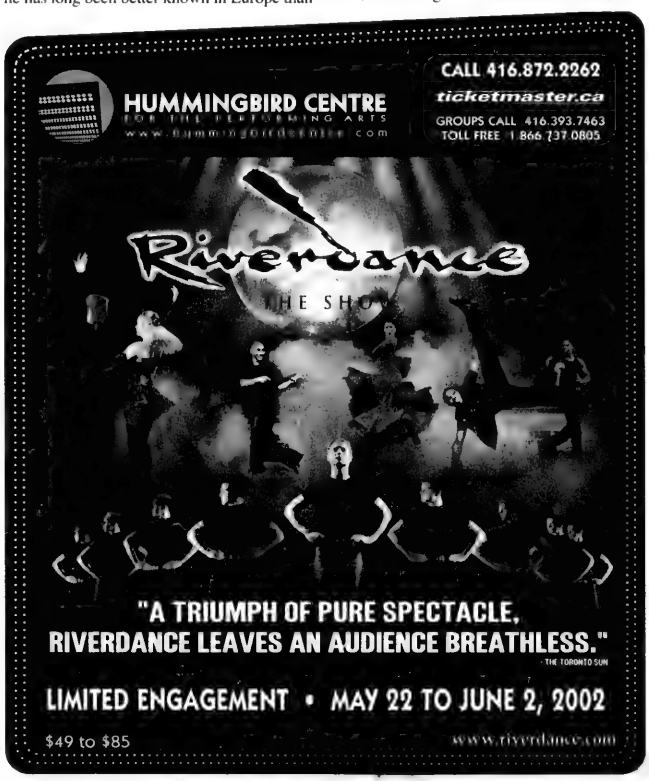
Arts Briefs

• Oakville's Shaarei-Beth El Congregation presents an evening with **Jon Simon**, one of North America's foremost contemporary Jewish musical artists. Students $18, adults $36-$75. 186 Morrison Rd., Oakville. Sat. March 23, 7:30 p.m. 905-849-6000.

• Amadeus Ensemble presents Beethoven with **Moshe Hammer** and friends. $30-$25. Glenn Gould Studio. Sun. March 24, 7:30 p.m. 416-205-5555

• Children's performers **Judy & David** have been nominated for two Junos this year, including one for best children's album for their *Red's in the Hood* CD. The pair won a Juno in 1998. Juno night is April 14.

SINGING WITH SOUL: The Koffler School of Music's Renanim children's choirs recently placed second in the Kiwanis Music Festival. The Children's Chorus sang *Shema Yisrael* and *Hinei Ma Tov* and the Youth Ensemble sang *Bashanah Haba'a* and Srul Irving Glick's *Lam'natzeiach Livnei Korach Mizmor*. The choirs are seen here at the recent Zimriyah performance.



Sure it's not Shlomo?

TORONTO — Renowned scholar-musician Rabbi Moshe Shur, the Jewish minstrel otherwise known as the Rockin' Renaissance Rabbi performs on Saturday evening, April 13, at 9:00 p.m., the climax of the Chassidic Shabbaton at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Rabbi Shlomo Shur

Rabbi Shur, who founded the Diaspora Yeshiva Band, is Director of Queens College Hillel Foundation in New York. He has sung worldwide, entertaining audiences of all ages with his melodies and stories throughout the United States, Canada, the Caribbean, Israel, Australia and New Zealand.

Tunes by the Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan and other rock artists serve as background for lyrics that express the Jewish soul.

On April 13, you have the opportunity to join the growing number of synagogues that are incorporating the soulful spirit of the late Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach into their services and programs. You will leave with a "feel good" feeling.

The concert is at 1700 Bathurst Street, 3 blocks south of Eglinton Ave. General Admission is $15 ($18 at the door), Seniors & Students: $7 ($10 at the door). Tickets are available through the synagogue office. For information call 416-781-3511.

Playing those Mind Games forever

Marc Salem

Mind reader Marc Salem has extended his run of Mind Games at the New Yorker Theatre in Toronto until April 21, 2002.

Salem is offering a $100,000 reward to anyone who can prove there are stooges, plants or hidden electronic devices in the theatre.

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Arts & Travel

Play combines humour and violence

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Young Russian Jews who live in Toronto or even those who come on an extended visit have a rough time in Canada.

Misha, a one-act play by Adam Pettle at the Buncha' Young Artists Festival, makes this point strongly.

Inspired by the death of Matti Baranovski, the play combines humour and violence.

After an argument over a pack of cigarettes, Misha, played by Daniel Stemer, is murdered in Simon Park, by Aaron (Jacob Barker), an Israeli soldier visiting Toronto.

Misha's best friend Max, a Canadian, (Miklos Perlus) is with Misha in the park where the attack takes place, but he runs away, plagued by guilt.

After the murder, Max looks back at the relationship between the boys and the difficulties they have faced.

In a series of scenes that Max recalls, we learn that he is not the only one who has had to run. "I don't want to go on any longer. I'm tired of running all the time," Misha says at one point, relating his difficulties in the early grades of high school when he was snubbed by other students because of his accent, and had to eat alone, till one day Max joined him because his regular lunch mate was away.

Max recalls experiences the boys shared. One plot element, for example, describes Max's attempt to help Misha have a sexual encounter. Max makes arrangements for Misha to spend the night with his sister. In his excitement over the coming event, Misha asks Max a lot of questions indicating that this is his (Misha's) first experience, but he is killed two nights before the weekend tryst is to take place.

Max and Misha converse on swings in *Misha*.

In another of Max's recollections, Misha is preparing for his bar mitzvah, even though he is 17, because his family could not afford one in Poland when he was 13. He has grave doubts about whether he can learn his part in the ritual, but Max encourages him. Misha's murder takes place before the scheduled date of the bar mitzvah.

In another scene, Aaron, his killer, hugs Misha and discovers that their grandfathers were born and lived in the same Russian village.

Aaron also complains about discrimination in Toronto against Russian Jews.

The set is quite bare. The actors make some of their exits and entrances swinging by their arms from bars erected across the top of the stage, and several of the conversations between Max and Misha take place as they sit side by side on swings.

Max also criticizes the Toronto Jewish scene; he complains that a ticket is needed to enter a synagogue and says Jewish adults are living "vacuum" lives. Max survives at the end of the play, with the aid of vodka, pills and a therapist of whom he makes fun. Still the guilt prevails and he continues to think that he should have prevented his friend's death.

"Why didn't I do something?" Max wails near the end of the play. "I've asked myself 100 times."

The young audience of students at the afternoon performance that I attended appreciated Pettle's efforts, particularly his shafts of humour, which while critical of the estabishment, were not anti-Semitic.

The play is in reportory with *Martian Summer* by Nathalie Boisvert until March 23 at Theatre Passe Muraille Backspace. Call 416 504-7529 for information.

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Mayumana brings dancer back home to Canada

Show combines music and dance

By KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — When Mayumana, the Israeli rhythmic theatrical spectacular comes to the Elgin Theatre next month, it will be a homecoming of sorts for one of its cast members.

Tel Aviv-based dancer and choreographer, Una Holbrook, 31, called Canada home for many years – living in Prince Edward Island from kindergarten through high school. She also studied at Toronto's prestigious National Ballet School of Canada.

"We know Toronto audiences go to see a lot of shows and I personally feel they are going to appreciate our show," says Holbrook, who uses "Una" as her stage name, in a phone interview from Israel. "We are starting to feel the buzz here because it is our North American premiere.

"We hear the Elgin is a lovely theatre and Toronto is a very exciting place. I have good memories from studying in Toronto. I am especially excited about coming because I'm still in contact with my friends in Canada – I'm looking forward to them coming to see the show."

Mayumana, pronounced my-you-mah-nah, is derived from *Meyumanut*, a Hebrew word meaning "skilled."

The show combines elements of music, dance and performance art, fusing the rhythm with humour and movement.

Eylon Nuphar and Boaz Berman, who both perform in the 10-member cast, created Mayumana in 1996. They've have taken the show throughout Europe and to South America. The 70-member troupe now boasts its own theatre in Tel Aviv and there are plans to open a second one in Holland. Before the troupe's North American debut in Toronto, Mayumana will be touring China.

"It is a very exciting show. I describe it as more of a circus with so many elements. It is a melting pot of styles and people, based on rhythm. It's a very positive show full of joy of life. Mayumana takes you on a journey," Una says.

"The performers who come from all over the world have different backgrounds in the arts. Of course, my background is dance, but I still get to do other things like drum and some acting. Someone from a musical background's emphasis is more on the music, but they still dance in the show."

Una believes the show has international appeal because there is no language, except one number with a small amount of text that is translated into the language of the country where the troupe is performing, to help make a connection with audiences.

Una says Mayumana can be therapeutic for an Israeli audience, especially in the current political climate. "You can't ignore the situation," she says. "It pushes us more to spread good energy. We feel we do that in Tel Aviv and abroad. You really feel that people enter our world when they come into the theatre to watch our show and forget about everything for an hour-and-a-half – the audience and us, alike."

Born in Portugal, the Holbrook family moved around – landing in Prince Edward Island when Una's father, a professor, accepted a position there when Una was five years old. After her high school graduation, Una moved with her parents to Israel, where some of her extended family already lived.

Una enrolled at the Rubin Academy of Dance and Music. After graduation, Una went to study in New York, Vienna and Paris, where she was able to combine her ballet training with the African, hip hop and jazz rhythms she found so appealing.

She split her time performing with various dance companies and teaching dance throughout Israel until she auditioned for the original cast of Mayumana, along with 700 other hopefuls.

"One of the nice things about Mayumana is it offers endless opportunities," she says. "I also teach within the company. I see myself performing for another good few years. Hopefully, I'll stay in the company after I retire, whether it is in teaching or whatever."

Mayumana runs April 2 to 14 at the Elgin Theatre, 189 Yonge St. Call Ticketmaster 416-872-5555.

Una (at right) returns to Canada with the cast of Mayumana.

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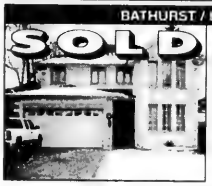

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330 OBITUARIES

SANDRA HERTZ
Sandra Hertz (nee Pushkoff), formerly of Toronto, Barrie and Stayner, Ontario, passed away on February 16, 2002 in Detroit, Michigan. Beloved wife of Percy, dear mother of Mel (Marlene) Hertz, Howard (Wendy) Hertz; dearest sister of Pearl Feldman of Toronto, loving grandmother of Marc, Ryan and Adam Hertz. Donations may be made to the charity of one's choice.

LAREDO, Sarah – on March 1, 2002, late of 3300 Don Mills Rd.
BESSER, Benjamin – on March 1, 2002, late of 4 Romfield Dr.
DUMESH, Paja – on Feb. 28, 2002, late of 201 Golf Terrace.
BURTON, David – on March 1, 2002, late of 4 Stonedale Placeway.
PEREZ, Elie – on March 1, 2002.
GOLDMINTZ, Toby – on March 3, 2002.
SHUB, Joseph – on March 4, 2002, late of 664 Woburn Ave.
NESKEL, Sylvia – on March 4, 2002.
CASS, Ida D. – on March 4, 2002.
TATOR (GAROFALO), Elaine – on March 18, 2002, late of 6973 Emerald Springs.
ZBRIZHER, Boris – on March 5, 2002, late of 775 Steeles Ave. W.
CAPLAN, Barbara – on March 6, 2002, late of 258 Simonston Blvd.
HERR, Elijah – on March 7, 2002, late of 7905 Bayview Ave.
GROSS, Philip – on March 7, 2002, late of 429 Walmer Rd.
AXELROD, Samuel – on March 7, 2002.
KASMAN, Shirley Jean – on March 7, 2002.
PAL, Shirley – on March 7, 2002.
KOCSIS, George – on March 8, 2002.
KARON, Lea Lily – on March 8, 2002, late of 17 Fallingbrooke Crt.
MOSES, Alexander – on March 8, 2002, late of 17 Fallingbrooke Crt.
GRAFF, Murray – on March 9, 2002.
SCHWEITZWER, Joanne – on March 10, 2002.
BRESLOVE, Margaret Molly – on March 11, 2002, late of 503 Glengarry Ave.
KAY, Rose – on March 11, 2002, late of 10 Torresdale Ave.
HARTMAN, Leslie – on March 11, 2002, late of 159 Searle Ave.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

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LAING, Esther – on Feb. 20, 2002, late of 1729-99th Ave. S.W.

CHESLOW, Daniel – on Feb. 23, 2002, late of 100 Antibes Dr., 2106.

HANDELMAN, Esther – on Feb. 22, 2002, late of 120 Shelborne Ave., #214.

GOODMAN, Betty – on Feb. 22, 2002, late of 77 Searle Ave.

ASH, Freda – on Feb. 22, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.

WATT, Fay – on Feb. 24, 2002, late of 33 El Dorado St.

GOODMAN, Tillie Leah – on Feb. 23, 2002, late of 1 Northwestern Ave.

CARRICK, Cyril – on Feb. 24, 2002, late of 22 Mallingham Crt.

NEWTON, Maita – on Feb. 25, 2002, late of 6030 Bathurst St., #1701.

CHAPLIN, Charles – on Feb. 24, 2002, late of 355 St. Clair Ave. W., #505.

LEVY, Mildred – on Feb. 23, 2002, late of 588 St. Clements Ave.

LERNER, Grace – on Feb. 26, 2002, late of 645 Castlefield Ave.

LIFSHITZ, Alexander – on Feb. 26, 2002, late of 715 Finch Ave. W., #101.

SNITMAN, Goldie – on Feb. 25, 2002, late of 81 Balsam St. S.

FAJNKUCHEN, Suzanne – on Feb. 25, 2002, 3000 Bathurst St., #911.

HAUSMAN (Kandoff), Sophie – on Feb. 28, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

MARKS, Esther – on Feb. 27, 2002, 24 Baynards Lane.

GERSTEIN, Adele – on Feb. 28, 2002, late of 343 Clark Ave. W., #1002.

ZWEIG, Helen – on March 1, 2002, late of 2 Covington Dr., P.H. #104.

FREEDMAN, Jack – on March 3, 2002, late of 370 Ridelle Ave., #2305.

BYCK, Joseph – on March 4, 2002, late of 605 Finch Ave. W., #1707.

TOBE, Barry – on March 3, 2002, late of 79 Fairway Heights Dr.

SILVER, Izzy – on March 4, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

SILVERMAN, Helen – on March 5, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.

ROSE, Ralph – on March 5, 2002, late of 203 Maxwell St.

KIRSHENBLATT, Rabbi Jacob – on March 6, 2002, late of 714 Briar Hill Ave.

SEFF, Sydney – on March 8, 2002, late of 115 Antibes Dr., #408.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

STEINBERG, Sophie – on Feb. 28, 2002, late of 5935 Bathurst St.

KOROCHINSKY, Anne – on March 7, 2002, late of 20 Prince Arthur Ave., #22D.

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Single female, sensuous, witty, musical, shapely, sweet, sassy, stylish, warm, loving and caring, wonderful sense of humour. Seeks male 42 yrs to 52 yrs mature loving, honest, good sense of humour, similar qualities and interests. **AD#1354**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

LET'S DINE OUT
Single female, 55 yrs, enjoys dining and dancing, the theatre, a very popular oriented person, loving, caring, honest, warm hearted. Seeks male 45-65 yrs with similar qualities and interests to share life's joys with. **AD#1412**

FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances, into the arts, fit, non smoker Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality Wants a best friend, lovers later Looking for a soulmate. Please respond. **AD#1232**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests This outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling She works in science and engineering **AD#1548**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature. **AD#1285**

STARTING OVER
Single, non smoking, professional lady, with 2 university aged children and a beautiful golden retriever, may be interested in you this 51 year old likes long walks, sunsets, dancing, movies, traveling, having fun, good friends and honest communications **AD#1128**

VEGAS MOMMA
Las Vegas momma, roll the dice and give my mom a call. A kind, caring, compassionate, and vivacious woman widow Early 60's, looks 50's. Enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining, Caesar's Palace. Who knows, you may have dealt a royal flush Seeking a non smoking male, similar qualities and interests. **AD#1259**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow. I am 5'2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

INTELLIGENT FEMALE
Attractive Jewish female, intelligent, kind, easy going, enjoys outdoors, seeks honest man, non smoker, secure for possible long term relationship. **AD#1145**

DANCING, DINING
55 yrs old, divorced female, enjoys dancing, dining, plays, seeks male with similar interests. **AD#1078**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining. **AD#1590**

DINING ART
Young female, pretty, Jewish, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys dining, art, solid outings Desires man, 43-53 yrs, professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker, for mature relationship **AD#1301**

SEEKS YOUNG AT HEART
Sexy, classy, attractive, slim, talented, intelligent, secular, non-smoking, multi-faceted lady who is fun, easy to be with and highly evolved seeks a man between 51-60 yrs who is young at heart and loves life. She likes the arts and working out **AD#1408**

MONTREAL LOVIN'
Single female, 58 yrs, in Montreal, slim, fun loving, classy, enjoys aerobics, travel, art, music, dancing Seeks male, sincere, stable, traditional, kind and affectionate. Let's share travel between Toronto & Montreal. **AD#1338**

FULLY LOADED
Blonde bombshell with brains. No surprises, seeks same type of guy who is secure Submit photo. Must be a professional Time is limited, so hurry! **AD#1025**

HONEST PROFESSIONAL
Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, honest, professional, easy going, down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, traveling Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship. **AD#1112**

SEXY SIREN
Sexy siren (LOL) Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together Dancing, dining, etc . **AD#1366**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Friendly, down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady seeks a sincere, attractive, hard working man for a committed future. She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

It's absolutely **FREE** to place your personal message!

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

LET'S MEET
Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-76 yrs old. **AD#1579**

men seeking women

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family. **AD#1095**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with. **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

SEEKS A FUN PERSON
Single, romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who likes travel, movies, quiet times and great conversation, seeks someone with a great disposition who is fun to be with and can make him laugh. **AD#1645**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life **AD#1543**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale. Attention car buffs. '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes move going, travel and humour Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty. Interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance: Let's have a wonderful life together. **AD#1444**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile **AD#1195**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous. "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight. She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done. And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue." **AD#1140**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic. **AD#1456**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks **AD#1657**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969. Waiting for you call **AD#1572**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life. I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship **AD#1643**

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Russian returns from Salt Lake with hockey bronze

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Viacheslav (Slava) Fetisov is one of the most respected men in Russian hockey, so when he calls asking for help in putting together the country's Olympic team, there aren't many Russians who will turn him down.

Certainly not Igor Kuperman, who's known Fetisov since both were rookies more than 20 years ago breaking into the hockey business – Fetisov as a defenceman with the Red Army and Soviet national teams, Kuperman as hockey editor with *Sports Games Magazine*, a Moscow-based periodical.

Kuperman was flattered to receive Fetisov's call last August and didn't think twice before agreeing to help. After clearing it with his employers, the Phoenix Coyotes (Coyotes part-owner Wayne Gretzky told him to "go for it"), Kuperman signed on as assistant general manager of the Russian Olympic team.

It was a stressful, yet rewarding experience that Kuperman had hoped would produce a golden ending. Like the executives charged with assembling the Canadian team, the Russians faced lots of pressure from a hockey-mad nation that expected to win.

Even more, the Russians had to contend with domestic political intrigues that festered and grew and finally had to be resolved in the Kremlin.

It took the personal intervention of Russian President Vladimir Putin to cut through the country's byzantine hockey politics and choose Fetisov to head the Olympic team, over national team coach Boris Mikhailov, a one-time national team star and a throwback to the old school, autocratic Soviet era.

As a result of that late decision, the Russian team missed the September warm-up camp that most other top contenders enjoyed. That was "a huge disadvantage" and proved costly for team cohesion, Kuperman said.

Feeling they started a step behind the opposition, the Russian management team got into gear early in the NHL season. Kuperman threw himself into his new task with gusto, watching a lot of games and scouting potential national team players.

Fetisov, who took on the dual roles of coach and general manager, also assigned Kuperman plenty of administrative tasks – everything from having people meet the players at the Salt Lake airport to sorting out the on-ice number assignments.

Kuperman, who is director of hockey information for the Coyotes, also handled public relations and media contacts for the Russian team.

As he described the player selection process, echoes of the Canadian experience were apparent. Beyond the obvious question of talent, management wanted to pick "someone you could rely on, who would play well, play hard and give all efforts on the ice," Kuperman said. "In previous years, some players did not play hard enough for the Russian national team."

Two key defencemen, Sergei Zubov and Alexei Zhitnik, turned down invitations "for personal reasons."

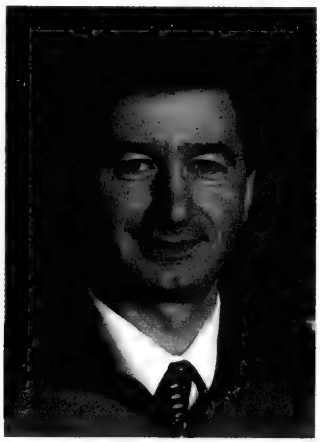
"You cannot make them play if they don't want to. Canada came without one of the best goalies in the world [Patrick Roy]. The team comes first," he said.

At any rate, "there were so many candidates, it was difficult to pick the right ones."

Once the team was selected in December, Kuperman, who worked for the Winnipeg Jets before moving with the team to Phoenix, turned to scouting opposition players, reporting his findings to Fetisov.

Based on what he saw, he predicted Canada, the United States and Russia would vie for the top three medals.

While hockey fever was building in Canada, much the same was taking place in Russia, where the sport ranks just behind soccer in popularity. At the Winter Olympics, it's by far the biggest sport for Russians, far ahead of figure skating or other ice and snow pursuits.



Igor Kuperman

"It was a huge thing for the entire country," Kuperman explained. "The game against the Czechs, even though it was broadcast late at night, 50 per cent of the country watched it and they went nuts when we won."

The team's next game, an elimination contest against the powerful American squad, still puzzles Kuperman and the rest of the Russian brain trust.

Russia fell behind 3-0 after two periods as the team seemed disinterested in competing with the fast-skating Americans. They made a game of it in the third, coming on strong but losing 3-2.

The first two periods "are hard to explain," Kuperman said. "Maybe they were nervous... They didn't look good for two periods but they did in the third."

After, he talked to the players about it, but "no-one gave me an explanation why. They didn't know."

The Russians' third period resurgence came after Fetisov used the between period break to appeal to their pride. His speech was delivered in a calm and "polite" manner. There was no paint-blistering diatribe as suggested by some broadcasters.

"He just said, we have to hold our heads up high and we can't lose the game like that. And the players began to play better," Kuperman said.

Afterward, "the mood was really bad. We lost the world, so it was really bad."

Nevertheless, the team rebounded and handled Belarus easily in the bronze medal game. As a team executive, Kuperman received a bronze medal – not the one given the players, but a smaller version issued by the International Ice Hockey Federation.

Putting on his fan's hat, Kuperman called for removal of the red line. What's more, he said, "I wish for more international competition at the top level, because it's great and it's fun."

Unfortunately, the format of the tournament can be unfair to good teams, like Sweden, which lost to Belarus in an upset but would beat Belarus 99 times out of 100, he said.

The Canadians, he noted, "are always Canadian. They're always really good, very strong... The team that played the best won."

As for Kuperman's own Olympic experience, it can be boiled down to lots of hard work and plenty of stress. Other than the rink, the hotel and the athletes' village, he didn't see much of the Games.

Though he wouldn't trade his Olympic memories for anything – he's proud of his bronze medal and feels "it's a huge honour" to have been part of the Russian team – nothing beats success. "I just wished we'd have won and restored Russia as a superpower of hockey," he said.

Omission

Two photos recently appeared in our pages without photographer credits – the Feb. 28 front page picture of the Israeli junior hockey team and the CHAT Tigers, and a March 7 photo of hockey coach Roger Neilson with two members of the Israeli junior team. Both were the work of Dafna Lorber. *The CJN* regrets the omission.

Hapoel Tel Aviv shocks AC Milan

By ASHER GOLDBERG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Hapoel Tel Aviv's amazing UEFA Cup run continued last week with a dramatic 1-0 win over favourites AC Milan in their quarterfinal first leg.

The match was moved to Nicosia after UEFA, the European soccer federation, ruled that Israel was too dangerous a venue for international games during the current volatile security situation.

Helicopters hovered overhead with search lights scouring the stadium and its surroundings, as more than 1,000 police and undercover units ensured security at the game.

A goal in the 32nd minute by diminutive Moldovan striker Sergei Clescenco, who volleyed in from an acute angle on the left from a Yossi Abuksis corner, undid Milan, the five-time European champions.

Hapoel is the first Israeli club ever to reach this stage in the UEFA Cup. So far, Hapoel has eliminated top European teams Chelsea (England) and Parma (Italy).

Nearly 500,000 Israelis – 34 per cent of the television audience – watched the game on television.

Milan applied plenty of pressure, but Hapoel soaked it up with a confidence that belied their underdog status.

The Italians' best chance came in the 54th minute when Massimo Ambrosini's header was brilliantly parried away by Hapoel goalkeeper Shavit Elimelech, who played another excellent game.

Hapoel's red victory banners dominated the front pages of Israel's newspapers, and *Ma'ariv* and *Yediot Achronot* gave the item precedence over headlines about war and politics.

Ma'ariv reported that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had been so proud of Hapoel's triumph he interrupted talks with visiting U.S. peace envoy Anthony Zinni to tell him the result.

The second leg will be played in Milan this week.

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Recommended Reading

FICTION

• ***Austerlitz***, by W.G. Sebald, Random House, $32.95, HC.

In this masterpiece by an award-winning writer, the narrator tells the story of his melancholic friend, Jacques Austerlitz, who had been sent to Britain on a kindertransport. As an adult, Austerlitz attempts to understand who he is and to come to terms with his identity.

• ***Pages From a Charred Notebook: The Fabulous Tales of Tsvi Eisenman***, translated by Barnett Zumoff, Ktav Publishing House, $38.95, HC.

A wonderful anthology of stories on various themes by a master of Yiddish literature.

• ***Arafat's Elephant***, by Jonathan Tel, Counterpoint, $20.95, SC.

This rich collection of intriguing tales, set in Jerusalem, introduces the reader to captivating, diverse characters.

NON-FICTION

• ***Shop Talk***, by Philip Roth, Houghton Mifflin Company, $35.95, HC.

Interesting discussions between Roth and other literary giants, i.e., Aharon Appelfeld, Isaac Bashevis Singer and Primo Levi. Also included are tributes to two close friends, Bernard Malamud and painter Philip Guston (as well as several of Guston's cartoons), and an essay celebrating the achievements of Saul Bellow.

• ***Fossils & Fate***, by Nathan Aviezer, Ktav Publishing House, $42.95, HC.

In this fascinating and informative work, Aviezer, a professor of physics at Bar-Ilan University, clearly demonstrates his theory that there is no contradiction between Torah and science. He discusses various topics relevant to the issue of faith versus scientific knowledge, including creation, evolution, prayer, free will, fossils, life on other planets and the concept of miracles.

• ***The Tapestry of Jewish Time: A Spiritual Guide to Holidays and Life-Cycle Events***, by Nina Beth Cardin, Behrman House, $41.95, HC.

This beautiful gift book explains the Jewish holidays and rituals and their relevance to contemporary society, as well as the Jewish approach to birth, marriage, death and other life-cycle events. The author's deep love of our tradition is manifest throughout. A perfect gift for a bar or bat mitzvah.

• ***The Halachos of Preparing for Pesach***, by Rabbi Pinchos Yehoshua Ellis, Self-published, $21.95, HC.

A comprehensive guide to making your home chametz-free, this useful book provides answers to the many questions you may have regarding preparation for this festival.

YOUTH

Ages 3-6

• ***The Littlest Frog***, by Sylvia Rouss, Pitspopany Press, $22.50, HC.

An adorable story for Passover with an unusual twist on the plague of frogs. Lively, colourful illustrations by Holly Hannon.

• ***The Matzah Man***, by Naomi Man, Clarion Books, $24.50, HC.

When Mr. Cohen, the matzah baker, shapes some leftover dough into the form of a little man and bakes it, he isn't prepared for what happens next in this delightful and humorous take on *The Gingerbread Boy*.

Ages 10 and up

• ***Pharoah's Daughter***, by Julius Lester, HarperCollins, $8.95, SC.

In this novel of ancient Egypt, a young girl leaves her enslaved family and assumes the role of Egyptian princess in order to help her brother.

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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1-1/2 cups stock
2 medium onions sliced
1 cup medium dry white wine
salt & pepper to taste

Brown meat in heavy pot; add onions & brown over medium heat; add wine, other liquid & dried fruit; bring to simmer; add salt & pepper to taste; simmer covered for 2½ hrs. or until tender. Remove roast from pot to slicing board; skim fat from gravy; slice meat. Arrange on platter & top with fruited gravy. Serves 8 to 10.

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

It seems that lately my best friend no longer has any time for me. She is very involved in extra-curricular activities at school and has made a new group of friends with whom she spends lots of time on the weekends. Things we used to do, such as sleepovers and seeing movies, have become less frequent and when we do make plans, she is constantly cancelling on me. It's almost as if I have been replaced by her new friends. I wish she still needed me.

I'm not sure what caused this change, but I miss her and would like things to go back to the way they used to be. What do you think I should do?

Lonely

Dear Lonely,

You need to discuss this situation with your friend. Find a time when she's alone and won't be distracted and explain to her how you feel. It's likely that she feels the same way, and she'll be glad you're taking that initiative.

Try to make plans with her ahead of time. This way you'll be able to find a time you're both free and if something comes up you'll have a chance to reschedule. Also, it may help if you try and get to know some of her new friends. Ask her if you can all do something together. This way you'll become a part of her new life. This will make it easier for your friend, because she won't have to divide her time.

You need to understand that people change and they do grow apart. Maybe it's for the better that you and your friend are spending more time apart. This will give you a chance to meet new people and have your own new group of friends. Take your friend's lead and get involved in your school. Write an article for the school newspaper or join student council. The busier your life is, the less time you'll have to spend missing your friend.

Remember, just because things are tough time now, it does not mean you should give up. A true friendship will be able to overcome any problem.

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 56.)

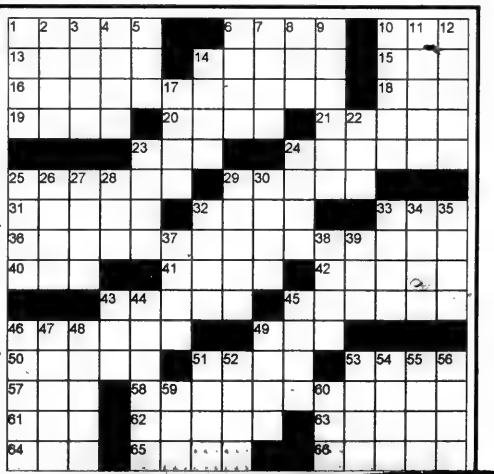
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 Shocker on the airwaves
6 Felix Unger, say
10 Noah's second son
13 Hippie's outburst
14 He questioned Lewinsky
15 ___ mode
16 1956 Saul Bellow book
18 Word of respect
19 It can get you a deal
20 Divisions at Loews
21 Columnist Jonathan
23 Shel Silverstein's "A Boy Named ___"
24 Like some bagels
25 Milton Friedman issue
29 Actress Swoosie
31 The mother of all arteries
32 100%
33 ___ double take
36 Woody Allen film of 1999
40 "___ So Shy"
41 Short life stories?
42 Put away, as challah
43 "Boy ___ World" (Ben Savage show)
45 Member of a 2,200-year-old Jewish sect
46 Like George's mother on "Seinfeld"
49 Shawn Green uses it
50 Wendy Wasserstein title word
51 Wilder's "Young Frankenstein" costar
53 *Critique of Pure Reason* philosopher
57 Hesitant syllables
58 West Bank banks
61 A stooge
62 Leading the pack
63 ___ oil
64 Part of Q & A
65 Revolutionary War financier
___ Solomon
66 Sky wonders

Down

1 McGwire rival
2 "Here's what happened next..."
3 Give off
4 Level
5 Compass dir.
6 Goulash, say
7 Young whelps
8 "...man ___ mouse?"
9 Former colleague of Gene, Willard, and Jane
10 Must
11 "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" creature
12 Prove the matchmaker's wisdom
14 Sole supporter?
17 "Can't argue with that!"
22 Taylor of Tinseltown
23 "Begone!"
24 Filled cookie
25 Country star who covered 23-across
26 "World of Our Fathers" author
27 Mined matter
28 Suffix with Israel
29 "Mazel tov!"
30 www.adl.org and www.jewish.com, for instance
32 In a ___ (angry)
33 ___ on (shower with attention)
34 *A Prayer for ___ Meany*
35 Frank of Holland
37 First to say "Oh, brother!"?
38 Start of a Bernstein title
39 Some lawyers, for short
43 Centro-
44 9th-century B.C.E. prophet of Israel
45 Make shekels
46 Judaic declaration of belief
47 Big bird
48 Is bad matzah?
49 ___ Hall (Julia Louis-Dreyfus's husband)
51 Joel who starred in "Cabaret"
52 "Big Daddy" name
53 About 2.2 pounds
54 Tel ___
55 St. Petersburg's river
56 Cherry or apple
59 "___ wise guy!"
60 Silver of the silver screen



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- David Lawee,
Chair, JVPF-Toronto One

The mission of JVPF-Toronto One is simple; to identify and fund initiatives which have a significant impact on the quality of Jewish life and reinvigorate existing Jewish institutions. A similar fund in Washington undertook projects such as a *HesedMobile* - a specially equipped van that delivers food, fuel, blankets, books and medical equipment to Jews in small towns and villages in Eastern Ukraine. Toronto One will also provide the "Partners" with a unique personal education

Family services and the elderly are one of the focuses of the JVPF initiative.

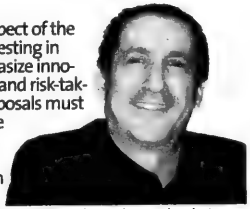
about a myriad of social issues, while giving each investor the chance to network with a group of like-minded entrepreneurs.

Toronto One has raised over $250,000 from more than 25 Partners and their spouses. These Partners

"This initiative gives its Partners the chance to excel in the non-profit world, as they have professionally."
- Mark Waldman,
Chair, JVPF-Toronto One

will then have the opportunity to put their heads... and their hearts together to identify, prioritize, and fund initiatives of their choosing. Partners and their spouses will be encouraged to then play a proactive role in the philanthropic investment process.

An important aspect of the philosophy is investing in ideas that emphasize innovation, creativity and risk-taking. Concept proposals must fit into one of the three following categories: Jewish education and tolerance; poverty, and elderly and family services.



Dr. David M. Elcott, Ph.D. author, lecturer, and organizational consultant recently brought his insights regarding Jewish life to a meeting of JVPF Toronto One.

Participation in Toronto One requires a $10,000 investment. This is a one-time commitment, and there is no obligation to make additional contributions. In successive years, the fund may be recapitalized, and other philanthropic venture funds may be created.

For more information about the UJA Federation Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund, call Debby Kassoy at **(416) 631-5737**

The Chairs of Toronto One: Making it Happen!

The multi-faceted **David Lawee** holds a BA from the University of Western Ontario, a law degree from McGill University, and an MBA from the University of Chicago. Lawee is Chief Operating Officer of OpenCola Inc., an internet software company recognized as one of the 25.Coolest Companies for 2001. "I became involved in the JVPF to make a difference," says Lawee. "Not just in the way we raise money, or how we deploy it, but in the way we think about philanthropy and the organizations that deliver it."

Ken Tanenbaum - a graduate of the prestigious Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania, Ken is an active member of Toronto's Jewish community.

The Chairs of JVPF-Toronto One recently greeted keynote speaker - and one of America's leading philanthropists - Mike Milken to a JVPF event. (L-R) are: Mark Waldman, David Lawee, Milken, and Ken Tanenbaum.

Ken sits on many boards, including Chairman of Mothers Against Drunk Driving; Vice Chair and Past Co-Chair, UJA Federation Atid Program. He is Vice President of Business Development with Lafarge Construction Materials.

Mark Waldman is Vice President of Strategic Planning and Business Development of Marnlen Management, a family holding company that owns Sandylion Sticker Designs, a popular children's novelty sticker company, and Labelad, a custom label manufacturer. "The JVPF gives people the opportunity to be more strategic and directed with the money they give," says Waldman. "It also gives the opportunity for more creativity and dynamic ideas."

food Basic$

Best Prices Everyday!

DIRECT PAYMENT

Happy Easter

ALL STORES CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY AND EASTER SUNDAY
FRIDAY, MARCH 29 & SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Happy Passover Specials

See Page 2 for featured items

MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE

INSTANT 150-200 g
2.77

GROUND 1 kg tin
4.67

COKE OR PEPSI

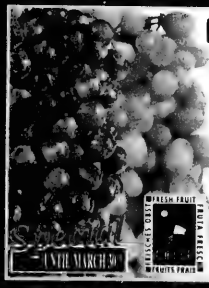
SPRITE, CANADA DRY, BARQ'S, SCHWEPPES, 7UP OR MOUNTAIN DEW
2 L btl
.88

BROCCOLI

PRODUCT OF U.S.A. OR CANADA
each
.75

BONELESS SIRLOIN TIP ROAST

OR STEAK CUT FROM CANADA A/AA/AAA
6.55kg
lb **2.97**

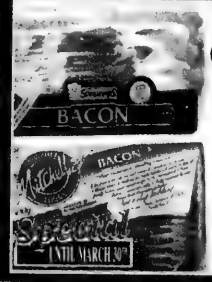


RED OR GREEN SEEDLESS GRAPES

PRODUCT OF CHILE
NO. 1 GRADE
2.14 kg
lb **.97**

SHRIMP RING

EQUALITY
FROZEN, COOKED
227 g box
2.77



SCHNEIDERS OR MITCHELL'S BACON

REGULAR, THICK CUT, SALT REDUCED OR LESS SALT
500 g
2.97

Best Price Guarantee

FOOD BASICS WILL MATCH THE BEST PRICE BY ANY OF OUR MAJOR COMPETITORS ON ALL FRESH OR FROZEN TURKEYS

PRICES EFFECTIVE FROM SATURDAY, MARCH 23RD TO SATURDAY, MARCH 30TH, 2002.

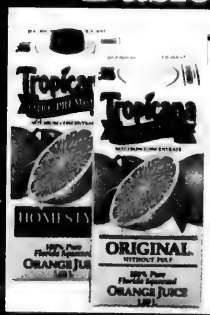
SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
MARCH 23	MARCH 24	MARCH 25	MARCH 26	MARCH 27	MARCH 28	CLOSED GOOD FRIDAY	MARCH 30	CLOSED EASTER SUNDAY

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT PURCHASES TO NORMAL FAMILY REQUIREMENTS. SOME ILLUSTRATIONS IN THIS FLYER DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT ITEMS ON SALE AND ARE FOR DESIGN ONLY.

Happy PASSOVER 2002 - 5762 @ food Basics

WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD BY OUR MAJOR COMPETITORS *ON MATZOS, GRAPE JUICE, APPLE JUICE, CANDLES OR MACAROONS.*

R.C. COLA, COTT'S GINGER ALE OR SODA WATER
2 L btl
.66



TROPICANA ORANGE JUICE
HOMESTYLE OR WITHOUT PULP
1.89 L carton
2.77

ROMAINE LETTUCE
PRODUCT OF U.S.A.
each
.97

MRS. ADLER'S OR ROKEACH APPLE JUICE
64 oz btl
1.95 OR LESS

CHAI CHICKEN OR TURKEY
FROZEN, GRADE "A"
4.34/kg
lb **1.97**

MRS. ADLER'S GEFILTE FISH
32 oz jar OR MOTHER'S 31 oz
5.97

GOLD'S DUCK SAUCE
40 oz jar
2.47

BENNETT'S PRUNE NECTAR
1 L btl
1.88

MANISCHEWITZ MATZO MEAL
1 lb
3.97
JERUSALEM MATZO MEAL 1 lb 2.27

LIEBER'S POTATO STARCH
16 oz
2.37

GOLD SEAL SOCKEYE SALMON
213 g tin
1.97

FOLGERS COFFEE
1 kg tin
4.85

BERTOLLI EXTRA VIRGIN OLIVE OIL
1 L btl
4.77

COKE, DIET COKE OR CANADA DRY GINGERALE
2 L btl
.88

YAVNE CUCUMBERS IN BRINE
19 oz tin
1.47

POTATO CHIPS
BLOOM'S 6 OZ
1.47
LIEBER'S 14 oz
2.88

MANISCHEWITZ MACAROONS
10 oz container
3.97

HONEYDEW MELONS
PRODUCT OF CENTRAL AMERICA NO. 1 GRADE
each
2.47

FRESH CUT FLOWERS
bunch
4.97

PASSOVER 2002/5762

PRICES EFFECTIVE MARCH 20TH UNTIL MARCH 28TH, 2002 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

Available @ the following locations:

800 Steeles Ave. W.; 8490 Bayview Ave. *THORNHILL*; 2900 Steeles Ave. E. *MARKHAM.*

J2

Best Prices Everyday @ Basics

KELLOGG'S RAISIN BRAN

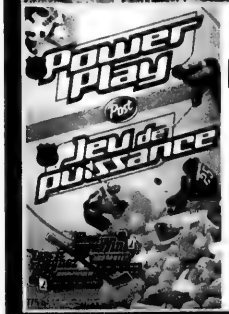
275 g OR
MINI WHEATS 725 g, FROOT LOOPS, MARSHMALLOW FROOT LOOPS 425 g, CRISPIX 350 g, MUSLIX 450-475 g, RICE KRISPIES 700 g

2.88

PEEK FREANS COOKIES

350-400 g bag

1.97



POST NHL POWER PLAY CEREAL

375 g

2.97

While Supplies Last

GOLD SEAL PINK SALMON

213g

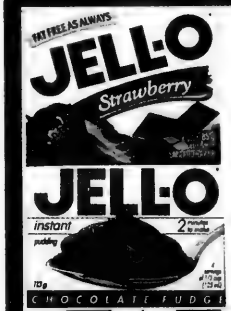
.97

MOTT'S FRUITSATIONS

660-678 g pkg of 6 cups

1.88

Kraft @ Basics



JELL-O

REGULAR 85 g OR LIGHT 9.3-10.3 g

.45

JELL-O INSTANT PUDDING 90-113 g **.65**

KRAFT MIRACLE WHIP

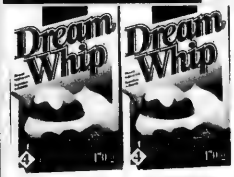
1 L jar

2.89

KRAFT SALAD DRESSING

475 mL btl

1.97



DREAM WHIP

170 g box

2.69

SHAKE'N BAKE

126-184 g box

1.96

KRAFT SPECIALTY DINNERS

EXTRA CREAMY OR WHITE CHEDDAR, SPIRAL PASTA & CHEESE, SHARP CHEDDAR
200 g

.99

HANDI-SNACKS

87 g

1.49

KRAFT PARMESAN CHEESE

REGULAR OR LIGHT
250 g shaker

4.97

Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!! **Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!!**

Frozen @ Basics

EGGO WAFFLES OR PANCAKES
280-312 g
1.67

EQUALITY CORN OR PEAS
MIXED VEGETABLES OR CUT GREEN BEANS
1 kg bag
1.47

BREYERS ALL NATURAL OR LEGENDS ICE CREAM
OR BREYERS BLENDS, SMARTIES, COFFEE CRISP, TURTLES, BUTTERFINGER, MACKINTOSH TOFFEE, ROLO, NERDS, OREO ICE CREAM 2 L tub
4.97

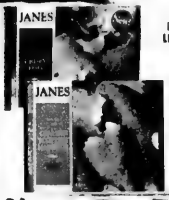
CLASSIC OR PARLOUR ICE CREAM
2 L tub
3.47

VOILA!
567 g pkg
3.97
While Supplies Last

VIENNETTA ICE CREAM DESSERT
500 mL OR SOLERO 440 mL, OREO RUMOR ZLORBIES BARS pkg of 4, OR HENRY BARS pkg of 8
3.97

HÄAGEN-DAZS ICE CREAM
500 mL OR ICE CREAM BARS 3's
4.47

HIGH LINER SOLE FILLETS
400 g OR FISH STICKS, FRIES 700 g, CAPTAIN BREADED OR BATTERED FILLETS 500 g
3.49



JANES SCOTTISH HADDOCK FILLETS OR COD FILLETS WITH LEMON PEPPER 640 g, BREADED DOUBLE DECKER SOLE 800 g
9.97
JANES CRISPY FISH 680 g
5.97

BREYERS SHERBET OR YOGOURT
1 L tub OR 6000 RUMOR CREAMICLES, FUDGESICLES pkg of 12
3.47

NESTLE MINIS
OR BUGZ POP, FRUIT LICKS, SUNKEN TREASURE pkg of 12
3.47

KRAFT DELISSIO 4 CHEESE PIZZA
3 MEAT, PEPPERONI OR DELUXE, DELUXE/PEPPERONI, PEPPERONI/CHEESE
801-953 g pkg
6.97

COOL WHIP
NON-DAIRY REGULAR, LIGHT OR ULTRA LOW FAT
1 L tub
2.47

BANQUET FRIED CHICKEN
REGULAR OR SKINLESS
539-709 g box
4.97

Deli @ Basics

SMOKED SPIRAL CARVED HAM
BRANDT'S
.88 / 100 g
lb **3.99**

RICOTTA CHEESE
VALUE PACK, SILANI
454 g pkg
2.77

SILANI GRATED PARMESAN OR ROMANO TUBS
1.69 / 100 g
lb **7.67**

FAMOSA PIZZA
PEPPERONI OR DELUXE
12"- 2 PACK - 600 g
5.99

SMOKED TURKEY THIGH
BRANDT'S
.55 / 100 g
lb **2.49**

GENOA SALAMI
SLICED HOT & MILD, MASTRO
1.54 / 100 g
lb **6.99**

EASTER BRIE CHEESE
DOUBLE CREAM - 550 g
8.77

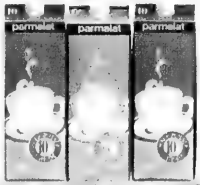
Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!! **Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!!**

Dairy Basics

PHILADELPHIA CREAM CHEESE
250 g brick or tub
OR DIPS 227 g
1.97

PILLSBURY CRESCENT ROLLS
235 g pkg
.95

PARMALAT 35% WHIPPING CREAM
500 mL carton
1.97



PARMALAT 10% CREAM
OR 6% LIGHT CREAM
1 L carton
1.97

BLACK DIAMOND CHEDDAR CHEESE
MARBLE OR MOZZARELLA
600 g pkg
4.97

SILANI MASCARPONE
475 g tub OR PARMESAN OR ROMANO GRATED CHEESE 500 g
5.97

ASTRO YOGURT
case of 12 x 125 g tubs
3.97

BEATRICE JUICE
1.89 L carton
ORANGE
1.77
GRAPEFRUIT OR APPLE
1.88

REDDI WIP TOPPING
ORIGINAL OR LIGHT
225 g aerosol tin
1.97

SARGENTO SHREDDED CHEESE
340 g pkg
MOZZARELLA OR SHARP CHEDDAR
3.97
ITALIAN OR NACHO, PIZZA
4.98

SENSATIONAL SOY
ORIGINAL, VANILLA OR CHOCOLATE
1.89 L
2.97

BEATRICE SOUR CREAM
500 mL tub
1.49

PARKAY OR LACTANCIA SOFT MARGARINE
907 g
OR OLIVINA, LACTANCIA HEALTHY ATTITUDE 454 g
1.99

PILLSBURY GRANDS CINNAMON ROLLS
496 g pkg
2.77

Bakery Basics

HONEY CRUMBLE APPLE OR AMPLE APPLE PIE
NIAGARA TRADITION
1.13-1.36 kg
3.77

DEMPSTER'S TEXAS TOAST
WHITE OR WHOLE WHEAT
675 g
1.47

CROSTATA CAKE
RASPBERRY OR BLACK CURRANT 600 g, PECAN 450 g
3.44

TENENBERRY'S CHEESE CAKE
510 g pkg
3.44

TOASTMASTER BROWN 'N SERVE ROLLS
pkg of 12
1.47
DEMPSTER'S DINNER ROLLS
pkg of 24
1.97

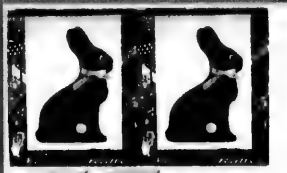
HOT CROSS BUNS
EQUALITY
pkg of 8
1.67

OAKRUN PLAIN ENGLISH MUFFINS
pkg of 6
.77

Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!! **Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!!**

ZSZSZS

Favourites @ Basics



CADBURY EASTER RALLY BUNNY
275 g
3.99
While Supplies Last

CADBURY CHOCOLATE DECORATED EGG
65 g OR SOLID WHITE BUNNY 150 g, SOLID MILK CHOCOLATE BUNNY, MESH EGGS 175 g
.99
While Supplies Last

LAY'S POTATO CHIPS
270 g bag
1.67

GARFIELD TORTILLA CHIPS
454-500 g bag
1.99

ORVILLE MICROWAVE POPCORN
pkg of 6 OR ULTIMATE pkg of 4
2.97

PRINGLES TWIN PACK POTATO CHIPS
340 g
2.97

NIFTY PARTY MIX
454 g
1.99

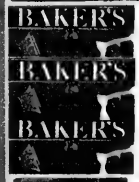
EQUALITY PRETZELS
200 g bag
.77

CHEESE STICKS
EQUALITY 200 g OR CORN PUFFS, ONION RINGS 180 g
.88

PLANTERS DRY ROAST PEANUTS
300 g jar OR HONEY ROASTED 290 g
2.47

Baking @ Basics

FIVE ROSES ALL PURPOSE FLOUR
OR CAKE & PASTRY, NATURAL WHITE, WHEAT BRAN, WHOLE WHEAT
2.5 kg bag
2.77



BAKER'S SEMISWEET CHOCOLATE
225 g
2.79

E.D. SMITH CHERRY PIE FILLING
BLUEBERRY OR LITE CHERRY
540 mL tin
2.47

SUN·MAID CALIFORNIA RAISINS
OR SUNSWEET PITTED PRUNES
680 g
2.97

E.D. SMITH APPLE PIE FILLING
OR PUMPKIN 540 mL, PURE PUMPKIN 796 mL
1.77

KEEBLER GRAHAM PIE CRUST
OR BUTTER, CHOCOLATE
170 g pkg
1.88

MASTER CHOICE PIE SHELLS
FROZEN 280 g OR TART SHELLS 255 g
1.99

Easter Entertaining @ Basics

CHRISTIE TRISCUITS
OR BACON DIPPERS, CHEESE NIPS, SWISS CHEESE, FRENCH ONION THINS, WHEAT THINS, VEGETABLE THINS, CRISPERS
200 - 250 g
1.97

MAXWELL HOUSE INSTANT COFFEE
150-200 g
OR CAFE 227-283 g
2.77

GOLD SEAL SMOKED OYSTERS
OR SMOKED BABY CLAMS 85 g, WHOLE BABY CLAMS 142 g, SLICED TUNA 120 g
1.97
GOLD SEAL 85 g SMOKED MUSSELS 1.48

MAXWELL HOUSE CAPPUCCINO COOLER
99 g
2.97
While Supplies Last

MAPLE LEAF VIENNA SAUSAGE
113 g tin
.97

ARCTIC GARDEN CHOPPED SPINACH
OR WHOLE LEAF
300 g
.99

BURNS FLAKES OF HAM
TURKEY OR CHICKEN
184 g tin
.97

Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!! **Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!!**

Favourites @ Basics

HEINZ TOMATO JUICE
FANCY
1.36 L tin
.97

STUFFING
UNCLE BEN'S STUFF 'N SUCH
120 g
.97
BROWNBERRY
227 g
1.27

PEAS OR CORN
DEL MONTE 341-398 mL | GREEN GIANT 540 mL
.59 | **.79**

BETTY CROCKER SEASONED MASHED POTATOES
OR SLICED POTATOES
141-240 g box
1.47

DOLE PINEAPPLE
CRUSHED, CHUNKS, TIDBITS OR SLICED
398 mL tin
.77

CRANBERRY SAUCE
WHOLE OR JELLIED
398 mL tin
OCEAN SPRAY
1.47
MASTER CHOICE
1.28

MOTT'S APPLE SAUCE
796 mL jar
1.79

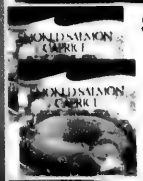
CANADA CORN STARCH
500 g
1.69

CLUB HOUSE BROWN GRAVY
25 g pkg
.77

CORDON BLEU TURKEY GRAVY
OR BEEF, MUSHROOM, 3 PEPPERCORN, CREAMY CHICKEN & CHIVE
284 mL tin
.67

Fast & Easy Entertaining @ Basics

MASTER CHOICE SHRIMP
340 g bag, 40-44 count per bag
UNCOOKED **6.97** | COOKED **7.97**



SMOKED SALMON CAPRICE
FROZEN MASTER CHOICE
310 g pkg
8.97

RAIN COAST SMOKED RED SALMON
85 g
2.97

HIGH LINER
MUSSELS IN GARLIC BUTTER 454 g
3.47
SCALLOPS 400 g
9.97

PINTY'S ROADHOUSE CHICKEN BREAST STRIPS
OR BUFFALO BREAST STRIPS, ITALIAN CHICKEN SCHNITZEL, CRISPY CHICKEN BREAST
907 g
8.47

MASTER CHOICE LASAGNA
MEAT OR VEGETABLE, FROZEN
5 lb
9.99

SCHNIEDERS SAUSAGE ROLLS
450 g
3.49

Coolers @ Basics

REALEMON JUICE 710 mL btl **1.79**

MOTT'S CLAMATO COCKTAIL
REGULAR OR EXTRA SPICY
1.89 L btl
2.97

CASAL DOMINGO WINE COOLERS
.5% ALCOHOL OR SCOTT'S COOLER
341 mL btl
.77

LABATT .5 % BEER
OR MASTER CHOICE PREMIUM BREW
case 12x355 mL tins
4.99

ROUGEMONT APPLE JUICE
2 L btl
1.97

WELCH'S GRAPE JUICE
1.82 L btl
3.97

PERRIER MINERAL WATER
750 mL btl
.97
CASE OF 12 BTLS **$11.65**

OCEAN SPRAY CRANBERRY COCKTAIL
ORIGINAL
1.89 L
3.47

Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!! **Basics...Best Prices Everyday!!!**

Fresh Basics

GREEN BEANS

PRODUCT OF U.S.A.

2.09 kg

lb .95

NAVEL ORANGES

PRODUCT OF U.S.A.

1.50 kg

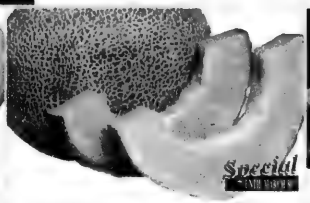
lb .68

ANJOU, BOSC OR RED PEARS

PRODUCT OF U.S.A. FANCY GRADES

1.87 kg

lb .85



CANTALOUPES

PRODUCT OF CENTRAL AMERICA NO. 1 GRADE

each

1.35

RED PEPPER

PRODUCT OF MEXICO NO. 1 GRADE.

2.16 kg

lb .98

YELLOW ONIONS

PRODUCT OF ONTARIO NO.1 GRADE

10 lb bag

1.75

Meat Basics

FRESH NEW ZEALAND LAMB LEG

7.65 kg SHORT CUT

lb 3.47

BONELESS SMOKED HAM

HALF OR QUARTER TOUPIE STYLE

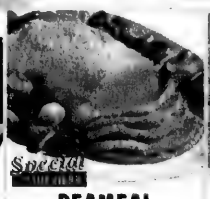
4.34 kg

lb 1.97

FRESH CHICKEN WINGS

4.39 kg BAGGED

lb 1.99

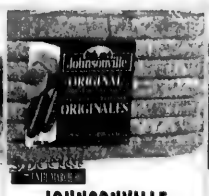


PEAMEAL BACON

SLICED CENTER CUT REGULAR OR THICK CUT

8.75 kg

lb 3.97



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This Week

National

Rallies held in support of Israel. *Page 3 and 8*

March of the Living cancels Israel portion. *Page 5*

Passover Greetings

***The CJN* presents** its sixth annual Literary Supplement. *Section B*

Coast to Coast

Edmonton hosts its first Jewish film festival. *Page 44*

Health & Lifestyles

Group seeks services for hearing impaired day school students. *Page 59*

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One of the traditional sounds of Passover is the sweet crunch of the matzah. This young girl from the former Soviet Union was crunching away for the first time in her new home in Jerusalem. *[UIA Federations Canada/Robert A. Cumins photo colourized by Britta Montgomery]*

Compelling truths of Jewish life in 2002

Editorial

It is one of the melancholy contradictions of the upcoming Pesach holiday, – indeed, of the tear-soaked pages of Jewish history, – that a photo of a sweetly innocent young girl munching on a piece of matzah must share the same page as that of two grief-stricken mourners clinging to each other for comfort at the funeral of a friend.

Yet both scenes depict a compelling truth about Jewish life in the year 2002 that we must strive to understand even as we strive to combine them into the defining context for the holiday this year.

The matzah in the little girl's hand is the chief symbol of the very essence of the holiday: the poor person's bread, prepared in haste, that our forebears ate on their road to freedom.

And the little girl, of course, is the very embodiment of one of the key reasons we celebrate the holiday: to embed deep within the generational structure of our people, the memory of the Exodus.

As Gil Troy notes on this page, "the power of the seder… comes from its ritualization of memory."

Typical of their wise and loving ways, the ancient rabbis ordained that our children would be involved in every aspect of the seder.

The questions, the singing, the hermeneutics, the rhymes and the abundant, good food were all designed to engage the curiosity of our children.

Contin

Remember the victims at the seder

By GIL TROY

During this year's seders, we will celebrate our joyous holiday of liberation with heavy hearts. Even as we revel in our freedom as Jews in the modern world, our brothers and sisters in Israel are in pain.

In the 17 months since the Palestinians turned away from negotiations toward violence, too many have died, too many have been injured, on both sides. And too many seders will have empty chairs – missing husbands, fathers, brothers, sons; missing wives, mothers, sisters, daughters.

The power of the seder – which remains one of the most popular of Jewish ceremonies – comes from its ritualization of memory. It is a most primal, most sensual, most literal, of services. The seder – with its representations of the mortar used in building, the charoset, and of the tears shed by the slaves, the salt water – helps us visualize the trauma of slavery.

Continued on page 41

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Happy, healthy and peaceful Passover. Chag kasher v'sameach.

The News in Brief

CANADA

Shul Fund-raiser

TORONTO — Entertainers from the Kensington Market area and beyond will hold an April 7 concert to help raise funds to repair the Anshei Minsk Synagogue, which was damaged by arson March 11. The concert will be held at 8 p.m. at Holy Joe's (651 Queen St. W) and will feature a variety of performers, including Michael Savona, Michael Paoli's Hasid Jazz, Noah Zacharin, Andrea Fields, Shauna Major & Friends, Liad Twena, Audiobomb, Superhalo and King Frisky. Call 416-926-1966 ext. 262 for details.

ISRAEL

New Chief Rabbi

TEL AVIV — Rabbi Shlomo Amar, head of the Petach Tikvah Rabbinical Court, was elected chief rabbi of Tel Aviv last week. He is the first sole chief rabbi of the city, following a decision by the municipal council to abolish having two chief rabbis, one Ashkenazi and one Sephardi. Rabbi Amar was elected by a body of 30 local officials. He was unopposed.

Cabinet Resignations

JERUSALEM — The resignations of Tourism Minister Binyamin Ayalon and Infrastructure Minister Avigdor Lieberman went into effect March 14. The pair quit after Prime Minister Ariel Sharon lifted a siege on Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

WORLD

Cemetery Attacked

BERLIN — Police are investigating whether last week's homemade grenade attack that damaged the courtyard of a Jewish cemetery was the work of Arab terrorists or right-wing fanatics. The Simon Wiesenthal Centre said police should look at ties between German neo-fascists and Mideast extremists.

Latvian SS

RIGA — Some 600 people gathered here recently to mark the 59th anniversary of the creation of a Latvian Nazi SS unit. The commemoration angered Efraim Zuroff, director of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre's Jerusalem office, who argued that those who fought alongside Hitler's forces should not feel proud of themselves.

New Youth Group

LISBON — The Jewish community here has established its first youth group. Children and young adults aged four to 25 will gather for cultural and sports events through Dor Chadash, as well as group discussions. An Israeli dance group is also being formed.

Blast Marked

BUENOS AIRES — Argentine Jews and Israeli officials marked the 10th anniversary of the bombing of the Israeli Embassy here last week. A siren sounded and relatives of the victims spoke during the ceremony commemorating the attack, which is still unsolved. Twenty-nine people were killed and more than 200 injured in the March 17, 1992 blast.

Kosher Ban

BERN — Switzerland will not ease a law that bans kosher slaughter of animals. The decision by the Swiss government was made after consulting with Swiss Jewish representatives, a government spokesperson said. The government also told Jewish leaders that it would guarantee the continued import of kosher meat. Sources say fear of a possible anti-Semitic backlash forced the government's hand. Swiss Jewish leader Alfred Donath called the law discriminatory.

Re-Trial Moved

NEW YORK — The re-trial of a U.S. rabbi accused of contracting to kill his wife will be moved in an attempt to hold a fair hearing. Judge Linda Baxter said the re-trial of Fred Neulander would be moved to another county in New Jersey. The first trial ended in a hung jury. Neulander is accused of having his wife, Carol, killed in 1994 so he could pursue an affair.

Passover Kits

NEW YORK — More than 2,000 Jewish U.S. military personnel stationed around the world received seder kits for Passover. The Jewish Community Centers Association of North America shipped kits containing kosher-for-Passover matzah, soup, gefilte fish, grape juice and Haggadahs.

Poll: Canadians Neutral On Mideast

TORONTO — Almost half of Canadians say they support neither side in the Mideast conflict, a new poll says.

Only 16 per cent of Canadians expressed support for Israel, and 12 per cent supported the Palestinians, according to the poll of 1,000 Canadians, conducted by Ipsos-Reid for the *Globe and Mail* and CTV and released earlier this month.

Seventeen percent of respondents supported both sides.

The poll, conducted from March 12-14, asked, "As you know, there has been increasing tension and violence in Israel in recent weeks. Based on whatever you've seen or heard about the current conflict in Israel, generally speaking, which side do you, yourself, tend to support more?"

Forty-eight per cent said they supported neither side.

Support for Israel was strongest in British Columbia (25 per cent), followed by Alberta (21 per cent), Atlantic Canada (19 per cent), Ontario (18 per cent) and Saskatchewan and Manitoba (12 per cent).

Palestinian support was strongest in Quebec (18 per cent), followed by Ontario (13 per cent) and British Columbia and Alberta (both at nine per cent).

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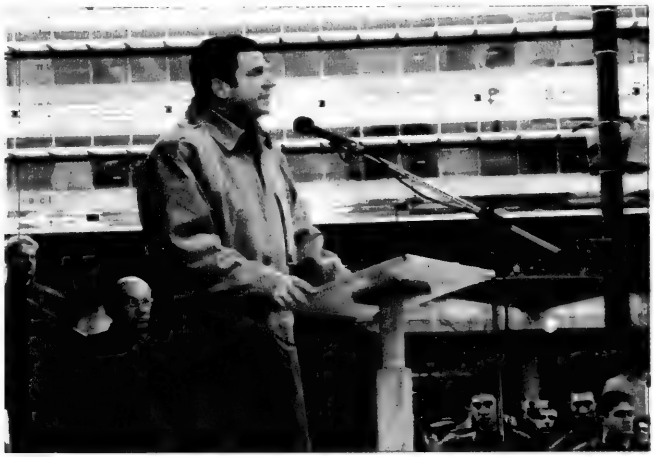
Toronto Jews rally to support Israel



Yuli Edelstein addresses rally last Sunday. [Frances Kraft photo]

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel desperately needs to feel the type of support shown Sunday at a solidarity rally attended by more than 2,000 people at Mel Lastman Square.

That was the message brought by Yuli Edelstein, Israel's deputy minister of immigrant absorption, to a crowd ranging from babes in arms to seniors. Participant Shirley Margel, who would otherwise have been preparing for a seder and two Passover meals with her children and grandchildren, said it was "definitely more important" to be at the rally. "I'll have one cake less," she said.

Many supporters waved large Israeli flags and held placards supporting Israel and decrying terrorism.The event, which was preceded by a spirited youth rally, was one of hundreds held throughout North America. It was organized by Toronto's Israel Now Consortium – a network of more than 100 community organizations under the auspices of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the Consulate General of Israel.

"I come here from a country at war," said Edelstein, who flew in from Israel for the day. In the past year and half, he noted, Israel has suffered one terrorist attempt or attack per hour.

The former Soviet refusenik, who made aliyah in 1987, spoke of Israel's sense of loss, bewilderment and despair, but also of its renewed unity and resolve in the face of what he called "a war unlike any other except maybe the War of Independence 54 years ago."

This is not a war over territory, settlements or Palestinian self-determination, said Edelstein. "This is a war for our survival. At stake is our existence as a sovereign nation."

In light of that, Israel "dare not" concede territory, dismantle settlements or sanction violation of agreements, he said.

"We did not wait 2,000 years to give up

Continued on page 45

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Greater Toronto Area

Into the corridor, with song

From the editor desk

Most of his life the tailor sang songs in minor keys. The melodies sprang from the traditions and the folkways of his home, which, in the first two decades of his life, had been in a small village at the end of a dirt road little travelled in eastern Poland.

In later years, he would test the range and power of his voice with other kinds of song. When he was alone, working at his sewing machine, he would sing like a tenor at La Scala.

In his prime, the young man's voice was a musical blend of the resonant emotions of a Richard Tucker and the more sonorous, earthy stability of a Jan Peerce. And in an uncanny coincidence of nature, he even resembled the two, in hybrid, combining Peerce's short, stocky, barrel-chested stature with Tucker's warm, inviting eyes, dark wavy hair and melting, mischievous smile.

As he fed the material under the driving needle of the spindle, the tailor sang to the heavens, transformed by the privacy of the moment into a starry-eyed Jewish Rudolpho, his passion suddenly awakened by the beautiful Mimi standing before him in the doorway of his cold, bohemian's attic studio. *Che Gelida Manina*, How Cold Your Hands Are, he sang to her with the passion and the purpose of a man deeply in love.

Or, as he pushed on the pedal of the motor, he imagined himself alone on the stage, a virtuoso soloist under the thin spotlight in the vast, darkened theatre. He sang Pagliacci's sobbing, sorrowful, heart-broken lament, his will to live ebbing, seeking the strength merely to don his costume, to smile, to walk off the stage in dignity.

The tailor's performances were always flawless. The audience, of course, was wildly, if respectfully appreciative, sustaining its applause much longer than it took him to sew pockets into a pair of trousers or alter a sleeve in a misshapen sports jacket.

It was hardly surprising that he sang arias in which he detected traces of chazzanut, arias that touched the inner core of his soul, the part shaped by the happiness of the family that had nurtured and sustained him so very long ago.

But now the tailor lay in a hospital bed. He could no longer sing; he could no longer even speak. His eyes were closed. Machinery, it seemed, as much as man was striving to save his life. Tubes and plastics helped him to breathe; filaments and wires helped his heart to beat.

It was the Sabbath, nine days before Pesach.

Three days earlier, in the hopeful beginnings of a new spring, he came to the hospital complaining of digestive discomfort. Yet, even in his initial distress, he still sang quietly to himself the familiar tunes of the approaching holiday. Before too many hours passed however, he was no longer able to bring forth any melodies.

Less than two miles away from the hospital, four of the tailor's grandchildren sat around the Sabbath table in their home, waiting for news but afraid to hear what they dreaded. Their hands were joined, completing a circle in whose intertwined connections, they found strength.

They were four curly-topped young girls, none of them out of their teens, one of them not yet into her teens.

They were home alone. Their parents were at the hospital, at the tailor's bedside, where they had been, without interruption, for four days.

When the sun began its final descent into the western sky, the young sisters lit the Sabbath candles. They could no longer wait for their parents, though they ached to have them home, the family whole again, all sadness averted.

But they knew their parents were not coming home soon.

Holding back tears even as they held onto each other, they blessed God with the multiple blessings for his instruction to bring light into the Sabbath home, for creating the fruits of the vine and for bringing forth bread from the land.

But they ate very little, nibbling at the food more out of respect for the Sabbath than out of appetite.

They knew their grandfather, the apprentice, soldier, survivor, shopkeeper, tailor, was now in the penumbra where this world and the next world meet. His life was slipping away.

Against their will, tears came anyway.

And they determined to sing. *Yedid Nefesh,* Companion of My Soul; *Lecha Dodi*, To You My Love; songs of the prayerbrook; songs of Jewish eastern Europe; any songs that he might have once sung too because they knew how much he had loved to sing and how he had loved to hear them sing. They sang loudly; they sang fiercely; they sang the choking songs of farewell.

To this very minute and always, when I reflect on the final instant on earth of the soul of the tailor from Bodzentin, I imagine it soaring upward and high into the deep invisible blue of the pathway to heaven through a corridor of his grandchildren's song.

And it was surely noticed among the angels that the harmony the young sisters created for their grandfather's ascending soul, like the love they felt for him, was pure and sweet, an eternal, lasting testament to the goodness of the man they would never see again.

—MBD

SeeJN

PROMOTING ISRAEL: **A group of more than 20 young leaders from 10 North American Jewish organizations visited Israel last week on a promotional tour co-ordinated by the United Jewish Communities, the Jewish Agency and the Israel Experience program. Along with a tour of Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, there were sessions on advocacy and the media held in Kiryat Moriyah, the Jewish Agency's educational campus in Jerusalem. Pictured from left are Bari Weiss of Pittsburgh, Pa., Chaim Cutler of Toronto and Jill Marie Reinach of Israel, who chaired a session.**

[Israel Sun photo]

Greater Toronto Area

March of the Living cancels Israel portion

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Montreal is the only Canadian city, and one of a handful of contingents worldwide, that plans to proceed with a March of the Living trip to both Poland and Israel this year.

The Israel arm of this year's educational trip for 1,500 high school students was cancelled by the international March of the Living (MOL) organization following a March 13 conference call to representatives from participating countries, including Canada. The two-week trip has always culminated in Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations in Israel after visits to concentration camp sites in Poland.

In a statement, the international MOL office said it "could not put these young people at risk under the current conditions. Since the teens have invested a lot of time and energy in preparation for this program it was decided that the Poland-only option be taken."

It was left up to each group to decide whether to participate in the changed program.

Following the controversial decision, which prompted *Jerusalem Post* columnist David J. Forman to dub the revised MOL the "March of the Dead," organizers in Toronto postponed their trip until next year. Organizers of the trip for students from other Canadian cities plan to participate in the Poland-only program, but with modifications to compensate for the cancellation.

"Obviously the Israel part is crucial. It has to do with continuity and the connection to Israel," said Maxyne Finkelstein, executive director of UIA Federations Canada, which funds the program nationally. "From a national perspective, we took the position that if a community would still like to go [to Israel], we'll work with them to help them organize, and give them financial support."

Finkelstein said she was saddened by the international organization's decision. "It's a heartbreaking thing. People spend the whole year preparing for it. It's a very significant experience. For many, it's their first opportunity to go to Israel and to see it in a very special way, coming from Poland."

Montreal would not have a Poland-only trip, said Ruth Najman, March of the Living co-ordinator at Montreal's Bronfman Jewish Education Centre (BJEC) and its Bronfman Israel Experience Centre (BIEC). "We believe that, from an educational standpoint, Israel is an integral part of March of the Living."

In light of the situation, the Israel itinerary has been modified and shortened, and will take place mostly in the desert. The changed focus will "take advantage of the rich thematic opportunities [the desert] offers, including Ben Gurion's dream of 'making the desert bloom' [and] the pioneering spirit," the BJEC/BIEC said in a statement.

The statement also said the BIEC "recognizes that the decision for a student to participate... rests solely with the parents, and as such, we will respect their decisions." Organizers would "reluctantly agree" to allow participants to return to Montreal directly from Poland.

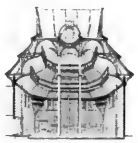
The Montreal trip is contingent on security clearance from

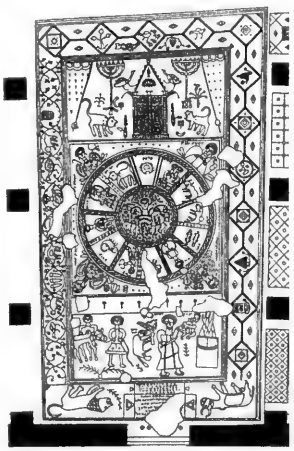
Continued on page 48

MAKING MATZAH: Toronto Heschel School students, Racher Wilder-Karabus (left), Jonah Strub and Nava Jacobovici prepare flour for matzah at the Chabad Matzah Factory.

Congregation Darchei Noam presents

Building Synagogues:





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Number of anti-Semitic incidents reported up in '01

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The number of anti-Semitic incidents reported in Canada last year increased slightly over the year before, continuing a long-term trend of steady growth, states a report prepared by B'nai Brith's League for Human Rights.

A total of 286 incidents were reported to the League in 2001, roughly the same as in 2000 but an increase of 35 per cent over the level reported only five years ago, according to the 2001 Audit of Anti-Semitic Incidents.

The audit, which was released last week, surveys harassment and vandalism occurrences, including synagogue and cemetery desecrations, bomb threats, physical threats, verbal and written abuse, graffiti and assaults. The League has released a report every year since 1982.

The 2001 report differs from its predecessors because it includes several new elements besides reports of anti-Semitic events:

- a survey of attitude changes among Canadians;
- a study of the use of the Internet to disseminate hate propaganda;
- an update on relevant legal decisions;
- a look at developments in other countries; and
- an analysis of anti-racism issues in the aftermath of the UN anti-racism conference this past fall in Durban, South Africa.

The report noted that the number of incidents in 2001 spiked in September and October, immediately after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Approximately 35 per cent of all occurrences last year can be linked to the fallout from the attacks, the League estimated.

The vast majority of reported incidents took place in Ontario (186 or 65.03 per cent), with Quebec reporting 83, or 29.02 per cent of the incidents. Manitoba, British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Maritimes reported far fewer cases, ranging from 2.1 per cent in Manitoba to a scant .35 per cent in the Maritimes.

The audit found disturbing developments in Montreal – which accounted for 78 of the Quebec incidents.

In addition to a sharp increase in the number of occurrences in recent years – a 290 per cent rise since 1998 – public attitudes in Quebec revealed a "puzzling finding of concern."

The attitudinal survey, undertaken by COMPAS, a polling and research organization, found "the continued apparently greater antagonism of Quebecers than Canadians as a whole towards African-Canadians, Italians and especially Jews.

"A perplexing aspect of Quebecers' apparent antagonism towards Jews is evidence that such negative feelings do not abate, as they normally do in democratic societies, as education rises. The data suggest that education may even be reinforcing such sentiments," stated COMPAS president Conrad Winn.

When asked whether Jews as a group have too much power, 26 per cent of Quebecers agreed they had, compared to only 10 per cent for the rest of Canada. Sixteen per cent of Quebec respondents also believed that Italians held too much power, compared to six per cent for the rest of Canada.

Winn did report some cause for optimism. The survey found that attitudes towards Jews and minorities improved greatly among people under 30, while a less "democratic spirit" can be found among those older than 60.

In other parts of the report, lawyer and human rights advocate David Matas suggested that many in the Canadian anti-racist community, who participated in the Durban conference and endorsed its concluding documents, put their own narrow issues ahead of broader human rights issues. In doing so, they overlooked the meeting's anti-Semitic excesses and damaged the credibility of human rights organizations.

Looking ahead to Durban's follow-up conference in five years, Matas said, "Durban was an anti-Semitic jamboree. Is the anti-racist community going to sign up for yet another anti-Semitic jamboree five years hence? That is the equality issue the follow up to Durban poses."

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Israel appeals to Canada to blunt UN measures

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Israel wants Canada to blunt the effects of several hostile resolutions awaiting the Jewish state before the annual meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), but Liberal MP and human rights expert Irwin Cotler says Ottawa should really work to change the forum's "systemic bias" against Israel.

Last week, Israel's ambassador to the UN, Yehuda Lancry, asked Canada "to be our voice" at the meeting, which began last week in Geneva and is slated to end April 26. Israel has only observer status at the commission, and Canada is one of its few Western members that can demand a vote on resolutions, meaning Israel's supporters can at least be heard, even when harsh resolutions are passed.

Israel's entreaty to Canada appears to have been heard. Last Tuesday, Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham conceded the UNCHR has been unfair and one-sided in its attacks on Israel, and pledged to work with Israel to bring about more balance.

Graham said Canada would plot its moves "in close consultation" with Israel.

That's commendable, Cotler told *The CJN*, but the "real issue here is the role that Canada can play is getting countries to address and redress the issue of systemic bias within the human rights commission, which in the end, is not only prejudicial to Israel, but is prejudicial to the whole cause of human rights."

Even before the commission's proceedings began, Arab states were updating at least five resolutions condemning Israel that the 53-member body passed last year.

To Cotler, who plans to visit the commission's meeting, that constitutes "an item-specific indictment of Israel even before [the meeting] begins. Thirty per cent of the commission's time is taken up with an obsessive preoccupation with Israel, while the real major human rights violators gain exculpatory immunity.

"In the end, one-third of the resolutions passed will be those indicting Israel, while the rest of the world shares 70 per cent. That systemic bias undermines the integrity of the UN."

Indeed, at last year's UNCHR meeting, only 11 other countries, including Iraq and Congo, faced one resolution each.

Canada, said Cotler, can try to mobilize support for changing that bias. "It isn't easy," he added. "Canada is only one of a number of countries on the commission, many of which are hardcore human rights violators, like Sudan."

Deep-seated anti-Israel bias at international forums is "part of a pattern and process," Cotler said, citing last summer's UN anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa and last November's meeting of the High Contracting Parties to the Geneva Conventions, which passed several measures condemning Israel's military actions against civilians.

But Cotler noted the significance of Canada being able to call for a vote at the UNCHR. Without a ballot, resolutions will appear to be unanimously endorsed.

"The importance of a vote lies in the fact that it holds people to account and allows countries like Canada, as it did last year, to vote against and possibly, to defeat [resolutions]. A consensus resolution has more prejudicial fallout than one that is voted on, and in which Canada can at least indicate clearly that it disassociates itself from it."

Last year, Canada voted against a resolution saying Israel was guilty of war crimes and crimes against humanity, Cotler noted.

Cotler has held talks about this year's session with Graham and with Israel's deputy foreign minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior. Graham has also met with Rabbi Melchior.

Cotler noted too that members of the House of Commons' subcommittee on human rights, chaired by Hamilton MP Beth Phinney, have been invited to attend the commission's meeting.

The United States, Israel's traditional ally at the UN, failed to win a seat for this year's meeting. Observers have said that opens the door for Canada to take a leadership role.

Indeed, it's a development Israel has seized on. "In the sphere of the United Nations, Canada is always immediately behind the United States in helping to support and defend Israel," Lancry was quoted as saying earlier this month. "We certainly expect that in Geneva they will perform likewise."

Lancry underlined that sentiment last week, saying Israel is "very grateful" to Canada for its support at the UN and its stated efforts to work with his country at the commission.

At a news conference in Geneva last week, Graham conceded the commission has singled out Israel at the height of

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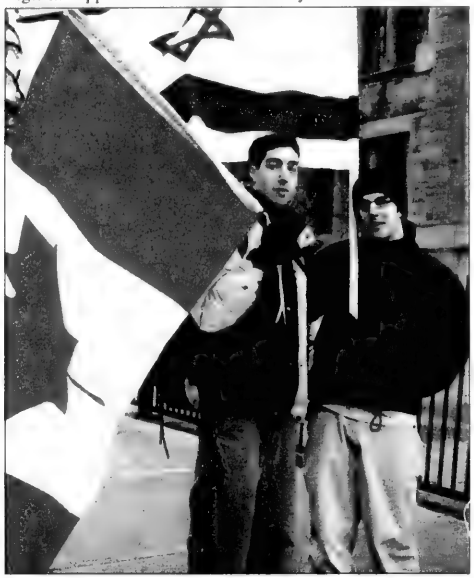
Toronto students march in support of Israel

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Students gathered for a vigil in support of Israel last Thursday, despite the icy March wind that blew across the University of Toronto campus.

More than 75 students met in front of the Sidney Smith Building to light candles, chant tehillim and recite the Prayer for the State of Israel, in an event sponsored by several organizations, including Jewish Campus Services (JCS).



A moment of silence was observed after the students read the 20 names of those killed in terrorist attacks in the last nine days, not including the four Israelis killed on March 21, the day of the vigil.

After the moment of silence, the group began a solidarity march to the Israeli Consulate, where they sang *Hatikvah*.

The vigil was important and necessary because this type of a gathering hasn't happened here in a long time, said JCS Israel Affairs co-ordinator Stuart Lapowich, 25, before the vigil.

Adam Cutler, 20, a University of Toronto student, encouraged the group to show their support for Israel in every way possible.

"If you can, go to Israel," he said. "If you can't go, give money or support the Israeli economy by buying Israeli products."

In addition, Cutler told the group to write the Canadian government to express concern over Canada's voting record at the United Nations.

This rally marks a turning point for students, Cutler noted.

"We can't let our sorrow overcome our need to speak out... Let's attend more rallies and go public with our support for Israel."

"It marks a need to come together as a group and walk in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in Israel in pursuit of peace," said U of T student Bram Bregman, 21.

"Today's vigil begins an end to our silence," he added.

Students take part in rally at University of Toronto. **[Anna Morgan photos]**

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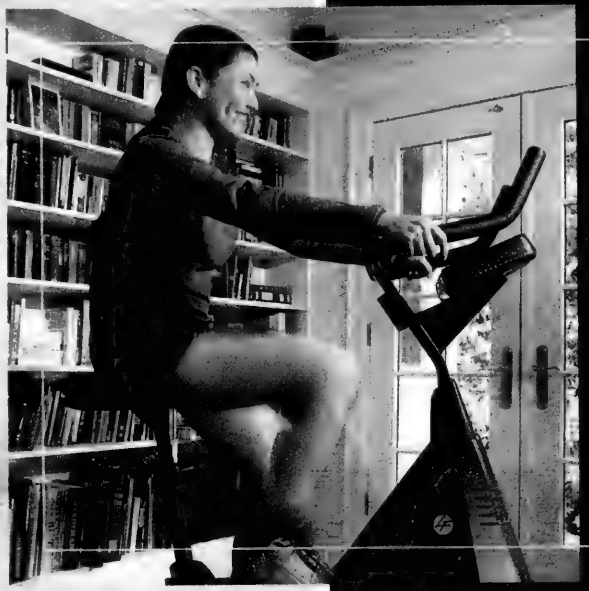

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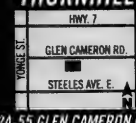

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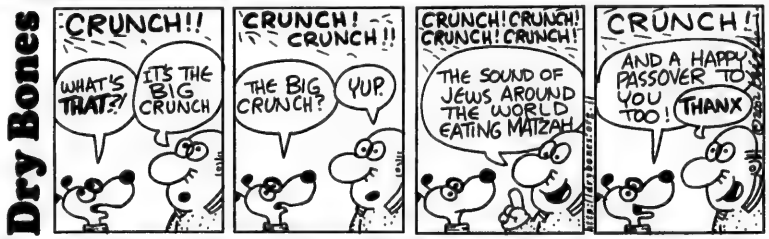

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Hatred doomed to fail

Continued from page 1

We retell the story of the delivery of our ancestors from their slavery in Egypt; in fact, we "relive" it, to impress into our children's souls the multi-layered lessons of the Exodus.

• The Exodus is one of the foundations of our faith.

• Our faith is an affirmation and a testament to the sovereignty of the one God of history.

• History has a purpose. In the words of scholar Nahum Sarna, "It is not a concatenation of haphazard incidents but rather an unfolding of God's grand design."

That design, of course, is for a world in which slavery, oppression, injustice, cruelty, inhumanity and the victimization of others do not exist. That design, of course, is for a world in which peace for all peoples prevails. That design of course, is for a world in which the Jewish people too are sovereign and secure within their own state: Israel.

Alas, there are some people on earth who bridle at the mere thought of a sovereign Jewish state. They recoil at the thought of a Jewish body politic in the Muslim Middle East. By their statements and by their actions, they tell us there is no place in this world for Israel.

And thus, they make war against Israel.

The grief-stricken mourners in the second photo, whose private sorrow we intrude upon, are among the war's victims.

But in truth, we know that the people who make war against Israel also intend to make war against Jews, the West and the values we, as a people, brought to the West and cherish.

Foremost among those values is freedom in all its manifestations and responsibilities. And what, if not freedom, is the pre-eminent theme, discussion and discourse at the seder table?

Israel's enemies are motivated by hate. They are not motivated by the desire to "build' as much as they are driven by the need to destroy. Moreover, and most important, they are utter strangers to the idea and the blessing of freedom. Were it otherwise, they would know how to build.

Because of their embrace of hatred and destruction, Israel's enemies are doomed to fail, much as Pharaoh ultimately failed.

Sarna explains why: "All the power of the mighty pharaoh, the outward magnificence of his realm, the dazzling splendour of his court, his colossal monuments – all are illusory, ephemeral, and in the ultimate reckoning, insignificant and they must crumble into dust because they rest on foundations empty of moral content."

As we gather with family and friends at the seder table, we must therefore bear in mind where we are in Jewish history and what we will contribute to the pages of that history. We must think about the connection between the war being waged against Israel even as we find joy and new memories in the celebration of our holiday.

Gil Troy suggests one way of making that connection. But of course, there are other ways too. The key is that, as we thank God for having brought us to the celebration of yet another Pesach, we all at least look for a way.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

March of Living should proceed

The Toronto organization of the March of the Living has cancelled this year's March out of fear of taking the teenagers to Israel following the visit to Poland. Other communities, I have learned, will take their students to Poland but not to Israel. While I understand the concerns that have led to these decisions, and I am sure that they were taken after serious consideration, I believe, nonetheless, that they are wrong and convey a terribly disturbing message.

I understand parents' misgivings with regard to sending their children to visit Israel at this time, and I would not criticize those who would opt not to send them. However, the organized Jewish community should not capitulate to the Arab strategy of intimidation that is aimed at Israelis and Jews throughout the world. Missions to Israel must continue, though individuals may exercise their right to decide whether or not they will participate. The cancellation of such organized trips, including the March of the Living and even just the March's Israel segment, conveys the message that in difficult times, the Diaspora community does not really stand shoulder to shoulder with its Israeli sisters and brothers. That is the wrong message to transmit to our teenagers, and those responsible for it, to my mind, have forfeited their right to leadership positions in the community.

Perhaps even worse is the message being given to the Israelis – which is, in effect, "Have your war, and when it's over, we might stop by to visit." How demoralizing – for us and for them!

In an article in the March 20 issue of the *Jerusalem Post,* it was reported that the United Jewish Federation of Metro West, New Jersey, had issued a statement indicating that it would pick up where the March of the Living organization left off. This federation will provide the Israel component of the trip for those who wish to continue on after Poland because, as the article said, "for a March of the Living program to emphasize visitation of concentration camps and other devastation against the Jewish people in Europe, without participants witnessing the rebirth of the Jewish State, is not the message we want to impart."

Where is the Toronto Jewish federation in this?

Marvin Pachino
Toronto

* * *

No one "basks" in compliments

Isaac Alalouf's letter in your March 14 issue ("Reader objects to letters") is factually incorrect.

I do not recall either a letter or interview printed in *The CJN* at any time that could remotely be construed as someone "basking in the compliments" of Israelis who show their appreciation towards tourists visiting the suffering country standing alone in the world.

Having visited Israel many times since the intifadah started, and having had several letters printed in *The CJN* encouraging others to also visit Israel, let me assure Alalouf that, neither in print nor when talking to people, do I "bask" in compliments. I know many others who have visited Israel in the last 18 months and have not come across one person "basking" in compliments either. Nevertheless, without exception, Israelis are very appreciative when they meet tourists.

It would be interesting to hear about Alalouf's experiences in Israel since the intifadah started – that is, of course, if he has even been there during the past 1½ years. I wonder.

David Freudmann
Toronto

* * *

CJC tries to teach Tories

In his column in the *CJN*'s March 7 issue, Ron Csillag asks a rhetorical question in relation to the Sabbath voting procedure for the upcoming Tory leadership convention: "Where were Canadian Jewish Congress and Ontario's various rabbinic groups to tell the Tories months ago that a proxy vote was a non-starter for Jews?"

When issues such as the Sabbath voting procedure are brought to our attention, we respond accordingly. As such, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, has publicly responded to the Ontario Progressive Conservative party's voting policy that would clearly exclude Sabbath observers from casting a vote during the leadership convention. This was followed up by a letter of serious concern from me to the executive director of the Ontario Conservative party, Jeff Bangs.

CJCONT continues to work with the Progressive Conservative Party in order to resolve this situation so that in future leadership campaigns, there are policies and procedures in place that include all Ontarians.

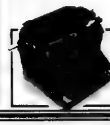
Bernie Farber
Executive Director
Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region

* * *

Objects to photo

Shame on you! Do you have any sensitivity for traditional Jewish values? Your front page of the 21 March 2002 issue shows a half-naked woman superimposed on a picture of Chief Rabbi Lau praying at the Western Wall. What would he say about this front page?

Catriel Blum
Toronto



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Victims of Palestinian violence and terrorism in Israel

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Glora Balash	Aug 91
Zvika Golombek	Aug 9
Shoshana Yehudit Greenbaum	Aug 9
Tehila Maoz	Aug 9
Frieda Mendelsohn	Aug 9
Michal Raziel	Aug 9
Malka Roth	Aug 9
Mordechai Schijveschuurder	Aug 9
Tzira Schijveschuurder	Aug 9
Ra'aya Schijveschuurder	Aug 9
Avraham Yitzhak Schijveschuurder	Aug 9
Hemda Schijveschuurder	Aug 9
Lily Shimashvili	Aug 9
Tamara Shimashvili	Aug 9
Yocheved Shoshan	Aug 9
Aliza Malka	Aug 9
Tzahi Grabli	Aug 25
Kobi Nir	Aug 25
Gil Oz	Aug 25
Sharon Ben-Shalom	Aug 25
Yaniv Ben-Shalom	Aug 25
Doron Sviri	Aug 26
Dov Rosman	Aug 26
Meir Lixenberg	Aug 27
Oleg Sotnikov	Aug 29
Amos Tajouri	Aug 30
Erez Merhavi	Sept 6
Sima Franko	Sept 9
Ya'akov Hatzav	Sept 9
Morel Derfler	Sept 9
Yigal Goldstein	Sept 9
Daniel Yifrah	Sept 9
Tzachi David	Sept 11
Andrei Ziedkin	Sept 11
Ruth Shua'i	Sept 12
Meir Weisshois	Sept 15
David Gordukal	Sept 16
Sarit Amrani	Sept 20
Salit Sheetrit	Sept 24
Liron Harpaz	Oct 2
Assaf Yitzhaki	Oct 2
Tali Ben-Armon	Oct 4
Haim Ben-Ezra	Oct 4
Sergei Freidin	Oct 4
Hananya Ben-Avraham	Oct 5
Yair Mordechai	Oct 7
Rechavam Ze'evy	Oct 17
Lior Kaufman	Oct 18
Yaniv Levy	Oct 28
Ayala Levy	Oct 28
Smadar Levy	Oct 28
Lydia Marko	Oct 28
Sima Menachem	Oct 28
Raz Mintz	Nov 2
Shoshana Ben-Yishai	Nov 4
Menashe (Meni) Regev	Nov 4
Eyal Sela	Nov 6
Hadas Abutbul	Nov 9
Aharon Ussishkin	Nov 11
Barak Madmon	Nov 24
Noam Gozovsky	Nov 27
Michal Mor	Nov 27
Etty Fahima	Nov 27
Yaron Pikholtz	Nov 29
Yehiav Elshad	Nov 29
Samuel Milshevsky	Nov 29
Inbal Weiss	Nov 29
Assaf Avitan	Dec 1
Michael Moshe Dahan	Dec 1
Israel Ya'akov Danino	Dec 1
Yosef El-Ezra	Dec 1
Nir Haftzadi	Dec 1
Yuri (Yoni) Korganov	Dec 1
Golan Turgeman	Dec 1
Guy Vaknin	Dec 1
Adam Weinstein	Dec 1
Moshe Yedid-Levy	Dec 1
Baruch Singer	Dec 2
Tatiana Borovik	Dec 2
Mara Fishman	Dec 2
Ina Frenkel	Dec 21
Riki Hadad	Dec 2
Ronen Kahalon	Dec 2
Samion Kalik	Dec 2
Cecilia Kozamin	Dec 2
Mark Khotimliansky	Dec 2
Yelena Lomakin	Dec 2
Rosaria Reyes	Dec 2
Yitzhak Ringel	Dec 2
Rassim Safulin	Dec 2
Leah Strick	Dec 2
Faina Zabiogailu	Dec 2
Mikhail Zaraisky	Dec 2
Ido Cohen	Dec 8
Yair Amar	Dec 12
Esther Avraham	Dec 12
Yoel Bienenfeld	Dec 12
Moshe Gutman	Dec 12
Avraham Nahman Nitzani	Dec 12
Yirmiyahu Salem	Dec 12
Israel Sternberg	Dec 12
David Tzarfati	Dec 12
Hananya Tzarfati	Dec 12
Ya'akov Tzarfati	Dec 12
Michael Sitbon	Dec 25
	Feb 14

2002

Hana Abu-Ghanem	Jan 9
Ibrahim Hamadieh	Jan 9
Ashraf Hawash	Jan 9
Mofid Sawaid	Jan 9
Elad Abu-Gani	Jan 14
Avraham (Avi) Boaz	Jan 15
Yoela Chen	Jan 15
Shahada Dadis	Jan 16
Edward Bakshayev	Jan 17
Anatoly Bakshayev	Jan 17
Aharon Ben Yisrael-Ellis	Jan 17
Dina Binayev	Jan 17
Boris Melikhov	Jan 17
Avi Yazdi	Jan 17
Sarah Hamburger	Jan 22
Svetlana Sandler	Jan 22
Pinhas Tokatli	Jan 27
Miri Ohana	Feb 6
Yael Ohana	Feb 6
Moshe Majos Meconen	Feb 6
Moran Amit	Feb 8
Atala Lipobsky	Feb 9
Keren Rothstein	Feb 10
Aya Malachi	Feb 10
Ron Lavie	Feb 14
Moshe Peled	Feb 14
Asher Zaguri	Feb 14
Lee Nahman Akunis	Feb 15
Nehemia Amar	Feb 16
Keren Shatsky	Feb 16
Ahmed Mazarib	Feb 18
Ahuva Amergi	Feb 18
Mor Elraz	Feb 18
Amir Mansouri	Feb 18
Moshe Eini	Feb 19
Benny Kikis	Feb 19
Mark Podolsky	Feb 19
Erez Turgeman	Feb 19
Tamir Atsmi	Feb 19
Michael Oxsman	Feb 19
Valery Ahmir	Feb 22
Avraham Fish	Feb 25
Aharon Gorov	Feb 25
Galit Arbiv	Feb 25
Gad Rejwan	Feb 27
Rachel Theler	Feb 27
Haim Bachar	Feb 28
Ya'acov Avni	Mar 1
Moshe Dayan	Mar 2
Shlomo Nehmad	Mar 2
Gafnit Nehmad	Mar 2
Shiraz Nehmad	Mar 2
Liran Nehmad	Mar 2
Shaul Nehmad	Mar 2
Lidor Ilan	Mar 2
Oriah Ilan	Mar 2
Tzofia Ya'arit Eliyahu	Mar 2
Ya'akov Avraham Eliyahu	Mar 2
Vadim Balagula	Mar 3
Sergei Butarov	Mar 3
David Damelin	Mar 3
Avraham Ezra	Mar 3
Eran Gad	Mar 3
Ariel Hovav	Mar 3
Rafael Levy	Mar 3
Yochai Porat	Mar 3
Kfir Weiss	Mar 3
Didi Yitzhak	Mar 3
Steven Koenigsburg	Mar 3
Avi Hazan	Mar 4
Salim Barakat	Mar 5
Eli Dahan	Mar 5
Yosef Habi	Mar 5
Devorah Friedman	Mar 5
Maharatu Tagana	Mar 5
Pinhas Cohen	Mar 6
Alexander Nastarenko	Mar 6
Arik Krogliak	Mar 7
Tal Kurtzweil	Mar 7
Asher Marcus	Mar 7
Eran Picard	Mar 7
Ariel Zana	Mar 7
Edward Korol	Mar 8
Avia Malka	Mar 9
Israel Yihye	Mar 9
Limor Ben-Shoham	Mar 9
Nir Borochov	Mar 9
Danit Dagan	Mar 9
Livnat Dvash	Mar 9
Tali Eliyahu	Mar 9
Dan Imani	Mar 9
Uri Felix	Mar 9
Natanel Kochavi	Mar 9
Baruch Lerner	Mar 9
Orit Ozerov	Mar 9
Avraham Rahamim	Mar 9
Kobi Eichelboim	Mar 10
Eyal Lieberman	Mar 12
Yehudit Cohen	Mar 12
Ofer Kanerik	Mar 12
Alexei Kotman	Mar 12
Lynne Livne	Mar 12
Atara Livne	Mar 12
German Rojyakov	Mar 12
Gil Badihi	Mar 13
Matan Biderman	Mar 14
Ala Hubeishi	Mar 14
Rotem Shani	Mar 14
Noa Auerbach	Mar 17
Tal Zemach	Mar 19
Michael Altfiro	Mar 20
Shimon Edri	Mar 20
Meir Fahima	Mar 20
Alon Goldenberg	Mar 20
Mogus Mahento	Mar 20
Aharon Revivo	Mar 20
Bella Schneider	Mar 20
Yitzhak Cohen	Mar 21
Gadi Shemesh	Mar 21
Tzipi Shemesh	Mar 21
Esther Klieman	Mar 24
Avi Sabag	Mar 24

Compiled March 25th, 2002

Making Jews acceptable

Back in the days of rampant Canadian anti-Semitism, it was a widely spread custom for Jews to change their names so that they could find employment and at least some social and political acceptance. It was understandable to shed a family name, as long as it did not involve shedding one's Jewishness along with it.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Perhaps it comes as a surprise to some of my readers that the habit of changing a Jewish name to a gentile-sounding one was customary in certain parts of American culture as well. This was especially true in the film industry, where many of the top brass adopted non-Jewish names, and where some of the best known stars followed the same policy, so that the great majority of Hollywood actors were, at one time, Jews in gentile disguise. At the end of this article I will mention only a few of the names, but meanwhile, I will point out that the temptation to change one's name is an old one.

The fascinating thing is that the Midrash, thousands of years ago, recalled the reasons why the Jews in Egypt were rescued by God. What was it, the Midrash asks, that caused God to reward them? One of the answers is that, despite all the persecution that they had to endure in the land, they kept their Jewish names and, of course, were faithful to their tradition as well.

Apply this old lesson to modern name-changing. It is, in most cases, unobjectionable, as long as the bearer does not abandon his or her Jewish identity in private life and personal conviction. That is one of the lessons that Pesach brings with it, along with its many other cultural and religious stimuli, and when you celebrate it, be aware of the great inheritance that has been yours. Your name may publicly attest to this tradition, but more important, let it be the guideline of your own life.

Here is a brief list of Hollywood names that can be expanded significantly if you are interested:

- Samuel Goldwyn was Samuel Goldfish;
- Lauren Bacall was Betty Joan Perske;
- Jack Benny was Benjamin Kubelsky;
- George Burns was Nathan Birnbaum;
- Kirk Douglas was Issur Demsky;
- Bob Dylan was Robert Zimmerman;
- Rodney Dangerfield was Jacob Cohen;
- Douglas Fairbanks Sr. was Douglas Ullman;
- Jason Alexander was Jason Greenspan;
- Woody Allen was Allen Stewart Konigsberg;
- Hal Linden was Harold Lipschitz;
- Mel Brooks was Melvin Kaminsky;
- Danny Kaye was David Kominsky;
- Dorothy Lamour was Dorothy Kaumeyer; and
- Tony Curtis was Bernie Schwartz.

Chag Sameach, everybody.

Breaking news

The first indication of trouble usually consists of just a sentence or two. Despite the lack of details, there's no mistaking what's to follow soon.

The initial report that something substantial has happened comes in from any one of several sources: a police announcement to journalists' beepers; a phone call from an eyewitness; a brief bulletin from a news agency; or a sketchy report on the radio. Few words are wasted as it is announced that a terrorist attack took place a few minutes ago in Jerusalem or Tel Aviv or Haifa or Hadera, or Beersheva or wherever. People are injured. How many? Is anyone killed? We don't know yet.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

At the headquarters of Israel Television in Jerusalem where I work as a journalist, new bad news travels fast. "Did you hear?" asks one colleague to another. "There's been a *pigua* [terrorist attack] in downtown Jerusalem." *Pigua*, *pigua*, *pigua*... oh how I've come to despise this Hebrew word and everything it evokes. *Pigua*... how I resent that this word has become so prominent in our daily life over the past 18 months.

With the first sign of a major terrorist assault, the news staff and support team at the TV station quickly kick into high gear. Ironically, it is when dealing with such harrowing events that the building really comes alive, operating at its best. By now it is a finely honed scenario. Unfortunately, after having covered so many previous attacks, it's become an all-too-familiar, almost ritualistic routine for my colleagues and me.

News producers dispatch reporters, camera crews and broadcast trucks to the scene of the attack and to hospitals treating the wounded. In the newsroom and studio, editors, reporters and production assistants scramble to prepare a special news bulletin that breaks into regular programming even before there is any video footage from the site of the latest *pigua*.

All the while, fresh facts flow in constantly from different sources. Invariably, the story becomes more gruesome with every update as the number of those killed and wounded climbs. The full scale of death and destruction hits home hard. Images of the premeditated slaughter of men, women and children start to appear on the screen.

Everyone in the newsroom is horrified, even if we've come to know such pictures only too well in our jobs. We digest the material as journalists, human beings and Israelis and not necessarily in that order. All of us share the same unspoken fear: That someone dear to us may be among the victims. In stolen moments amid all the craziness and deadline pressures, we make urgent calls home and to other relatives and close friends silently praying that no one is missing.

If everyone in Israel must contend with difficult situations, working in the news media only magnifies the harsh reality. It's in your face – literally – every day. For the past 10 years that I've been an editor/reporter and anchor at IBA News, Israel's only daily English-language TV newscast, there has been no escaping it. Sometimes I ask myself what it does to me.

There are days when our entire broadcast consists of pure, unadulterated bad news, except perhaps for the weather forecast. And that does not include what we leave on the cutting floor. Some of the "raw" footage of attacks that we receive is too raw for viewers. These horrific images should never be seen by anyone. We see them, but wish we hadn't.

The day after an attack, there is no letup in the sadness. By then, with the victims identified and their families notified, we release the names of the dead, announce their funerals, report from the hospitals on the wounded, (many of whom are fighting for their lives), and cover the political fallout from the latest terrorist outrage.

At times, it seems as if we're covering one blood-drenched breaking story after another. Breaking indeed. Breaking the hearts, even if not the will, of our country. Stay tuned...

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il

Ariel Sharon's dilemma

Facing a second Passover – the celebration of freedom – under the continued threat of terrorism and murder, Israelis are shell-shocked. Suicide bombings and other killings have taken almost 400 lives and many more people have been injured. In the past few weeks, the rate of terror has escalated, and dozens of people have been killed, leading to the decision to send the IDF into Palestinian cities and camps.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

For older Israelis who have lived through the wars of the past decades, the current wave of violence is not quite as traumatic as it is for younger Israelis. In the War of Independence, 6,000 people, or one per cent of the population, were killed.

Israel is now much larger and stronger, and more resilient. But this is no comfort to a generation raised in an environment of optimism and the promise of peace. They have been dragged into the reality of suicide bombers motivated by a deep hatred for Israel, Jews and the West. After many years spent in support of negotiations to reach a "just peace" based on two states, Jewish and Palestinian, they feel cheated. Their Palestinian partners, it turns out, were only using the slogans of peace to reach the real goal: the destruction of Israel.

As a result, younger Israelis are rediscovering the core values of Zionism that brought many of their parents and grandparents to Israel. The talk shows on radio and television and newspaper editorial columns are filled with reminders that the Jewish people fought to build the State of Israel after the Holocaust in order to defend themselves. With this background, no one talks about leaving and abandoning this historic mission.

While a wide consensus exists on the overall objective, the debates on the strategy and tactics necessary to ensure national survival are intense. One year ago, Ariel Sharon was elected prime minister by an overwhelming majority, on a platform of using more force to restore security while also pursuing a viable peace with the Palestinians. Sharon surprised many observers by putting together a "national unity government" that included longtime opponent Shimon Peres, the architect of the failed Oslo peace process. Polls showed that many Israelis supported this combination.

As the terror attacks escalated, Sharon's decision to clip Yasser Arafat's wings by destroying his helicopters and confining the chairman of the Palestinian Authority to Ramallah was seen as a turning point that would bring this confrontation to an end. However, Arafat again turned the tables on Sharon, becoming a victim and object of sympathy in the outside world, while also encouraging his followers to send "one million suicide bombers to Jerusalem."

As the horrors of these terror attacks grew, Sharon has tried to rally the population. But his actions were timid, and his speeches are a far cry from the promised Churchillian oratory of fierce determination. Last month's promise to create a buffer zone to keep terrorists out did not lead to visible action. As his poll ratings dropped precipitously, the volume of criticism, on both the left and the right, increased.

The former Israeli "peace camp" demanded greater flexibility in the hope that willingness to talk about ceasefire terms might bring a Palestinian response in kind. In contrast, Sharon's core constituency demanded intensified military action to defeat Arafat and "send him and his terrorists back to Tunis."

Once again, Sharon is taking both paths. Dispatching the IDF to Palestinian strongholds to conduct house-to-house searches for explosives, missiles, and other weapons banned under the Oslo agreements scored some impressive achievements. The surrender of hundreds of armed Palestinians boosted Israeli morale. At the same time, Sharon is allowing Arafat to resume travel outside Ramallah, and Sharon is talking to the Americans about implementing a ceasefire.

Despite the contradictions, if this combination of military pressure and political flexibility provides hope for an end to terror, Sharon's ratings will bounce back. But if this approach fails, Israelis will start in earnest to look for a new leader (perhaps another round for former prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu) with a much tougher approach. Another year of terrorism, funerals and hopelessness is intolerable.

The Kirshner File

Banker Louis Rasminsky broke barriers

Louis Rasminsky fought and won. At a time when anti-Semitism was rampant in Canada, he overcame the deep-seated prejudices of the day and went on to become one of Canada's most distinguished civil servants, first as deputy governor and then as governor of the Bank of Canada.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

A man of consummate intelligence, energy and honesty, Rasminsky had the misfortune of coming of age in an era when a person was invariably judged on the basis of ethnicity and religion rather than on merit and competence.

In 1937, when he was an economist at the League of Nations in Geneva, the Canadian civil service scarcely had any place for Jews, no matter how smart and talented they happened to be. Rasminsky, who had joined the League of Nations in 1930, had his heart set on returning to Canada and landing a job with the newly-formed Royal Commission on Banking. He ran into a brick wall of ingrained hostility.

O.D. Skelton, the undersecretary of state for external affairs, had met Rasminsky and was impressed by his demeanour and abilities. "It struck me that he had the most vigorous and clear-cut intellectual equipment I had met in a young man for years," he observed. Nevertheless, there was nothing Skelton could do for Rasminsky, and he was left out in the cold "because of the prejudice in question." He would have to wait until 1940 before being summoned to Ottawa.

After his appointment to Canada's Foreign Exchange Control Board, Rasminsky rose in the ranks, writes Bruce Muirhead in *Against the Odds: The Public Life and Times of Louis Rasminsky* (University of Toronto Press), the first biography I've read about him. Yet he was twice passed over for promotion before being named the Bank of Canada's governor in 1961.

Rasminsky, whose father David hailed from Poland and whose mother Etta camefrom an Ontario Jewish family, was born in Montreal in 1908. The family moved to Toronto in 1913, and Rasminsky attended Harbord Collegiate in the city's Jewish district. He was an outstanding student and an accomplished debater, and his parents encouraged his academic achievements. He was the school's valedictorian in 1925, and he won a number of scholarships to study at the University of Toronto.

Tied with another student, an Anglican, for top spot in his graduating class, Rasminsky failed to win a special scholarship for advanced studies in economics at Cambridge University in England, one of the preferred routes for academically gifted and upwardly mobile students. And since his parents lacked the means to finance his studies abroad, he seemed stuck.

Fortunately for Rasminsky, one of his teachers intervened, persuading the Jewish community to establish a scholarship fund for him. And so, in 1928, he set off to the equally famous London School of Economics, there to be befriended by the renowned lecturer, Harold Laski.

With Laski as his supervisor, Rasminsky embarked on writing a thesis on the topic of The Quest for Discrimination and Non-Discrimination in Trade Relations. He never finished it, having been lured to the League of Nations' International Labour Organization. In Geneva, his home for a decade, Rasminsky performed a variety of tasks, editing the publication *Money and Banking*, drafting the first volume of a series titled *Monetary Review*, and heading up a commission of inquiry on nutrition in Europe.

During this period, Canadian diplomats visited Geneva quite regularly, and through these visits Rasminsky met Hume Wron – the future undersecretary of state in the Department of External Affairs – and Lester Pearson, the future prime minister.

Although his duties kept him busy, Rasminsky was active in helping Jewish refugees escape continental Europe for safer shores in England. Muirhead, a professor of history at Lakehead University, claims that he purchased rail and boat tickets with his own funds for the refugees.

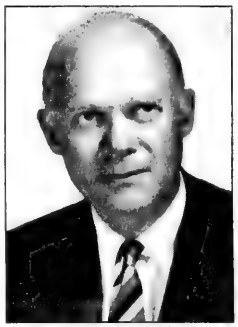
Convinced that a European war loomed, Rasminsky sent his wife Lyla and infant son Michael back to Canada in 1938. He himself left Geneva on business two weeks before the outbreak of World War II in September 1939. He cabled the League of Nations offering to return, but was told to remain in Canada.

Subsequently, Rasminsky was dispatched to Bolivia to assess its financial situation. His mission to La Paz was part of a League policy to build a higher profile in Latin America.

Joining the Foreign Exchange Control Board, which had been created in 1939 to finance the war effort, Rasminsky presided over its economic and research division. By 1943, he was in charge of the board's day-to- day operations and was involved in the establishment of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board. More importantly, as far as his career was concerned, he was now on the staff of the Bank of Canada.

As one of the very few Jews in the civil service, he attracted the attention of Jew baiters. In 1944, citing Rasminsky by name, a French Canadian Independent Conservative parliamentarian, Frederic Dorion (Charlevoix-Saguenay), lashed out against "Russian Jews" at the Bank of Canada. Brooke Claxton, a Liberal MP (St. Laurent-St. George), denounced Dorion. Phillippe Picard (Bellechasse) seconded Claxton's remarks. In 1945, Rasminsky was targeted yet again by Social Credit MP Norman Jacques (Westaskiwin), who insinuated that the pivotal Bretton Woods agreement was effectively a Jewish plot.

Jacques was referring to Rasminsky's contributions to the formation of the International Monetary Fund and its twin organization, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, both of which played an integral role in global exchange stability in the wake of World War II. Muirhead elaborates on this aspect of his career at length, but it is awfully dry stuff and not for a general reader.



Louis Rasminsky

Although Rasminsky was a prized Bank of Canada functionary, his path to the governorship was blocked by anti-Semitism. When Donald Gordon left the bank in 1949 to become chairman of Canadian National Railways, Rasminsky believed he stood a good chance to replace him as deputy governor, a cabinet appointment. The officers of the Department of Finance thought so too, but James Coyne got the nod instead. Speculating that anti-Semitism was "a possible explanation" for his setback, Muirhead provides no firm evidence to support the accusation.

Muirhead, however, quotes a Bank of England official as saying that "Rasminsky's failure to reach the very top is widely attributed to anti-Semitism." Furthermore, Muirhead relates an exchange between Rasminsky and the son of the former prime minister, Louis St. Laurent, in which the latter supposedly said that anti-Semitism accounted for Rasminsky's rejection.

In any event, Rasminsky was finally promoted to deputy governor in 1955, sharing the title with a colleague. In 1961, when John Diefenbaker was prime minister, he succeeded Coyne as governor.

Muirhead suggests that Rasminsky's 1955 promotion came through because the bank was afraid of losing him. In 1953, when he was serving as an adviser to the Bank of Israel, the University of Toronto, his alma mater, asked him to become chair of the department of political economy following the death of Harold Innis.

Rasminsky retired in 1973, and in Muirhead's judgment, he filled the position with distinction. Indeed, after his resignation was announced, Pierre Elliott Trudeau, the prime minister, sent a letter of appreciation to Rasminsky.

He wrote: "The last two or three years have been one of extraordinary difficulty for those who were responsible for financial or economic advice and policy... It was a great advantage to the government to know that decisions in the extremely important financial matters with which you were charged were being taken by a person of such capacity, integrity and dedication to the public good."

After leaving the bank, he was as busy as ever. He sat on company boards, among them Bell Canada and American Express. He became the head of the International Development Research Centre in Ottawa. He worked closely with Jewish organizations, from the United Jewish Appeal to the United Israel Appeal. He also identified himself with the Hebrew University, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev, the Weizmann Institute and, at Mayor Teddy Kollek's urging, the Jerusalem Foundation.

Against the Odds, the product of meticulous research and thorough interviews, stands as a comprehensive account of Rasminsky's life. But for all its thoroughness, this biography is arid, falling short of drawing a fully rounded human portrait of a great Canadian.

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SPECTACULAR MODEL SHOWCASE OPENS THIS SPRING

Professor seeks affordable housing for all

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Avi Friedman, a professor at the McGill University School of Architecture, is one of Canada's leading advocates of affordable housing.

In an era when the cost of residential homes in many communities is shooting through the roof, he offers millions of Canadians a ray of hope.

Through the Affordable Homes Program, which he co-founded with Witold Rybczynski in 1988, Friedman is literally changing the way people live.

Born and raised in Israel and now a dual Canadian-Israeli citizen, Friedman has had the good fortune of being able to put his ideas into practice.

Since joining McGill 14 years ago, he has designed three housing prototypes: Grow Home, Next Home and La Casa a la Carta.

Built as full-scale demonstration projects, they were subsequently used by home builders in the private sector.

Grow Home, which he first presented in 1990, is a narrow-front rowhouse that allows both the perimeter and the interior to be expanded and changed to fit an owner's tastes and budget.

Much to his satisfaction, thousands of units of the Grow Home have been built in Canada, Europe and the United States.

Friedman, whose work has been honoured by the United Nations and cited extensively in the media, has written a book about this prototype.

The Grow Home, his second book after *Planning a New Suburbia* (University of British Columbia Press) was published by McGill-Queen's University Press.

The Next Home, which he unveiled in 1996, is also adaptable.

"Buyers can select one, two or three stories based on their requirements," he explained.

"The interior is also flexible and lets people choose components, from kitchens to bathrooms, that best suit their needs."

He designed La Casa a la Carta and introduced it in Mexico five years ago. "It's a prototype for the developing world."

Friedman, who teaches mostly graduate students, says he and Rybczynski, who has since gone to the United States, devised the Affordable Homes Program.

They had two primary objectives in mind: to lower housing costs and to provide leadership and public outreach on an issue that is far from resolved, and has become what Friedman calls "one of Canada's social ills."

The program, which he directs, addresses the housing needs of first-time buyers and of non-traditional households whose annual income is below $30,000 – single parents, singles and the elderly.

In recognition of his contributions to low-cost housing solutions, the United Nations gave him its World Habitat Award in 1998. China's minister of construction personally presented it to him.

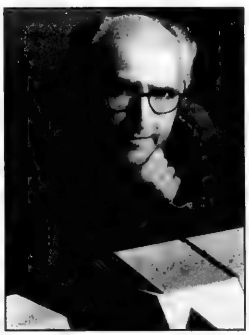
Friedman, whose consulting work has taken him across the length and breadth of North America, was born in Petach Tikvah – one of Israel's earliest settlements – in 1952.

When he was 10, he and his parents, both of whom are Holocaust survivors and settled in Israel in 1949, moved to Tel Aviv.

His parents and his sister still live there.

Architecture came naturally to Friedman. As he put it: "I loved to build stuff, and enjoyed drawing and inventing things when I was younger."

He began his studies at the Politecnico di Milano in Italy and finished his first degree at the Technion in Haifa, graduating first in his class.



Avi Friedman

Next, Friedman studied at McGill. He received an MA in 1982. "McGill offered me a generous scholarship. Besides, I wanted to study in a nice city and McGill happened to be in Montreal."

After McGill, he was employed as a designer by a Montreal developer, La Tulipe.

He completed his formal education in 1987, obtaining a PhD at the Universite de Montreal.

Friedman is in his element at McGill. "I like academia, and at times, I can't get over the fact that I'm paid to do what I truly enjoy."

Looking back, Friedman says he was influenced by Moshe Safdie, the Israeli architect who shot to fame during Expo 67.

"Israeli architecture, like the country itself, is new," he said. "It is quite an eclectic architecture."

Friedman, who still considers himself an Israeli, served in the Israel Defence Force from 1971 to 1974.

"I was on active duty during the (1973) Yom Kippur War. I was a medic and fought in the Sinai."

Indeed, his unit was one of the first to cross the Suez Canal into Africa.

An exceedingly busy man, Friedman writes for professional journals and popular periodicals on subjects ranging from prefabrication and construction technology to suburban planning and space management.

His academic articles have appeared in *Housing and Society*, *Plan Canada*, *Building Research and Information* and *Journal of Architectural and Planning Research*.

He has also written for the magazines *Harrowsmith* and *Home Builder*.

In addition, Friedman writes a column for *The National Post* that also appears in Southam newspapers.

"I generally write on issues related to housing and urban development."

Canadian and American television programs, from *Dream Builders* to *Good Morning America*, have picked up Friedman's innovative ideas.

Friedman, who celebrates his 50th birthday later this year, is married and has two children.

His wife, Sorel, originally from Winnipeg, teaches English at the Universite de Montreal. They have two teenage children, Paloma and Ben.

CORRECTION
In the ad that appeared in the March 21st issue for the "Reviving Eden" program at **Kolel**, being held on March 30th, it incorrectly stated a fee at the door. This event is **FREE.**

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Passover Greetings

Our thoughts are with Israel

As Jews throughout the world gather around the seder table, we celebrate freedom and redemption, but we are also commanded to remember the hardship of our captivity. Contrasting the bitterness of slavery with the sweetness of freedom adds joy and meaning to the miracle of the Exodus story.

Escaping Egypt was only a step to our freedom. Liberation was complete when we came together as a nation, sovereign in our land and with the Torah eternally pointing our way.

As Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Rabbi Michael Melchior put it, "The call 'Let my people go' heralded the first national liberation movement in history, and the model for every liberation which was to follow." Throughout history, it has been a source of inspiration for those living under oppression. As U.S. Senator Russ Feingold noted, "It is a story of human rights abuses, of revolution, of liberation from subjugation, of a captive people's escape from repressive rule, and of the founding of a new nation."

We are told to love the stranger because we were once strangers in Egypt. The obligation to remember slavery is not meant to instil victimhood in us. Rather, it spurs us on to be at the forefront in the struggle for human rights, equality and social justice.

Keith Landy, national president, Canadian Jewish Congress

Ironically, it is during this holiday celebrating freedom and human rights that the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, the body that sponsored the infamous UN anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, holds its annual meeting. Repressive regimes such as those in Sudan, Libya, Saudi Arabia and Syria, led by despots reminiscent of Pharaoh, will denounce, slander and condemn Israel, the homeland of the descendants of the freed slaves.

This year, as we celebrate Passover, more than ever our thoughts are with our brothers and sisters in Israel. We take inspiration from their tenacity and courage. Let us use this holiday to reaffirm our commitment to, and solidarity with, Israel, secure in the knowledge that its foundation and principles are just, that its place as a member of the world community is guaranteed and that it will forever be a light unto the nations and at the centre of our hearts.

I wish you all a happy and kosher Pesach.

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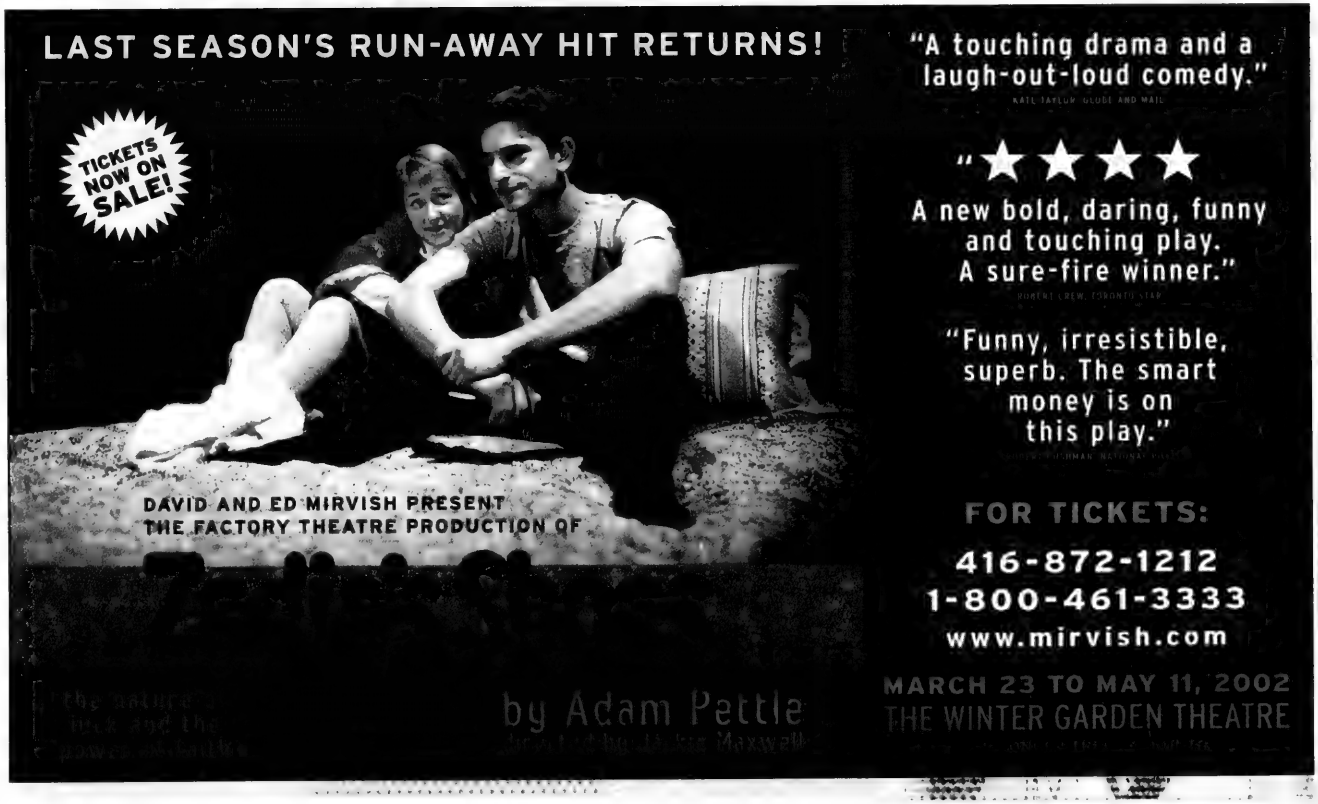
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Passover Greetings

It is amazing how one deeply moving passage from the Passover Haggadah can encapsulate the way in which the uniquely Jewish philosophy of collective responsibility ensures our strength and survival.

Ralph Shedletsky, chair, UJA Federation board of directors

When we consider assistance for fellow Jews, there is no "then" and "now." There is no "them" and "us." We were all slaves in Egypt. We were all oppressed and we were all freed. But our freedom depends on our responsibility for each other.

Similarly, in our time, the people of Israel are being victimized by terror. Therefore, we are, as well. The people of Israel are suffering physically, financially and psychology. Therefore, we have no choice but to help.

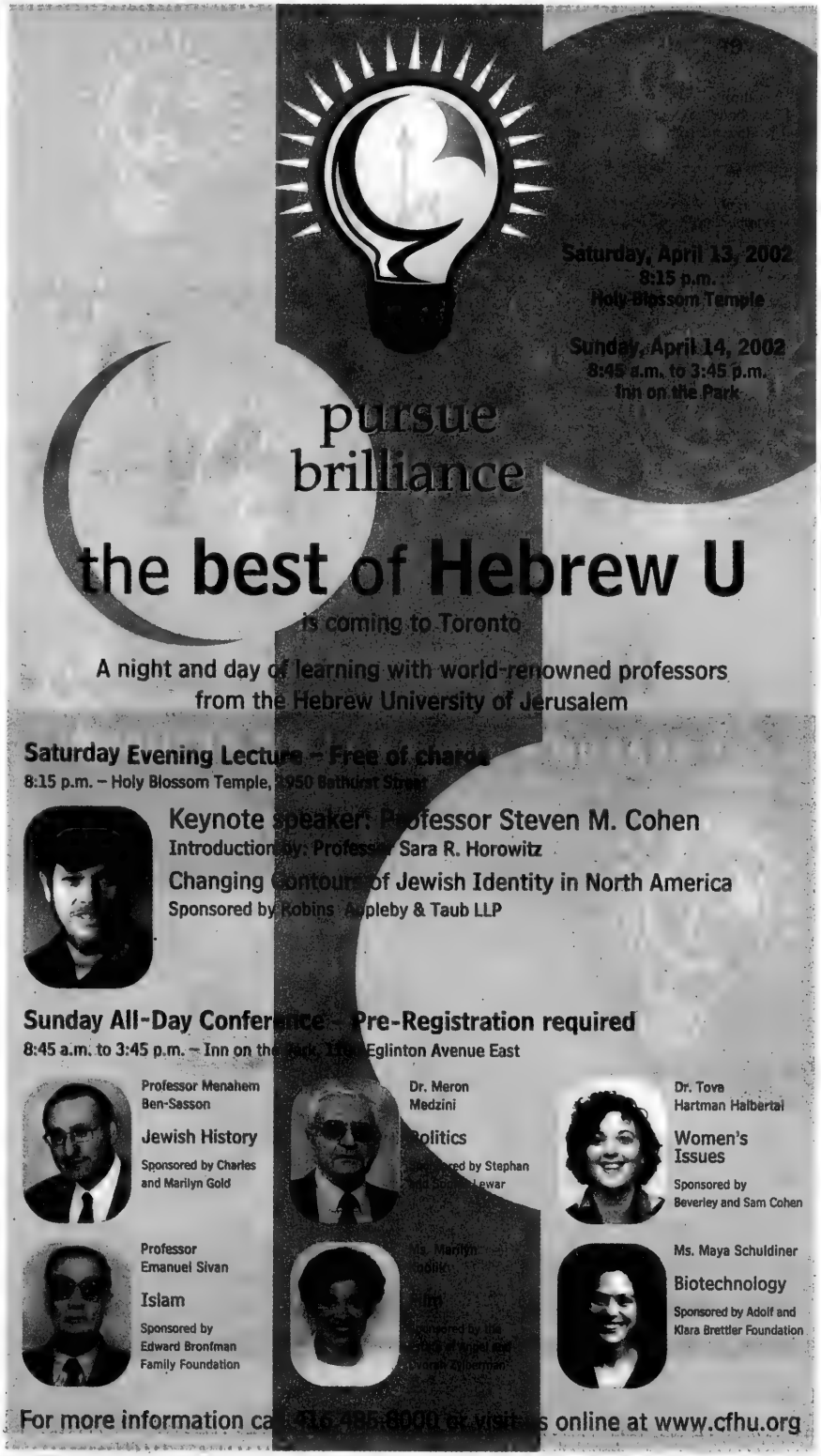
The Haggadah teaches us to regard ourselves as if we are there – in Israel – facing the same serious crisis and struggling together against the same violent enemies – to achieve normalcy and peace.

Our remarkable community has listened well to the Haggadah's timeless lessons.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto thanks you for joining us to help fund essential programs in Israel during this time of turmoil, for demonstrating solidarity during our many missions to Israel and for reaching out to Jews in need everywhere.

May you, your families, the people of Israel and Jews everywhere be blessed this Passover with health and peace from generation to generation.

MISS ISRAEL 2002: Yamit Har Noy, a 20-year-old soldier from Oranit, was crowned last week as the new Miss Israel for 2002. ***[Israel Sun photo]***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Desperately seeking Jewish foster homes

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — One Shul, Two Homes is the name of a new campaign that evokes the image of a synagogue as a second, or spiritual, home, but it actually refers to homes being sought for Jewish foster children.

Although Gordon Wolfe, executive director of Jewish Family & Child Service (JF &CS), is reluctant to use the word "crisis," he said the agency is having difficulty finding Jewish foster homes. The new campaign aims to recruit two new foster homes from the membership of every synagogue in the greater Toronto area.

One Shul, Two Homes new campaign of JF & CS

Toward the end of the 2000-2001 school year, JF&CS – a registered children's aid society – sent 8,000 brochures to Jewish day schools for children to take home that highlighted the the need for Jewish foster homes. Although it's hard to know if the brochures were the catalyst, JF&CS is currently working with seven potential new foster parents, Wolfe said recently. "That's the good news."

The bad news, he said, is that there's still a need for more homes, particularly for young children. "For young kids we need stay-at-home caregivers," he said.

"There's a desperate shortage of Jewish foster homes, and more kids coming into care who need foster care," said Howard Hurwitz, JF&CS' director of children's services, and originator of the One Shul, Two Homes campaign.

"Kids who come into care come from the full spectrum of religious observance," said Hurwitz. "We wanted to reach out to each of the shuls to see if they would partner with us and reach out to members of their community."

Although JF&CS has tried to increase awareness of the need for foster homes, Hurwitz said he guesses that, "for a lot of people, unless they hear about it in a direct way, the message doesn't sink in.

"This is an issue for us, the community, and for kids," he said. "We want to keep kids in Jewish homes and in the community."

There are currently 34 Jewish foster homes on JF&CS' roster, and 80 children in care, of whom 35 are in foster homes, said Wolfe. Some of the other children are in group homes.

At one point last year, Wolfe recalled, there was no Jewish foster home available for a child who needed one. "Eventually we found something on a temporary basis... That one was a crisis."

Foster parents can be married or single, and can have children at home or not. If potential foster parents are interested in fostering a certain age group or on a short-term basis or at a certain time of year – for example, during the summer – JF&CS is willing to work within those parameters.

The approval process takes about two months, and includes a home study. Parental training and child-related expenses are provided by the agency.

At an initial meeting last month, representatives from 15 local congregations discussed the ways that chesed committees, social action committees and rabbis could inform congregants about the need for foster homes. A few congregations have already included information in their synagogue bulletins, Hurwitz said.

A second meeting is planned for April 10. Anyone interested in attending should contact Selma Elzas, JF&CS' foster care co-ordinator, at 416-638-7800, extension 298.

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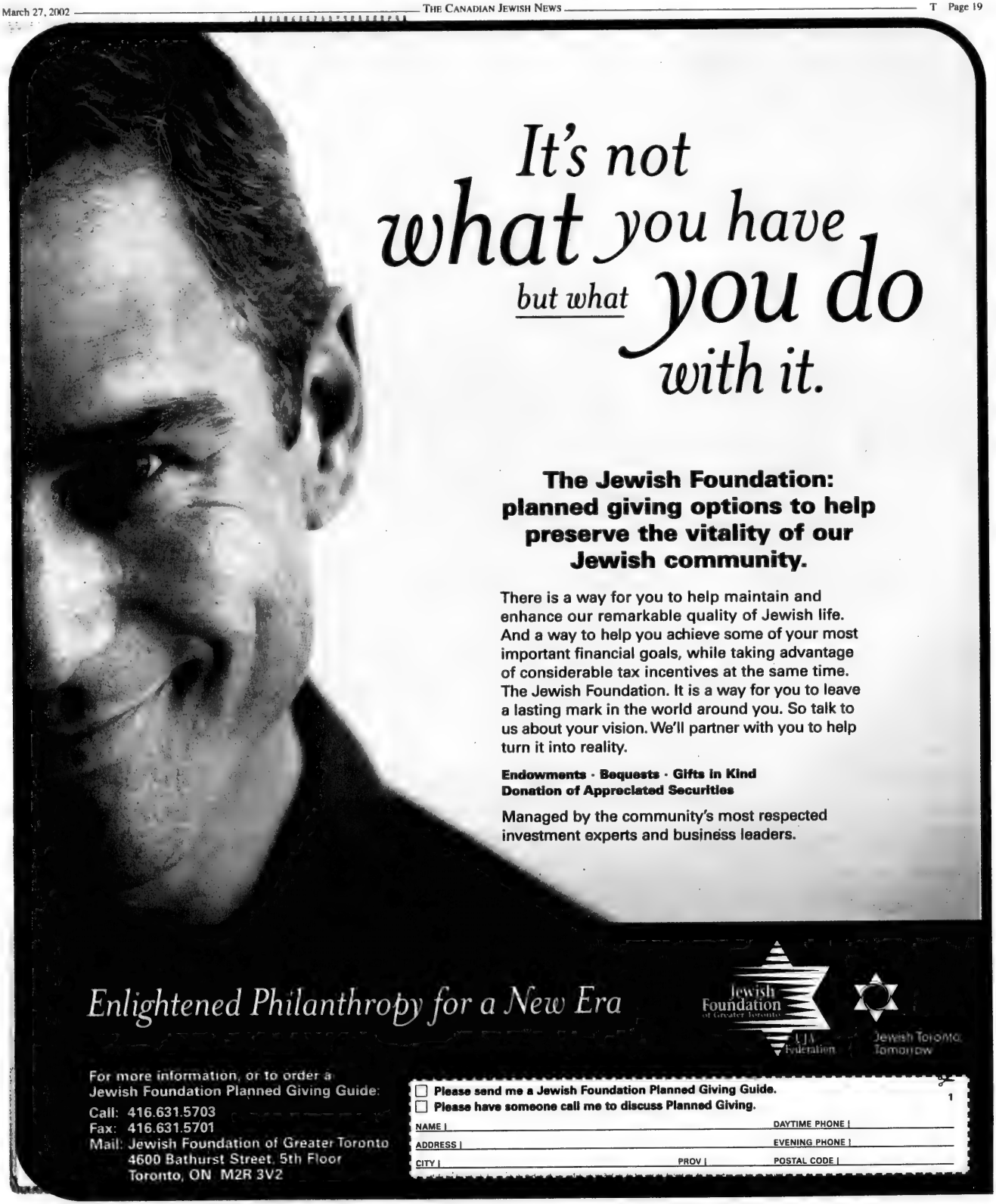
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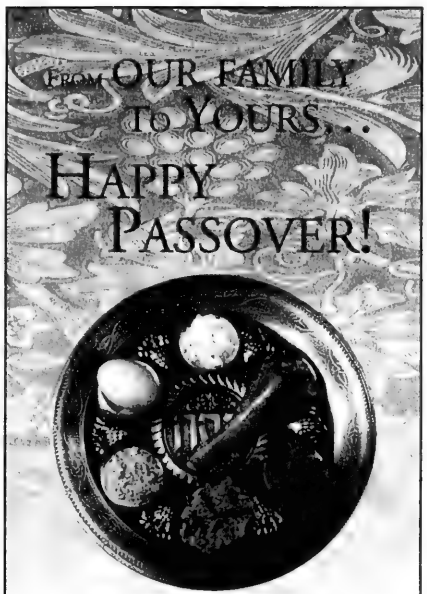

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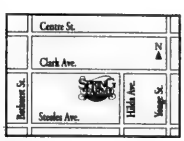

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Jewish Life

Purim, Passover and community

By RABBI CHAIM STEINMETZ

Can different types of Jews be part of the same community? Sometimes it seems the leaders of different Jewish denominations spend a good deal of their time attacking each other. These attacks make you wonder whether Jews with different views can really get along.

I'd like to approach this issue by examining some similarities shared by Purim and Passover. Both celebrate the redemption of the Jewish people, and both teach lessons about the relationship between survival and tolerance.

One similarity is the emphasis on charity. For both holidays, there are specific charities to ensure the poor can celebrate properly. On Purim, the Book of Esther directs people to give *matanot l'evyonim*, "gifts to the poor," which the poor should use to celebrate Purim. On Passover, the Mishnah tells us even the poorest person was provided with four cups of wine for the seder. Even though wine is a luxury we wouldn't normally distribute to the poor, we provide it on Passover so they can celebrate properly. There is also a custom to collect *maot chittim*, money for wheat, to distribute to the poor to supply them with wheat for matzah and money for the seder.

Both holidays also emphasize the involvement of children. On Purim, we bring young children to hear the Megillah. Children dress in costumes and shake graggers when Haman's name is mentioned. On Passover, the Seder is structured to get children to ask questions. The Four Questions that start the seder are recited by the youngest child present. The afikoman game, in which a piece of matzah is held "ransom" by the children, is meant to keep them involved and excited throughout the seder.

What is the meaning of these similarities? Since both Purim and Passover celebrate survival and redemption, we have large, festive meals. Great care is taken to include all members of the community. On both holidays, hospitality is featured. Even though children are not expected to participate in these holidays until they are older, an exciting, child-friendly atmosphere is created to involve them. The needy, who normally can't afford lavish holiday meals, are provided for. This is because survival includes the entire community, no matter what age or tax bracket. And when celebrating survival, we make sure we celebrate as a community.

However, a final similarity is quite puzzling. These are the only holidays celebrated on different days by different groups. Purim is celebrated by most communities on the 14th of Adar, but on the 15th of Adar by people in walled cities. The seder is held on the 15th of Nissan. But in ancient times, if one could not bring a Passover sacrifice in time for the seder, it could be brought on the "Second Passover," observed a month later on the 15th of Iyar. If these holidays are meant to create a sense of community and include everyone, why allow different groups to observe them on different days?

I think the answer is that in order to have community, we must have tolerance. Unity is possible if we don't demand unanimity. Passover and Purim are community holidays, but we have to realize not everyone in the community is alike. And so the two holidays that emphasize community are the ones that also emphasize diversity. Unity and tolerance go hand in hand.

This lesson is profoundly important today. As an Orthodox rabbi, I have enormous disagreements with the Reform and Conservative movements. I do not accept the arguments of those who relativize the differences and see us as two sides of the same coin. Realistically, the differences between Orthodoxy and the liberal movements are far too profound to be considered a minor dispute. But despite these large differences, we can still unite as one people, if we treat each other with love and tolerance. Unanimity is impossible; people will always have different opinions. However, we can disagree without being disagreeable. This is the message of Purim and Passover: A real community must have the flexibility to encompass many different types of people.

Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz is spiritual leader at Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem in Montreal.

Learning from the wicked child

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

What to do with the problem child – the one who is defiant and rebellious, ill-mannered and seemingly unredeemable – is one of the most agonizing dilemmas that parents and educators face.

As solutions running the gamut from understanding to suppression all vie with one another, a look at the Haggadah offers an unequivocal if disturbing prescription. One is commanded, with reference to the wicked child, to literally blunt his teeth ("set them on edge"). What kind of educational philosophy is at work here? What happened to always trying to bring out the best in the child, to faith in the pure soul beneath the dark layers of experience?

Part of the issue comes down to the ancient "nature versus nurture" debates, to the question of whether the child is simply "born under a bad sign" and will always be temperamentally out of step, or can be changed through a loving and supportive environment.

For Rabbi Eliyahu Dessler, the well-known author and rosh yeshiva, modern educational theories which counsel the creation of autonomous children are clearly misinformed when it comes to human nature, for in his words "even the embryo has instincts leading to evil... It is not independence that must be developed but submission." A staunch advocate of corporal punishment, Rabbi Dessler would no doubt see the Haggadah's formula for the wicked child as an obvious necessity when confronted with the child's evil inclination.

Rabbi Shlomo Carlebach, on the other hand, predictably urges the reverse course, as he indicates in his Haggadah commentary: "Sometimes you see young people that are a little 'off.' You know why they're off? Because there wasn't anybody to believe in them. It's so easy to get off the highway when nobody believes in you... The clever person isn't far away from the wicked person. Who do you think the wicked child is? Someone who was never told how holy he is."

For Rebbe Nahman of Bratslav, the "rasha" is "the wayward self," a part of every human being that should not be stereotypically assigned to any one child: "Perhaps the Wayward Self is angry with God. Perhaps he is rationalizing, seeking to explain away his lack of devotion. As long as we hide from and keep hidden how we really feel about God, we remain with inner peace unattainable and world peace beyond us... when we hear the Wayward Self raising these questions within us, it does not mean that we are evil. Rather, let us hear in them a message, a call to strengthen our faith."

These words are inspirational in the way they link growth to honesty. Before condemning the wayward child/self, it is imperative to discern what this kind of anger represents. This is something that is often hard to hang onto, especially when confronted with a barrage of bad behaviour. I have often found myself struggling to maintain patience with such waywardness, looking to blunt its edge rather than uncover its source. Whatever tendencies a child has, what is education if not the attempt to face the challenge of diversity?

As it is, the wicked child has seen fit to show up at the table, and perhaps for tonight only, *dayeinu*, that is enough.

Serious divide between West and Islam

***What Went Wrong?* by Bernard Lewis Oxford University Press, 2001**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Bernard Lewis is one of the West's foremost authorities on Islamic history and culture. In *What Went Wrong?*, he discusses the surprising eclipse of the Middle East in the last five centuries, and how this decline has left a serious and dangerous divide between the West and the societies of Islam.

Half a millennium ago, Islam represented the greatest military power on earth. Its armies, at the very same time, were invading Europe and Africa, India and China. It was also the foremost economic power in the world, trading in a wide range of commodities through a far-flung network of commerce and communications in Asia, Europe, and Africa.

"It had achieved the highest level so far in human history in the arts and sciences of civilization. Islam introduced the use and manufacture of paper from China and decimal positional numbering from India. It is difficult to imagine modern literature or science without the one or the other."

But then, asserts the author, there was a dramatic change. In Europe many forms of science advanced enormously in the era of the Renaissance. A technological revolution, and other vast changes, both intellectual and material, followed. But in the Muslim world independent inquiry virtually came to an end. Science was for the most part reduced to the veneration of old and approved knowledge.

Moreover, there has been little disposition in the Middle East for the separation of church and state and the creation of a civil society governed by secular law. In addition, the relegation of women to an inferior position in society deprived the Islamic world of the talents and energies of half its people.

Lewis sums up the Islamic decline by suggesting that by all the standards that matter in the modern world – economic development and job creation, literacy and educational and scientific achievement, political freedom and respect for human rights – what was once a mighty civilization has indeed fallen low.

Generally speaking, Jews were better off under Muslim than under Christian rule until the rise and spread of Western tolerance in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Nazi propaganda, however, promoted and spread European style anti-Semitism in the Arab world. Many blamed all evil in the Middle East and indeed in the world on secret Jewish plots. This interpretation has pervaded much of the public discourse in the region, including education, the media and even entertainment.

The failure in 1948 of five Arab armies to prevent half a million Jews from establishing their own state was, for the Arabs, a devastating blow. "It was bad enough to be defeated by the great imperial powers of the West; to suffer the same fate at the hands of a contemptible gang of Jews was an intolerable humiliation. Anti-Semitism and its demonized picture of the Jew as a scheming, evil monster provided a soothing answer."

The author's final words in this brief but compelling analysis are blunt and challenging. "If the peoples of the Middle East continue on their present path, the suicide bomber may become a metaphor for the whole region, and there will be no escape from a downward spiral of hate and spite, rage and self-pity, poverty and oppression... if they can abandon grievance and victimhood, settle their differences, and join their talents, energies, and resources in a common creative endeavour, then they can once again make the Middle East, in modern times as it was in antiquity and in the Middle Ages, a major centre of civilization. For the time being, the choice is their own."

Passover humour on the Net

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Passover humour?

No, this isn't some kind of joke. Well, actually it is. Although Passover is more associated with maror than with mirth, today we are going to look at the lighter side of the holiday of liberation on the World Wide Web.

Harry Leichter's Jewish Humor site is massive with over 50 pages of jokes **[http://www.haruth.com/jhumorlink.htm]**. His Pesach page has a healthy selection of groaners including this one:

A Jewish man took his Pesach lunch to eat outside in the park. He sat down on a bench and began eating. A little while later, a blind man came by and sat down next to him. Feeling neighbourly, the Jewish man passed a sheet of matzah to the blind man. The blind man ran his fingers over the matzah for a few minutes, looked puzzled, and finally exclaimed, "Who wrote this nonsense?" **[http://www.haruth.com/JhumorPesach.html]**

Do you think you know everything about Passover? Then try the Passover quiz. Here's a sample question from Jacob Richman's Humor Pages:

On Seder night, we are supposed to drink wine until...

(a) Uncle Irving's jokes sound new to you;

(b) you can no longer tell the difference between Pharaoh and Moses;

(c) you don't miss bread **[http://jr.co.il/humor/passover.htm]**.

Or how about going a round of Passover Jeopardy (where you get the answer and try to figure out the question)?

The answer: A classroom, a Passover ceremony and a latke.

The question: What is a cheder, a seder and a tater? **[http://www.humormatters.com/holidays/passover.htm]**

One of the most delightful Pesach sites you'll find is Uncle Eli's Special-for-Kids Most Fun Ever Under-the-Table Passover Haggadah **[http://www.ucalgary.ca/~elsegal/Uncle_Eli/Eli.html]**. Written in the style of Dr. Seuss, Uncle Eli retells the Haggadah in a familiar yet unique way:

Why is it only on Passover night we never know how to do anything right?

We don't eat our meals in the regular ways that we do on all other days...

Cause on all other nights we may eat all kinds of wonderful good bready treats like big purple pizza that tastes like a pickle, crumbly crackers and pink pumpernickel...

Yes – on all other nights we eat all kinds of bread but tonight of all nights we munch matzah instead.

Passover wouldn't be the same without its wonderful songs. But if you are looking for a break from *Dayenu* or *Chad Gadya*, there are plenty of new tunes to try out such as *There's No Seder Like our Seder*, *Afikomen* (sung to the tune of *Oklahoma*) and the best of the bunch, *Our Passover Things*:

Cleaning and cooking and so many dishes

Out with the chametz, no pasta, no knishes

Fish that's gefilted, horseradish that stings

These are a few of our Passover things. **[http://kosher4passover.com/parodies.htm]**

But before we conclude, a holiday health warning for you: **[http://www.fortunecity.com/millenium/southwater/113/jewish_humor_13.htm]**

Did you know that a group of leading medical people have published data that indicates that seder participants should *not* partake of both chopped liver and charoses? It is indicated that this combination can lead to... Charoses of the liver!

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and tells bad jokes at the seders. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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Ultimately, darkness will be transformed into light;
evil will be sublimated into goodness.

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'Stabilization' seen as best hope for Mideast

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Although the current "war process" between Israelis and Palestinians is ultimately not sustainable for either side, a ceasefire alone is not enough, says Dennis Ross, former American envoy to the Middle East.

"We need to change the structure of the reality so a ceasefire will endure, and as it endures, then you can begin to transform the psychology... We have to re-establish a climate in which peace-making becomes legitimate again," he said at a press conference last week at the Park Hyatt Hotel.

Right now, said Ross, Israelis and Palestinians alike no longer believe they have a partner for peace. Palestinians believe Israelis don't want to give up control of the Palestinians, and Israelis believe Palestinians are not interested in peace, he said.

"At some point we will get back to peace-making," said Ross, who becomes director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a policy-oriented think tank, this spring. "We have to learn the lessons of the past and understand what to do, what to avoid, and what it will take."

The former envoy – who was in town to speak at a dinner for donors to UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's challenge fund (a fund created last summer in response to the crisis in Israel) – is writing a book to address those issues. *The Missing Peace*, which he expects will be published next winter, will draw on his 12 years of experience during the administrations of former U.S. presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton.

Part of Ross' intention in writing the book is to set the record straight. To this day, he said, Palestinians have not been honest with their own public about what has been offered to them. "They say they were offered cantons, that there wouldn't have been a [Palestinian] state that was contiguous in terms of territory... that's all simply untrue."

Under the American proposal put forth at Camp David and accepted by Israel, the Palestinians would have received 95 percent of the West Bank, and the Arab neighbourhoods of East Jerusalem as the capital of their state, Ross said.

The Israelis rejected the idea of a right of return for Palestinian refugees to Israel, he added – "understandably... because that's the end of the Jewish state." A two-state solution would include right of return for Palestinian refugees to their own state.

In the Mar. 16 issue of the *Washington Post*, Ross outlined a four-part proposal he believes would effectively address the conflict.

Under his plan:

- the United States would ask Israel to halt its attacks on the Palestinians for 10 days. Should Israel learn of a planned terrorist attack during that time, it would inform Palestinian security forces and the U.S. If the Palestinians did not act immediately, Israel would have the right to do so.
- The Palestinian Authority (PA) would try to prevent acts of terror and violence against Israelis and begin to make "real, not fake, arrests" and dismantle terror organizations.
- The United States would reconstitute its Committee on Verification and Monitoring mandated by the 1998 Wye River Agreement. It would meet daily during the 10 days to discuss necessary steps. The United States would also make sure its allies were prepared to join in a denunciation of the side not fulfilling its commitments.
- The Israelis, Palestinians, Egyptians, Jordanians and Saudis would send representatives to Washington, D.C., at the foreign minister level to work out a six-month timeline of steps to be taken.

Ross believes that PA Chairman Yasser Arafat has the power to implement the necessary measures. "It is not a case of capability. It is a case of will," Ross said.

Over the past 18 months, the Palestinian areas have been a safe haven for those who want to kill Israelis, he said. Based on discussions he has had with Palestinian representatives, Ross believes that can change if Israel lifts its "siege" on the Palestinian population. In the year that preceded the current intifadah, Israel did not suffer a single fatality from terror, because the Palestinians were doing their job, he said.

A significant component of Ross' plan would involve accountability for not living up to the agreement. Arafat needs to be in a position where it's clear what he has to lose – international acceptability – and also clear that he has something to gain, Ross said.

Dennis Ross
[Big Dipper Communications]

If you don't break the cycle of revenge, he said, you "create a psychology where the most extreme ideas become acceptable." Incitement has to stop, and relatively early on in the plan, he said.

Israel has hard choices to make, said Ross. "In the last 17 months, Israel has ratcheted up the level of force they're using against Palestinians. If I thought the use of force would work, I would support it, but I don't see a military solution. I see a paradox. I see greater use of force, and less security."

One thing Arafat could do "like this," said Ross, snapping his fingers, "is change the media. He doesn't have a free media."

In a best-case scenario, Ross envisions a "stabilization" of the situation with a "political process that re-establishes the idea that peace negotiations are not only credible but the only way to do business... I don't believe a final deal is in the offing right now."

What is more likely, he said, are periods of stability marked by periods of violence.

On a global scale, Ross does not believe the war on terror can be won as long as Iraq's Saddam Hussein is in power. "We can't start and fail."

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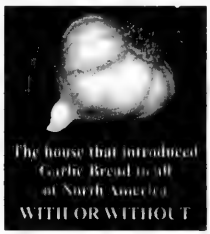

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New yeshiva hopes 'to develop future leaders'

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Yeshiva Darchei Torah of Toronto opened its doors last summer to high school and university students with Rabbi Eliezer Breitowitz as rosh yeshiva.

The school opened with full yeshiva and general studies programs in grades 9, 10, and OAC. (It plans to add a Grade 11 class next year.) Its general studies department has two separate tracks for sciences and humanities.

"Our immediate aim is to create a warm, stimulating environment for the spiritual, intellectual and social development of our talmidim," said Rabbi Breitowitz. "Our long range goal is to develop future leaders – both religious and lay – in the Jewish community."

The staff includes three PhDs and several members with graduate degrees. Among the staff are Rabbi Dovid Sapirman, Rabbi Mordechai Rapoport, Rabbi Dovid Kestenbaum and Rabbi Meir Joshua. William Brown is the general studies principal and Rabbi Avigdor Hyman is the executive director.

The school also accommodates students who attend university. They study at the yeshiva in the morning and go to university classes in the afternoon.

The yeshiva is located in the Eglinton-Dufferin area at the D. B. Hood Community School. The classrooms are bright with 15-foot ceilings, and the school boasts a computer lab and kosher catered meals. Transportation is provided daily from as far away as Thornhill.

In an interview, Rabbi Breitowitz was asked why Toronto needs another yeshiva.

He explained that he was associated with Beit Yitzchak, a yeshiva in Hamilton that is now closed. Although the school was a success, most of the students and staff were from Toronto.

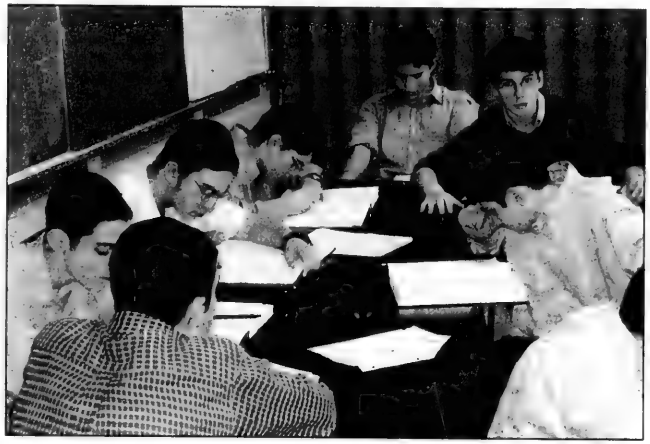
"Rabbi Morton Green, who established the yeshiva, felt that future growth necessitated the involvement and support of the broader Toronto community." The board of directors, with input from the parents, made the decision to reconstitute the yeshiva in Toronto, Rabbi Breitowitz said.

"Schools are constantly redefining themselves," he said. "There is a niche in the community for our yeshiva.

"We are down to earth in our expectations. Along with a high level of religious commitment, we believe that boys are boys and require guidance in their character development and learning skills."

He stressed the importance of providing students with the skills to make career choices. "They must be prepared to enter the secular world."

The school, which has 51 high school students and 12 university students, is open 5½ days a week and its day generally begins at 7:30 a.m. and ends at 8 p.m.



Students at Yeshiva Darchei Torah.

Within two years, Rabbi Breitowitz said, the yeshiva projects its enrolment will increase to 80 students and include all the high school grades. "And we hope to be able to provide the option of dormitory facilities in the future."

Michael Halbert, one of the yeshiva's founders, who hopes to send his children to Darchei Torah when they are old enough, told *The CJN* that the "yeshiva's overall operating style incorporates a personal concern by leading staff members for each student's welfare, bound by an overall strong sense of school spirit and, of course, respect for teachers and fellow students."

He added that "the school is still something of a secret in Toronto – and Rabbi Breitowitz is an absolutely stupendous mentor."

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Lombardi was a pioneer of multicultural radio

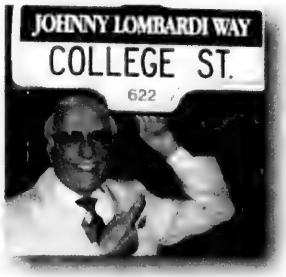
By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Johnny Lombardi, the son of Italian immigrants and owner of CHIN Radio who pioneered multicultural radio in Toronto and served the needs of more than 30 communities, died March 18 from complications of pneumonia. He was 86.

Obituary

The legendary broadcaster was raised near College and Grace streets in Toronto and lived in the Little Italy area all his life.

He fought for Canada in World War II, serving in Normandy, Belgium, Germany and Holland. After the war, he became a producer with CHUM Radio.



Johnny Lombardi
[photo courtesy CHIN Radio]

In 1966, he formed CHIN Radio with an inclusive mandate, and his name became synonymous with multiculturalism as he helped foster the development of Toronto's multicultural fabric.

He also gave Toronto the annual CHIN International Picnic that brings together thousands of people – young and old – from every part of the community.

A musician and entrepreneur in addition to being a longtime broadcaster, Lombardi was also a member of the Order of Canada and the Order of Ontario, and a recipient of Toronto's Civic Award of Merit.

Ed Morgan, chair of the Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, and a law professor at the University of Toronto, said Lombardi created space on the airwaves for Jewish and other ethnocultural programming, "which is now a major part of radio and television.

"We will remember him for putting multiculturalism into practice and making it more than just a slogan."

Speaking to *The CJN*, Toronto Mayor Mel Lastman called Lombardi "a great citizen and a pioneer of multiculturalism." He said the flamboyant CHIN owner "showed people they've got to be proud of what they are and who they are and he will always be remembered for that."

In a statement, Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said "Johnny Lombardi was immensely likable and absolutely unforgettable. I will miss him a lot."

Lombardi, Chrétien said, "embodied and gave public voice to the rich cultural diversity that is so much a feature of everyday life in Toronto, and, indeed, throughout Canada... he dedicated his life to enabling all of our cultural communities to express pride in their origins and their love of Canada."

Lombardi is survived by his wife, Lena, as well as three children and five grandchildren.

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FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH: At their recent learn-in, middle school students at Leo Baeck Day School discussed the theme From Strength to Strength in the Future. Professionals spoke to small groups about achieving goals and dreams. Seymour Epstein, executive director of the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, reminded students they have responsibilities to the community as well as themselves. Seen here (back row, from left) Epstein and musical duo Mark Freedman and Rick Levine, (front row, from left) and students Jake Simon, Gilian Saevitzon and Danielle Levine.

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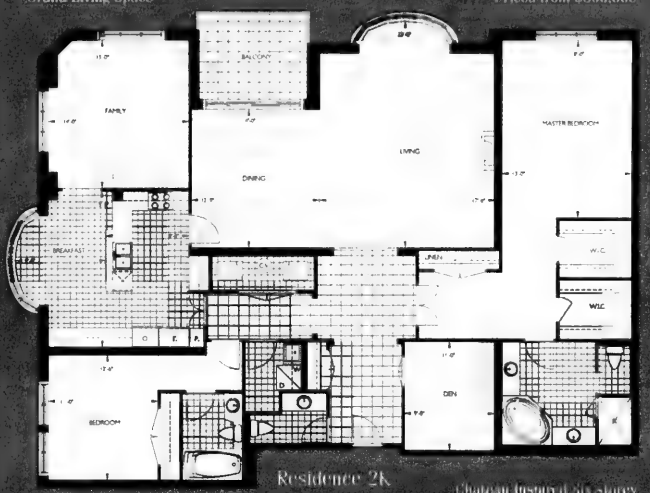

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Anti-Semitic discrimination at U of T lingered, book claims

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A major hospital and an exclusive social club that were both associated with the University of Toronto tried to exclude Jews as late as the 1950s and 1970s, respectively, according to a new book about U of T.

Martin Friedland, the university's former law dean, discloses these revelations in his book *The University of Toronto: A History*, published by University of Toronto Press earlier this month in honour of the school's 175th anniversary.

The Toronto General Hospital, which is affiliated with the university, had a policy of excluding Jews from internships or staff positions.

Under pressure from its head of medicine, R.F. Farquharson, the hospital broke that barrier by hiring Barnet Berris as an in-house doctor in 1950.

Berris remained at the hospital for 14 years, and was subsequently chief of medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital.

In 1962, the university appointed Ernest Sirluck as dean of humanities and social science at its school of graduate studies.

He was the first Jew to land a senior position at U of T.

Nevertheless, Sirluck was quietly excluded from membership in the York Club, where some university meetings took place.

Sirluck had, in fact, been invited to join the York Club. As Friedland puts it: "According to his autobiography, he accepted and was to be notified of the next vacancy. Some time later, he wrote, he was lunching at the club (as the guest of the university's president), when the chairman of the club's membership committee started chatting with him.

"'What is your background? Norwegian?' Sirluck was asked. 'No, Sirluck replied, 'Russian-Jewish.' After that, Sirluck noted, 'I never heard from the club about my election to membership.'"

In 1970, Friedland adds, a similar fate befell Charles Hollenberg, the university's first Jewish chair of the medical faculty and the first Jewish chief of medicine at the Toronto General Hospital.

Hollenberg's appointment was a breakthrough, notes Friedland, who was the university's first Jewish law dean, from 1972 until 1979.

"Considering the historical reluctance to hire Jews at the hospital, the significance of Hollenberg's appointment cannot be overestimated," writes Friedland.

Prior to 1970, only white Anglo-Saxon Protestants would have been considered.

Friedland goes on to say that trustees of the Sir John and Lady Eaton chair of medicine resisted Hollenberg's appointment.

"The members of the university board of governors, however, persuaded the trustees that to deny [Hollenberg] the chair would be embarrassing to everyone concerned."

Friedland also suggests the faculty of medicine curtailed enrollment in 1942 so as to limit the influx of Jewish students.

Martin Friedland

"The medical faculty's admission committee specifically refers in its minutes to the 'serious problem' of Jews in the medical school, and notes 'the almost vitriolic criticism from parents and others on… the large number of Jews."

Friedland concludes: "It appears reasonably clear from both the anecdotal and the statistical evidence available that discriminatory practices prevailed for a period of time – at least a dozen years – after the new policy was introduced."

In a revealing footnote, Friedland adds that one of his researchers, Charles Levi, accidentally found a memo from Robin Ross, the university registrar, to Claude Bissell, the university president, making it clear that discrimination existed in the faculty of medicine.

Dated Dec. 4, 1959, the memo states: "There is a definite limitation imposed by the selection committee on the number of Jewish students whom they are prepared to accept in the pre-medical years.

"There are, of course, solid practical reasons for the restriction and I am the first to sympathize with the Council in what is an awkward dilemma.

"Against that, however, is the very real danger that the university can be charged – and rightly so – with exercising the very kind of discrimination that we disavow publicly."

There is no record of Bissell's response, either in his papers or diaries.

Another footnote discloses that the faculty of medicine, in 1949-50, accepted 57.8 percent of non-Jewish applications, but only 45.5 percent of Jewish applications. The figures for 1951-52 were 44.7 percent and 48.3 percent, respectively.

Before King's College changed its name to the University of Toronto, it rejected a job application from James Sylvester, a brilliant Jewish mathematician.

Sylvester went on to become the Savilian Professor of Mathematics at Oxford University and the winner of the highest prize awarded to British mathematicians, the Copley Medal of the Royal Society.

King's College did hire a Jew, Jacob Hirshfelder, as a tutor in Hebrew, but only because he already had converted to Christianity.

It was not until 1930 that the university hired the first full-time Jewish lecturer. He was Jacob Finkelman, in the faculty of law.

After the Nazi seizure of power in Germany in 1933, U of T hired 10 refugee academics, about half of all those hired in Canada. Among them were Hermann Fiedler, an organic chemist, and Leopold Infeld, a theoretical physicist.

Frederick Banting, the eminent U of T scientist and Nobel Prize laureate, brought two Jewish scientists to his laboratories.

Yet Banting, the discoverer of insulin, harboured anti-Semitic feelings. In the 1920s, Friedland writes, he reportedly said, in a reference to his specialty, "If I'd known so many Jews had diabetes, I don't think I'd ever have gone into it."

In an interview, Friedland said he was not really shocked by the anti-Semitism that once pervaded the U of T.

"The university wasn't different than society at large, and there was probably less anti-Semitism at the university than in the legal profession, banks and corporations."

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CLASS READING: Linda Sky-Grossman, author of the *I'm A Great Little Kid* series, read two of her books recently to Grade 3 students at Leo Baeck Day School. She followed each reading with a talk about values, self-esteem and respect. Grade 3 teachers will follow up, using her stories to foster classroom discussions about inter-personal issues and appropriate ways to solve problems. Seen (from left) Naomi Goldenberg, Jessica Magerman, Sky-Grossman, Katy Tepperman and Joelle Small.

Discovering that you are suddenly Jewish

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — A woman who is happy she converted to Judaism told the story of how she learned that she was born in Raoul Wallenberg's bed in Budapest a few months before he was arrested by the Russians.

Speaking recently at a program at the Leah Posluns Theatre, Yvonne Singer, 51, an associate professor at York University, said she discovered that surprising fact in an article about Wallenberg that appeared in a Toronto newspaper. The article named Singer's mother as one of the people Wallenberg had assisted.

Woman discovered she was born in Wallenberg's bed

Intrigued, Singer, who was raised as a Christian, went to Budapest, where she found papers indicating that her parents were married in a synagogue there.

When she confronted her parents, they denied that they were married in the synagogue.

Until his death two years ago, her father never admitted his Jewish connection, Singer said, adding that she still finds it too difficult to discuss the matter with her mother.

Singer's story is told in the book *Suddenly Jewish*, by New Jersey author Barbara Kessel. The book is based on interviews with 160 people who were raised as non-Jews and learned at some point in their lives that they are from Jewish backgrounds. It describes how they reacted to that discovery.

Singer, an artist who is currently exhibiting a number of multimedia works, has converted to Judaism. She is married to a Jew, although, she said, he was originally willing to have their wedding in a Unitarian church. They have four daughters who were given Hebrew names.

In Canada (they arrived in 1949 when she was five), Singer said, the family lived for many years in Jewish areas of Montreal. She said she faced discrimination because she had a Hungarian background but was not Jewish.

Kessel, 51, who also spoke, said she interviewed 225 people before writing her book, including a Benedictine monk who now has six children, two nuns, and several rabbis and priests.

She said that in organizing the interviews, she classified them in categories, including crypto-Jews (who practised their religion privately), hidden children and children of survivors.

She said for many, the conversions to Judaism were "life affirming."

The other speaker was Dr. Anthony MacFarlane, a black physician from Hamilton who earned his MD at the University of Toronto. Born in Jamaica, MacFarlane has converted to Judaism and is a member and former president of Temple Anshe Shalom.

The evening was sponsored by the Albert and Tenmy Latner Jewish Public Library and the Koffler Centre of the Arts.

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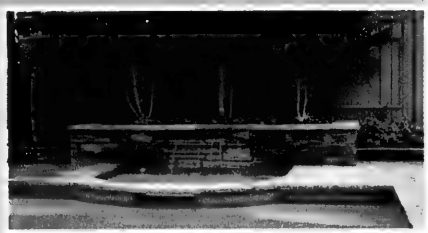

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

Wishing the Community
A Peaceful & Healthy Passover
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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, April 8, is deadline for April 18 issue and Monday, April 15, is deadline for April 25. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Sunday, March 31

MEZUZOT SHOW AND SALE

613 Mezuzot show and sale, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 7-9 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Almost 1,000 children, with their own hands, created unique mezuzot that are being sold in support of Kids for Kids, which encourages Jewish youth to help their brothers and sisters in Israel.

ENHANCING LOVE

Temple Kol Ami features **Louise Dorfman** and **David Rubinstein** of Couple Enchantment in a presentation on Love, Honesty and Integrity: Enhancing the Love in Your Life, 8 p.m., Indigo Book Store, Yonge and Hwy 7. in Richmond Hill. For information, 905-709-2620.

Thursday, April 4

RESISTANCE IN GERMANY

Prof. Michael Bodemann, department of sociology, University of Toronto, lectures on Resistance in Germany: The Story of the White Rose, 7:30 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

Friday, April 5

ACCENT ON YOUTH

Temple Sinai's Religious School Choir, directed by **Marilyn Birnbaum**, sings cantorial solos and choral pieces as part of the Family Service that begins at 7:30 p.m.

And What Else Is New

WOMEN OF ACTION

The Israel Cancer Research Fund is honouring **Rona Maynard**, editor of Chatelaine magazine; **Dr. Lavina Lickley** for her work with breast cancer; **Rose Wolfe**, former chancellor of the University of Toronto, for her accomplishments in social work; and **Carole Zucker,** member of the ICRF board of directors, for her volunteer work, at its Women of Action luncheon, April 17 at the Sheraton Hotel. All proceeds go to cancer research in Israel. RSVP. 416-487-5246.

EUROPEAN JEWRY

As part of the weekend series, Eastern European Jewry: History and Geography, visiting scholar **Stephen Berk**, professor of history at Union College, Schenectady, N.Y., delivers the pulpit sermon on the topic New Russia-Old Anti-Semitism, Saturday, April 6, at Beth Tzedec Congregation. Service at 8:45 a.m.

VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

The next Sar-El group, April 14 or 15, will be in Israel to mark Yom Hazikaron and celebrate Yom Ha'atzmaut. Serving as a civilian volunteer on an IDF base is a rewarding and safe way to spend time in Israel, and hearing *kol hakavod* for being there *davka* now is a soul-satisfying experience. 416-781-6089.

BIKUR CHOLIM

Annual spring luncheon, Tuesday, April 9, at noon at Sephardic Kehila Centre, 7026 Bathurst St., Thornhill. For women only. 416-783-7983.

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Can you defend yourself? Be prepared! Learn how to use intuition and will to survive, use body language and much more. Taught for women, by women. Sunday, April 21, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. or 1:30-5:30 p.m. Register by April 4. Organized by B'yachad Chapter of Hadassah-WIZO. 416-630-8373.

HEBREW COURSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., announces registration is now open for summer courses for adults,

Continued on page 31

JNF KKL

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שנות ציונות דתית

What's New

Continued from page 30

teenagers and pre-teens in conversational Hebrew, all levels. Courses run Tuesday mornings, May 21-Aug. 20; Wednesday mornings May 22-Aug. 21; Thursday mornings and evenings May 23-Aug. 22; and Friday mornings May 24-Aug. 23. **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

A TIME OF RENEWAL

Spring is a Time of Renewal-Pray and Learn led by **Rabbi Elliot Diamond** at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation. Shabbat prayers alternate with open discussion for a truly meaningful Shabbat morning. For information, **Zorach** at the synagogue office at 416-789-3213.

FAMILY INSTITUTE

Jewish Family Institute, 416-785-1107.

Parenting Networking, geared to parents of infants and toddlers. 5 sessions in a home-hosted group setting. Meet other parents and have discussions with 5 leading parenting experts, starting Tuesday, April 9, 10-11:30 a.m. To be held in Yonge/York Mills area. Ext. 204.

How to Make a Good Marriage Great! with **Rabbi Aryeh Pamensky,** Wednesday, April 10, 8 p.m. at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. Ext. 204.

Surviving the 2nd Decade in Parenting! – a 5-week series with psychologist **Sarah Chana Radcliffe**, support and insights into life with teens and pre-teens, starting Tuesday, April 9 from 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Village Shul. 1072 Eglinton Ave. W. Ext. 204.

Nag, Nag, Nag: How to Speak With Your Teens, Not At Them, with **Rabbi Yitzchok Feigenbaum**, Wednesday, April 24, 8 p.m. at the Village Shul,1072 Eglinton Ave. W. Ext. 204.

TIKVAH CHAPTER, JWI.

Are you a dynamic young woman in your 20s or 30s? If so, and you would like to meet other dynamic women and contribute meaningfully to the community, call **Karen** 905-707-2331 to find out about joining Tikvah Chapter, Jewish Women International.

AISH HATORAH EVENTS

Aish HaTorah, 949 Clark Ave.W. 905-764-1818.

Spiritual Workshop Scene- Pirkei Avot-Ethics of the Fathers, moral advice and insights from nearly 60 sages, with **Rabbi Dan Rand** every Tuesday at 2 locations: Aish HaTorah 8-9 p.m., or Friedberg & Mercantile, BCE Place, Bay and Wellington, from noon to 1 p.m.

The Weekly Wisdom Jolt, interactive discussion class on weekly Torah portion, with **Rabbi Dan Rand** every Saturday at 10 a.m.

TASTE OF KABBALAH

Mystical Moments at Minchah of Shabbat. Join **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** for a Taste of Kabbalah, 1 hour before afternoon services in the chapel, April 6 and 20 at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153.

SUNDAY NIGHT SCENE

Join dynamic speakers as they explore contemporary issues and apply them to your life today. Choose your own learning adventure and decide which lecture to attend. Plenty of mingling over music, food and beer with other young singles every Sunday at 7:45 p.m. at the Village Shul, 1072 Eglinton Ave. W.

L'DOR VA'DOR

Multi-generational Learning Service for all ages and background, singles and families in the Lerman Chapel at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue, 10 a.m. to noon, April 6 and 20. 416-633-3153.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups:

When You're About to Separate: What to Tell the Kids, Tuesday, April 9, at Promenade Mall, Suite 313 6:30 p.m. To register, **Elinor Gertner**, 905-882-2331, ext. 232.

Parenting Can Be 1,2,3, Magic for parents of children ages 2-8, starts Wednesday, April 10 for 3 sessions at the Promenade Mall, Suite 313 from 7-9 p.m.

Surviving Separation and Looking Ahead, for recently separated individuals, starting Wednesday, April 10, for 6 sessions at 4600 Bathurst St., Lipa Green Building 6th floor, 7:30-9 p.m. Register. **Shawna Sidney** 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

THE CHORALAIRS

The Choralairs of North York, a volunteer choir singing for the disabled and seniors, meets every Tuesday, 8:15-10:30 p.m. at Earl Bales Park Community Centre, room 2. The group is looking for new members and welcomes all ages. No audition necessary. Repertoire consists of Broadway, pop, folk and old favourites. Ability to read music not necessary – just a love of singing required. **Fay Cohen** 416-633-7233 or **Judy Gordon** 416-221-3161.

PAINTING CLASSES

Painting classes, all levels, Thursdays, 1-3:30 p.m. April 11-June 13, held at Beth Sholom Synagogue. Call **Terri Sugar Keyfitz** 416-487-7244.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 32

FOR SENIORS

LZA Senior's Cultural Club weekly meetings Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave. Outings and activities for the LZA Senior's Club resumes in April. 416-630-9444.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). Get ready for the Yom Ha'atzmaut party in April. **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002. Casino Rama April 3 and 17; Lecture April 10 on Electrical Safety in the Home; Sunday dance with live band April 7 and 21; Saturday dance April 13 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. Atlantic City April 8-11; Thousand Islands trip May 28-31; Dancersize class with **Kitty Cohen** every Thursday at 10 a.m.; Woodcarving with instructor Monday to Thursday 9 a.m. to noon. 416-395-7881

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living. 1003 Steeles Ave. W, 416-225-2112.

Snapshots of Issues Facing Jews in Toronto, with **Bernie Farber,** executive director, Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler,** ext. 134.

Let's Have Fun With Yiddish, jokes, stories, videos, speakers, Thursday. April 4, at 1 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. **Anna**.ext. 110.

Movie, *Tootsie*, Sunday, March 31, 2:30 p.m.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Jewish Meditation: A 6-week program beginning Monday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. with **Chashi Skobac**. Register.

Mount Sinai/Miles Nadal Community Fitness, Recreation, Health and Wellness program Eat Well, Be Well series focuses on Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus, Are You at Risk? with **Nuryt Raif** and **Debbie Ross**, Sunday, April 14, 1-2 p.m. Register.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Spring courses, register in class: bridge, instructor Joel Shapiro; ballroom dancing resumes fall 2002; Chai Dancers; current events; drama-Habima Players; painting; needlecrafts; folkdancing, choir - Shalom Singers; line dancing; plus Learning Experiences, luncheons and Arts Unlimited outings.

Sunday, April 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Yom Ha'atzmaut event at Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum. Israel Independence Day, a day full of Israel themed activities. Ext. 456.

Thursday, April 18, 8:30 p.m. Annual interactive lecture series, cosponsored by Koffler Centre, Kolel and JCCs of Toronto. Topic God: Personal Thoughts with **Prof. Elie Wiesel** and former New York governor **Mario Cuomo** from New York City. Toronto moderator **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein.** Location: Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. Tickets ext. 271.

Sunday, April 28: Stars of the 21st Century. An international ballet gala with some of the world's best dancers, at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. For information, ext. 269 or 271. For tickets, Ticketmaster 416-870-8000.

READING ROOM AT YORK U: At the recent inauguration of the newly renovated reading room at the Centre for Jewish Studies at York University, furnished under the direction of Allan Offman, Prof. Michael Brown (left) presents Offman with the book *Creating the Jewish Future*. Applauding are (from left) Prof. Alex Pomson, Koschitzky Professor of Jewish Teacher Education; Saul Koschitzky; and Paul Marcus, president and CEO of the York University Foundation.

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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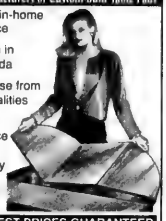
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Greater Toronto Area

BAYT mikvah reopened

By JENNIFER M. PAQUETTE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto (BAYT) recently opened its newly renovated mikvah, the Maddie Leventhal Mikveh Centre, named for the healing practitioner, massage therapist and labour coach who died in 1998.

Leventhal would surely have appreciated the mikvah centre that bears her name, says her sister, Moira Kirzner.

"Water was important to her. She loved to live close to the water; it was an important symbol for her as a life-giving force."

The mikvah dedication is doubly appropriate, Kirzner says, since women go to a mikvah once a month after menstruation, as well as after childbirth, to prepare themselves spiritually for childbearing, a fitting tribute to Leventhal, who helped bring hundreds of babies into the world.

The mikvah at BAYT "specializes in working with women who aren't necessarily observant," Kirzner says. Women come from diverse backgrounds, "brides and others for whom this might be their first or only [mikvah] experience," and find attendants committed to balancing traditional observance with warmth.

"Maddie was a nurturer, too," she says. "She epitomized *chesed* [acts of loving kindness]."

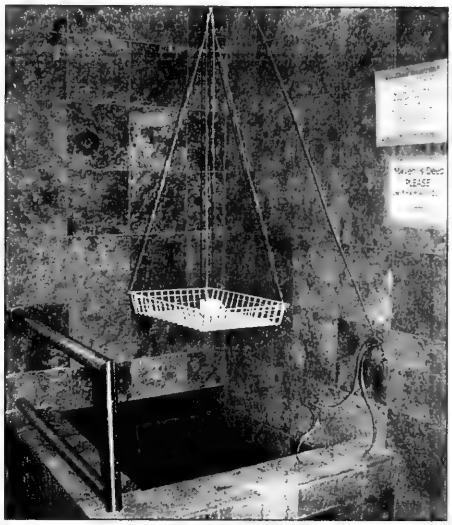
The facility also has a smaller mikvah, a keilim mikvah, used for *tvilat keilim*, the practice of immersing new dishes and cooking utensils known in Yiddish as *toivelling*.

The two practices are in a sense related, Kirzner says. The mikvah is not about physical purification, but about "the transition from spiritual impurity to spiritual purity."

Since the Jewish table "is a holy mishkan, an altar," she explains, "we imbue our dishes with spiritual properties. Similarly, when women use the mikvah, the goal is to return to a naturally pure spiritual state."

The mikvah represents healing, a touch of sanctity in a mundane world, Kirzner says. This is appropriate, because "Maddie was powerful in her... love of children and the elderly, the terminally ill – she had a real healing touch for all living things."

Mikvaot are often used by men before Yom Kippur, and in some communities, men immerse themselves each Friday before Shabbat. This purification is not linked to any biological process, Kirzner says, but is a means for men to achieve the higher level of spiritual purity demanded by the holy day. She adds that the mikvah is also essential in the final stages of conversion to Judaism: the convert symbolically sheds his or her non-Jewish "skin" and emerges whole and pure, a newborn Jewish soul. On occasion, the Leventhal mikvah is used for both of these purposes.


The renovated mikvah for dishes at BAYT.

The fixtures and decor in the new mikvah reflect a soothing, natural motif her sister would have appreciated, Kirzner says. Its walls are stone and its ceramic tile is a warm sandy-brown, reminiscent of ancient resonances and harmonies. It incorporates "a feeling of the earth, the natural environment, through the use of the tile, nuances of the light."

This physical beauty reflects its deeper purpose, that of allowing Jews, male and female, to reconnect with the Source of life. There's no better way to keep her sister's spirit alive than by linking it to these ongoing processes of Jewish life, she says.

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Greater Toronto Area

Transform yourself at seder: rabbi

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The purpose of the seder is to transform your soul, says Rabbi Lawrence Kelemen of Jerusalem.

We must truly appreciate what God did for us by taking us out of Egypt and view the Exodus, as the Haggadah says, "as if I myself left Egypt," said Rabbi Kelemen at a recent lecture at the Sephardic Kehilla Centre.

Rabbi Kelemen, professor of education at Neve Yerushalayim College, is the author of the recently published *To Kindle a Soul*, a guide for parents and educators.

The mitzvah of the seder, according to the Rambam, Rabbi Kelemen said, is not to delve into the most complicated commentaries on the Haggadah – it is simply to tell the story, like a father tells a story to a child.

"The more involved one gets in the telling, the more emotional and passionate the telling, the more praiseworthy it is," the rabbi said.

The purpose of existence, he said, is not to find enlightenment. It is to refine ourselves so that we may become perfect human beings, *b'tzelem Elokim* (in the image of God). Similarly, he added, the purpose of the seder is not to be enlightened; it is to be transformed, to become a better person.

Real spirituality comes from that change, he said. As an example, he noted, "I used to surf the Internet for eight hours, now I just surf for six. I used to mumble when I made a brachah; now I speak to God."

Rabbi Kelemen quoted the Haggadah, which says, "Once we were slaves to Pharoh, now we are free men." But what is freedom? he asked.

The rabbi illustrated with an example. The slave works every day, from dawn to dark. A money mogul also works every day from dawn to dusk. The difference, he said, is that at the end of the day, the slave has nothing, while the financier has at least made money.

"Freedom is not that you don't have to put forth any effort – it's that you get something for it, something that can never be taken away," Rabbi Kelemen said.

The Rambam explains that real freedom for Jews is recognizing that one should serve God like a servant who works faithfully for his master, and recognizing that every aspect of your life is devoted to the master – to God, the rabbi said.

Every effort should be made to ensure the seder reflects gratitude to God, and to re-create how the Jews must have felt at the first seder some 3,000 years ago, he said.

Dramatize the story, he suggested, like the Sephardim do by putting matzah on their shoulders and marching around the table, or by throwing confetti when reading the section of the Haggadah about the plague of lice, or by putting red stickers all over the face for boils.

Before the seder, he said, review the story and find out more details from midrash so that it becomes more real. Some people, he added, read the first part of the Haggadah before the seder to help get into the holiday spirit.

Rabbi Kelemen noted that only those who appreciated what God had done for them – only one-fifth of the Jews who were there – left Egypt and journeyed to the seminal experience at Mount Sinai.

For a split second at halachic midnight (exactly halfway between sunset and sunrise), there is a burst of light (from God), he said.

"You must finish the afikoman before that, so at midnight you will be able to feel a full appreciation of [the essence of God]." If you can feel that appreciation at the stroke of midnight, "you will catch the light and be transformed."

That appreciation will allow us to become the Jewish nation that God wants, which will bring the ultimate redemption, he said.

Yeshivat Bnei Akiva Or Chaim and Ulpanat Orot Girls' School
extends condolences to the
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on the passing of
ELLI PODOLSKI ז"ל
המקום ינחם אתכם בתוך שאר אבלי ציון וירושלים
Rabbi Shlomo Gemara, Rosh HaYeshiva
I. Berl Nadler, President

Women made the Exodus happen, gathering told

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Women were instrumental in helping Jews escape from Egypt, says Rabbi Elyse Goldstein, director of Kolel: The Adult Centre for Liberal Jewish Learning.

"Without women none of this would have happened," she said at a recent Passover program sponsored by Toronto Hadassah-WIZO.

She told guests – who began the evening by introducing themselves to their table-mates with a recitation of their matrilineal lineages – that because of these righteous women, Israel was redeemed from Egypt.

The Book of Exodus starts off by introducing us to two special midwives, Shifrah and Puah, Rabbi Goldstein said.

These women disregarded Pharaoh's orders and kept the babies alive, she said. "If they hadn't done that, we would not have had Moses. This was the first recorded case of civil disobedience."

Shifrah and Puah were only two in an entire "underground railroad of women who tried to uproot Pharaoh's regime. As women, they worked together against death and for life," Rabbi Goldstein said.

"There are a lot of incredible women in the Book of Exodus; I urge you to bring these role models into your seder," she said.

In the service that followed Rabbi Goldstein's talk, the first cup of wine was dedicated to the women of Exodus.

"We drink the first cup in remembrance of the five righteous women whose bravery set in motion the events that led to the liberation of our people:

"Yocheved, Moses' mother; Miriam, Moses' sister; Shifra and Puah, the Hebrew midwives; and Batya, Pharaoh's daughter.

"These women, working in concert showed us how defiance can be sacred, and how a few determined and brave women can change the course of history."

The other cups of wine were dedicated to the pioneers who laid the foundation of a new Israel founded on egalitarian principles; to mothers through the ages; and to the future generation of daughters and sons. "May the wisdom that flowed from our foremothers flow through us forever."

In answer to the first of the four questions, why is this night different from all other seder nights, the women answered:"At all other seders, we hear the stories of our forefathers, but the voices of our mothers are silent.

"Tonight they will be heard. At all other seders the heroic deeds of our sisters… are kept hidden; tonight we will celebrate their courage."

An alternative list of plagues recited at the gathering included: acid rain; excess waste; anorexia, bulemia and obsession with appearance; violence; drug addiction; AIDS and breast cancer; air pollution; homophobia; racism; and child abuse.

CJ Food

Mollie Katzen offers vegetarian choice

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

Mollie Katzen, best-selling cookbook author and cooking show host, sees food as an excuse for being with people.

"Sharing a meal does not depend on conversation; it is on a different level of relating to each other," she says.

Katzen, 51, who is known for her vegetarian cookbooks, including *The Moosewood Cookbook*, *The Enchanted Broccoli Forest*, *Still Life with Menu* and *Vegetable Heaven*, said in a telephone interview from her home in the state of Washington, that from an early age, she associated food with ritual.

"My earliest association with cooking was for Shabbat. There was an order to the food – the meat, the potatoes, the vegetables – and there was always homemade challah.

"We were cooking in the context of a special Jewish event. Food was infused into the celebration. When I was six years old, I thought food was holy."

The Moosewood Cookbook, which Katzen self-published in 1974, began as a journal she hand-wrote in high school. "I sold it out of my car. It was a result of the love I've had for food since childhood."

When she moved to the west coast from her native Rochester, she says she was "blown away by the abundance of produce. The array of fruits and vegetables was stunning. Where I grew up, there were about three items in the produce department during the winter. There was no such thing as opposite season produce."

As a painter – she graduated from the San Francisco Art Institute – she was inspired by the visual appeal of the produce, and she kept illustrated journals. Her book, *Still Life with Menu*, evolved from these journals, she says.

Surprisingly, she says, she is not a vegetarian. "I love vegetarian food and it is the mainstay of my diet, but I have nothing against eating meat. It is natural for humans to eat it."

The original human diet was garden-based, Katzen says, "but after a successful hunt, they ate a bit of meat. That is how I eat. After a 'successful hunt,' I will partake."

She worries about people who believe they can control their destiny through food, she says. "We can eat well, but we cannot control our destiny; we can only do our best. Eating well will increase our chances of good health, but we may as well enjoy ourselves."

Her newest book, *Sunlight Cafe*, due out in the fall, "praises the benefits of breakfast. I'm not a nutritionist, but I know that how you eat in the morning can affect your whole day."

This Passover, she says, when people come to her home to eat, they can expect plenty of vegetarian food choices. "I respect people who don't eat meat, and that respect shows up in my cooking."

She offers the following vegetarian recipes:

NOT-CHICKEN SOUP

This broth is about as close as you'll get to chicken soup without using chicken, says Katzen. "The garlic is essential. It seems like a lot, but it will tone itself down considerably as it simmers.

"The parsnip, however, is not essential, and may be omitted. It gives the broth a sweeter taste, which you may or may not prefer. The broth can be made up to several days in advance and stored in a tightly closed container in the refrigerator."

8 cups water
2 tsp. salt
1 8-in. parsnip, cut in chunks (optional)
2 large carrots, peeled or scrubbed and cut in chunks
2 medium-sized onions cut in chunks
8 to 10 medium-sized garlic cloves, halved
2 stalks celery, coarsely chopped
2 scallions (optional)
handful of mushrooms, cleaned and stems trimmed
½ tsp. turmeric
black pepper

Combine everything in large soup pot. Bring to boil, lower to a simmer and partially cover. Cook slowly for about 1¼ hours. Turn off heat and let it cool to room temperature. Strain out and discard all vegetables. Heat broth gently just before serving. Serves 8.

PEAR AND PRUNE TSIMMES

The tsimmes can be assembled up to a day before it is baked and served. Cover tightly with foil and refrigerate.

10 ripe juicy pears
1 lb. pitted prunes
4 tbsp. fresh lemon juice
2 tbsp. honey
cinnamon

Preheat oven to 350. Grease a 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Peel and slice the pears. Halve the prunes. Spread the pear slices in the prepared pan, and place the prunes on top. Drizzle with lemon juice and honey and sprinkle liberally with cinnamon. Bake covered for 30 minutes and uncovered for another 20. Serve hot or warm, as a side dish. Serves 6-8.

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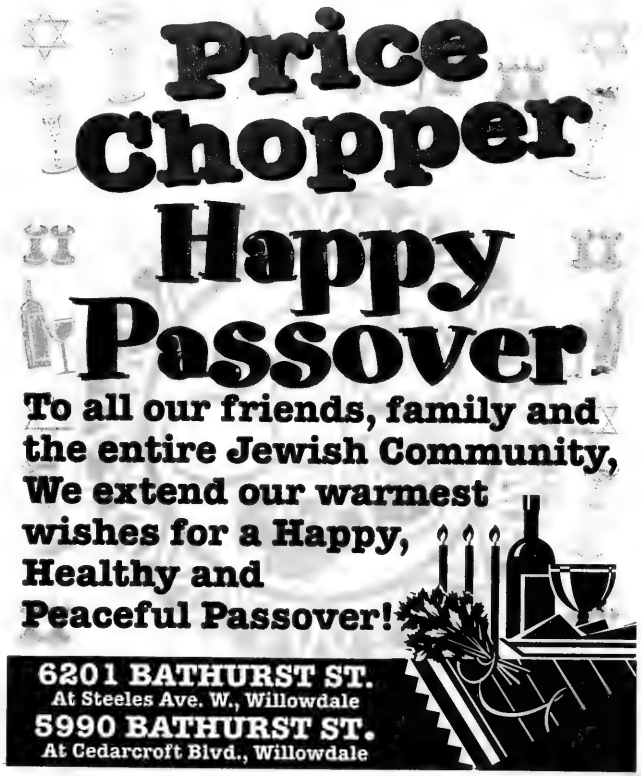
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Children abducted from Israel *by their own parent* . . . a shocking but true story for Pesach

This is a very recent story about an Israeli mother who left Israel for Canada with five of her Israeli children. It was supposed to be a school holiday: a brief vacation. But when the woman was scheduled to return, she refused to do so, against the wishes of the children's Israeli father.

The mother claimed she was escaping from Israel's current violence that put her children in severe physical and psychological danger. The father claimed that the children belonged in Israel, that the mother's claims were grossly exaggerated and that she had fraudulently obtained his consent for her to vacation with the children in Canada. He argued that at the time she had asked him about vacationing in Canada and had secured his approval to do so, she clearly intended to remain there.

There is an international family treaty to deal with such disputes. This treaty was signed by over 100 countries, including Canada and Israel. It's called the *Convention on the Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction*, also known as the "Hague Convention".

Whomever may be correct morally about the merits of this case, it is now obvious that Arafat and his terrorists are having their effect on international family law — big time.

Pesach is perhaps the best moment to tell this story. This will become clear in due course.

Dependent child left behind in "escape" with other children

I recently represented the father, an Orthodox Jew, in a Toronto Family Court. Let us call him Yitzak and his wife Helen (not their real names). I've changed the names and withheld certain key details to protect the parties' identities, especially the children. (If you require a copy of the Ontario Court's decisions for legitimate legal research reasons then you may contact my office.)

Yitzak and Helen made *aliya* to Israel in the '70s. He emigrated from the United States, she came from Toronto. They married, became Orthodox and had many children, five of whom are still under the age of 15, the others not much older. Yitzak became a Rabbi and now works as a social worker. The mother left the older children behind in Israel when she made her "escape", without telling them beforehand why she was doing so. One of them, still very much a student at the tender age of 16, was fully dependent on her financially. The children all have joint Israeli, Canadian and American citizenship. All were born in Israel, raised in Israel and educated in Israeli schools.

As you know, life in Israel is both meaningful and difficult at one and the same time. Although none of the children was ever in direct physical danger, they grew up in a country where there has been considerable anxiety due to a never-ending series of crises. The Yom Kippur War, when the survival of the *yishuv* was seriously in question; the Gulf War, when Iraqi missiles rained down and Israeli children were obliged to retreat to bunkers wearing gas masks amidst terrifying air raid sirens; the daily grind of *infitada* of the late 80's, and countless suicide bombers and other terrorist attacks.

Family Matters

by

John Syrtash, B.A. (Hon.), LL.B.

The core question before the Ontario Court in this case was whether these circumstances brought this case under the exceptions of the Hague Convention. Put simply, did events in Israel constitute a "grave risk of harm" for these children *as these words are defined in law in the Convention* so as to displace the jurisdiction of the Courts where the children normally resided, that is, the Israeli Courts, in the State of Israel.

Helen traveled widely outside Israel. However, *at no time during this violent period did she once attempt to move from Israel with her children*. Not once did she ask Yitzak to do so. Not once did she apply to an Israeli Court for permission to move. In fact, Helen signed agreements with Yitzak specifying that the children would remain in Israel unless both parents agreed otherwise. As is often the case in such agreements, each party required the consent of the other party to travel with the children.

Agreement regarding children's country of residence ignored

A few years ago Helen left Orthodox Judaism. The religious differences between the parents led to divorce. When Helen traveled, her trips often coincided with incidents of ongoing violence in Israel. During these trips she frequently left the children in Yitzak's care. When this case went to Court, an Israeli Court and the Government of Israel provided evidence in the Ontario Court that, under Israeli law, both parents shared legal custody of the children.

The kids retained in Toronto were now missing school in Israel, although the mother had registered them in Toronto schools without the father's consent. They were also now separated from their older siblings, friends, relatives, teachers — and culture.

Under the Hague Convention, Canada and its Courts are obliged to return children to the country of their usual residence if that country — in this case Israel — requests their return. Since the father had a legal right of custody, the Israeli government made such a formal request. In the view of the Israelis the mother had improperly "retained" the children under this international treaty.

As agent for Canada, the Ministry of the Attorney General for the Ontario government registered documents in all the Toronto area Courts to open a file and to register the Israeli government's request under the Hague Convention so that the matter would be expedited. This is common practise. The Courts put such cases "on the front burner" because any delay would defeat the purpose of the Hague Convention. The assumption of the Hague is that children normally belong where they come from if the parent "left behind" has a right of custody.

Plaintiff parent and children victimized in many ways

The father was then instructed to find a Canadian lawyer to request the Court to order the children's return. (Neither the Canadian nor the Ontario government undertakes to do this on the individual's behalf, nor does it pay for the service.) Unless a foreign parent can qualify for a Legal Aid certificate or find a lawyer who will accept one (not easy), he must then pay a lawyer for this service.

In this case the time involved led to extraordinarily high legal fees. Moreover, the father was obliged to come to Canada to provide evidence more effectively and ultimately, to accompany the children back to Israel. This cost even more money in airline tickets and lost time from work. The father eventually received a Court order to recover much of these costs from the mother, including the travel expenses for himself and five children. However, whether the father will be able to actually recover the amounts awarded from the mother is open to question.

The mother also timed her decision to stay in Israel on the eve of her husband's remarriage. The mother claimed this timing was purely coincidental, attributing it rather to the fact that the violence in Israel had become particularly intense, with Palestinian violence against innocent civilians occurring almost daily. However, the children in Canada could then not attend the wedding, dampening the joy associated with the festivities.

Meanwhile, the anxiety of the legal action, and travel to and from Canada (twice in a three week period) put understandable strain on the newlyweds. Moreover, when the father arrived in Toronto for the Court proceedings, Helen initially refused to allow the children to see their own father. He was effectively prevented from doing so for a further period of about ten days.

The Court proceedings took place in November and December 2001, over a period of approximately three weeks. Someone invited a media representative (apparently from a major Toronto daily newspaper) to one of the hearings, presumably to attract publicity to Helen's plight. It worked. The headlines and later radio stations took up the mother's cause.

Judges in Canada are not normally swayed by newspaper reports or public pressure. Under the Hague Convention, the Court is almost always obliged to return children to where they usually live if the parent "left behind" has a right of custody. This policy is designed to remedy the abduction and retention of children across borders during domestic disputes about a child's residence. The policy of the Hague Convention is clear and unequivocal: such disputes should be settled by the Courts of the country of origin. Otherwise there would be international chaos — not law. Parents would simply abduct their children and run to a Court in a different land where they believed they might obtain a more favourable result. Very few treaties are followed so consistently by the Courts worldwide as the Hague Convention.

The Hague Convention and the rights of the parent "left behind"

There are some exceptions to this policy of return, but they are narrowly interpreted and rarely successful. Internationally, Courts are legitimately nervous about opening the door to abductions and retentions. They know that every time such an exception is made, it will be used by lawyers defending parents who have abducted.

One of these exceptions is that the children do not have to be returned if the parent can prove that there is a "risk of grave harm" in doing so. Usually, the "risk of grave harm" argument has been successfully used by parents claiming sexual or physical child abuse, or the probability of serious risk of death or harm to them and/or their children by the parent "left behind."

The Ontario Court of Appeal successfully invoked such an exception in a famous case called *Pallastro*, where a woman escaped to Ontario from California on the strength of such facts.

However, in this Israeli case, Helen used a different exception recited under Article 13(b) of the Convention, a schedule to Section 46 of Ontario's *Children's Law Reform Act*: A Court is not bound to return a child if: *(Continued on facing page)*

(Continued from facing page) "...there is a grave risk that his or her return would expose the child to physical or psychological harm or otherwise place the child in an intolerable situation."

Helen's lawyer cited some famous decisions in the United States Courts that declared that "war" in a home country may expose children to such harm. By demonstrating how bad the violence had become in Israel, Helen attempted to persuade the Court that war, within the meaning of such decisions, existed in Israel. She provided graphic evidence from newspaper reports and from columnists about daily terrorist attacks taking place on the very days of the Toronto hearings.

Even after she lost her case, Helen brought a fresh motion before the same Judge in an attempt to change his ruling when yet another bomb blast had killed several more Israelis. At one point, she showed the Judge a newspaper report that Prime Minister Ariel Sharon had publicly declared "war". (Sharon actually used that term when declaring war on Palestinian terrorists during the Court hearings). Surely, she argued, Sharon's declaration now met the legal threshold for the exception to be applied.

Trying to prove a state of "war" to justify abduction

However, the Judge ruled that, as a matter of law, only the Court had the jurisdiction to decide whether a war in Israel actually existed. In short, Helen's lawyer could not simply quote Ariel Sharon to legally prove a "war" in Israel had exposed the children to a grave risk of harm. That issue was for the Court to determine.

In accordance with the policy objectives of the Hague Convention, Judge Ferrier of the Ontario Court also found that there was no reason why the mother could not have applied in an Israeli Court to permit her to move to Canada with the children. She had provided no evidence to explain her failure to do so.

I also successfully argued that using the mother's logic, any parent from New York City or the United States could abduct their child to Canada and use the September 11, 2001 attack on the World Trade Centre as their rationale for not applying to a New York Court. After all, ten times more innocent civilians died in that one attack than all the Israelis murdered in the past year.

Judge Ferrier acknowledged that Helen had a sincere and legitimate fear for her children's safety. But his decision to return the children to Israel appears to reflect the policy that this fear must be addressed by the Courts best equipped to deal with the issue, i.e. the Israeli Court, not an Ontario Court so far removed from the conflict. Judge Ferrier also rejected the mother's attempt to rely on a recent decision, called *Altheim*, of a Court in Argentina.

In *Altheim*, the father abducted a very young child from Israel and retained him in Argentina, using arguments similar to those invoked by Helen. The mother had custody in Israel. The Court proceedings in Argentina took place shortly after September 11. The Argentinean Court then decided to keep the child in Argentina, temporarily, for a few weeks. But, in his reasons for decision, Judge Ferrier concluded that the Argentinean Court still ordered the *Altheim* child back to Israel (he was, in fact, returned.)

I also successfully used international jurisprudence to demonstrate that no absconding Israeli parent had ever successfully used Helen's argument in any Court anywhere in the world! All the precedents rejected such submissions, be they in the United States, Germany, or Argentina.

There is a principle of mutual recognition and respect between Courts of different lands or provinces about each others' jurisdictions, powers and decisions. This is particularly true with treaties such as the Hague Convention. It is called the "comity of the Courts", and Judges do not normally like to interfere with it.

The story of Helen, Yitzak and their children did not end with Mr. Justice Ferrier's decision.

Helen filed an appeal with the Court of Appeal of Ontario. Since it can take weeks or even months before an appeal is actually heard, Helen's lawyer applied for an Order to temporarily "stay" Mr. Justice Ferrier's decision to return the children until the appeal could be heard. If successful, a "stay" order would temporarily suspend the lower Court's order to send the children back to Israel. Without such a "stay" order, Helen was legally obliged to comply with Justice Ferrier's ruling and return the children to their father immediately.

I had less than a morning to prepare for the hearing before the Appellate Court. We worked furiously. In the hearing, Helen's lawyer made arguments similar to those he had made before Mr. Justice Ferrier. However, Justice Charron of the Court of Appeal accepted my essential argument: *if a stay is granted then the very purpose of the Hague Convention will be defeated.*

Repeated attempts to overturn the Court's decision

The Hague Convention says that the Courts of Canada must act expeditiously to return the children. Helen's lawyer then asked for a "stay" of Charron's order until five Judges of the Court of Appeal could "review" her decision. However, we successfully argued that this was nothing more than a further attempt to delay and frustrate the intention of the Convention.

While this appeal was being considered, Helen's lawyer made another "last minute" attempt to have Mr. Justice Ferrier change his mind. There had been yet another deadly terrorist attack in Israel, and Helen's lawyer used this as a basis for his last-ditch attempt. Surely now, he argued, the Court should reverse its position.

It did not. All legal avenues for Helen were now blocked. The children's passports were given to Yitzak. On my request, Mr. Justice Ferrier verbally requested Helen's lawyer to tell his client to cooperate in returning the children.

I believe that the Court wanted to avoid any further anxiety for the children. They had been caught in the middle of this dispute for several weeks.

There was only one problem. Helen had disappeared with the children.

Defendant absconds with children in defiance of Court order

Helen went underground. Her lawyer refused to answer any of my phone calls, e-mails or faxes. The police then laid abduction charges and began an investigation to find the children. Some media reports made a spectacle of her hiding the children from "severe danger" in the face of an Ontario Court order. I could not persuade Judge Ferrier to order Helen's lawyer to reveal her latest phone number. The Court decided that such information was protected by the doctrine of "solicitor-client" privilege. However, the Court did order a certain immigration lawyer to provide the police with any information he may have about the children's whereabouts. Someone had taken the children to this lawyer and he had filed a "refugee claim" on their behalf.

He filed such an application even though the children were already Canadian citizens and could not possibly qualify as refugees under the Immigration Act. This lawyer then also tried to confuse the police by complaining that they should withdraw from investigating the children's disappearance in light of this "refugee claim."

The Court was not very pleased with this immigration lawyer's conduct, and was persuaded that the doctrine of "solicitor-client" privilege could not be used by this lawyer. The children were in the legal custody of the father by the Ontario Court's order. Yitzak certainly never consented to retaining this lawyer on the children's behalf. Only the father or the Court could do so; neither was the case.

Ultimately, all the pressure bore fruit. Helen's lawyer sent me a fax indicating where and when the children would be found. Just as Helen arrived to drop off the children, the police arrested her. The children were returned to their father, who promptly left Canada with them. The mother is sadly still in Canada facing criminal charges. Her children need her. Her family wants her back in Israel. However, it appears that she cannot return to Israel until these charges have been dealt with by the Canadian Courts.

Yitzak never asked for these criminal charges to be laid, but the Crown is insistent on proceeding with them, although it is currently reviewing her file.

This sad tale reflects some of the fallout inflicted upon Jewish families by Arafat and his terrorists. It demonstrates that oppression goes beyond the daily gruesome body counts. Applications under Article 13(b) of the Hague Convention by Israeli parents are now pending in different Courts around the world. A number of parents attempt to avoid the Israeli Courts by abducting their children. Many more are attempting to leave by more traditional and legally appropriate means. The damage to the Israeli family — separated or not — is the hidden consequence of these terrorist attacks.

What can we, here, in Canada, do to help remedy this situation? We are not on the front lines. But we *can* lobby the federal government to vote more consistently with Israel at the U.N. We can buy Israeli bonds, an excellent and secure investment with a relatively high return. We can invest in the Israeli economy, in its performing companies. We can send money to all the worthy Israeli charities of our choice, such as the appeal to donate for the purchase of bullet-proof vests (phone (905) 882-8725.) We can inundate our Members of Parliament and newspapers with letters of support for Israel. We can call our Israeli friends and relatives to show them our love. We can pray and say Psalms (*tehillim*) in our synagogues. And we should attend public rallies to support Israel, like the one that took place on March 24 at Mel Lastman Square.

But how do we heal the hurt?

Exercising our civil rights . . . and our rites of Pesach

The faith of the promise of spiritual redemption, of unity among all Jews, of the coming of *Moschiach* — now, today, in our time — will happen at the Passover seder table. Then we will hug our children, our spouses and all our loved ones a little more tightly. Along with eating *knaidlach* and *matza*, all of us will unite to relive the moment of freedom and spiritual responsibility that took place when God took us out of Egypt on the "wings of Eagles" (Exodus XIX, verse 4.) (For fantasy and movie buffs, Tolkien borrowed this metaphor from the Torah when an Eagle saves Gandalf from an evil wizard in *Lord of the Rings*.)

And when your youngest child sings the *fir kashes* (the Four Questions), when we open the door for Eliyahu, when we eat the *afikomen*, when we sing our hearts out together, then, yes then . . . then we will be taken out again. Then we will again be freed from Israel's misery when Jews unite to welcome Him into our homes.

Pesach. This, too, is how we defeat Arafat. *Chag Kasher Vesamayach.*

John Syrtash is a partner and family law lawyer with the Toronto firm of Basman Smith. *Neither B'nai Brith Canada, Basman Smith nor John Syrtash is liable for any consequences arising from anyone's reliance on this material, which is presented as general information and not as a legal opinion.* *John Syrtash can be reached at (416) 860-1942, or e-mailed at jsyrtash@basmansmith.com.*

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On Campus

Campus speaker's call to violence sparks protest

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish students and community groups are objecting to incitements to violence made by a speaker during a discussion at York University on the Mideast conflict.

Samer Elatrash, a Palestinian student activist from Concordia University in Montreal, spoke to more than 100 students earlier this month at York. He denounced the "Jewish version of Israeli history" and urged the crowd to "support the Palestinian armed struggle against Israeli settlers."

He also described Israel as a colonial and abusive power and concluded by saying "colonialism can only be defeated by violence. It cannot be negotiated with."

The event's featured speaker was Matan Kaminer, 19, one of 62 high school students who have written Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon declining to serve in the army over Israel's actions in the West Bank and Gaza.

Kaminer's speech was also highly critical of Israel and he advocated an end to the country as a Jewish state, but he said Elatrash's call for violence against Israeli civilians was "unacceptable."

Kaminer finished his talk by encouraging the audience to support "the revolution" through pacifist resistance.

The event, as well as a second talk by Kaminer at the University of Toronto that attracted 350 people, was organized by several groups, including the Palestine Solidarity Group, the Hart House Interfaith Dialogue Committee and the Canadian Arab Federation.

Crossed the line of fair debate: Kaye

Jewish Campus Services director Zac Kaye said Elatrash crossed the line of fair debate when he endorsed violence and terror against Israelis and Jews.

Kay said everyone is entitled to express their views, but the propagation of hatred goes beyond that right.

Marc Levy, a York University fine arts student, wrote *The CJN to* express his anger.

"By uttering his hate-filled commentary, Elatrash contributed to an environment that is becoming increasingly hostile toward Israel, Zionists and Jews at York University," Levy wrote.

"By espousing the virtues of violence, he has created a danger to students... There are already groups on campus who are highly mobilized, some against Israel. To grant them the option of violence as a tool for social change is unconscionable," he added.

In a letter to York University's office of student affairs, Congress spokesperson Lisa Armony wrote that "she accepts that it is the right of student organizations to hold events that examine the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, even when they take a highly critical view of Israeli policies.

"However, speakers cross the line of acceptable discourse when they incite and/or encourage violence against others."

By encouraging students to support armed struggle against Israeli settlers, "Mr. Elatrash was in fact endorsing terrorism against innocent Jewish civilians.

"We believe that words of this nature have no place on a Canadian university campus and could potentially incite acts of violence against Jews on campus or elsewhere," Armony wrote.

Anne Marie Ridley, co-ordinator of York's office of student affairs, said her office has no comment on the issue.

Unlike a prominent group of reservists who have refused to serve in the West Bank and Gaza, Kaminer's group objects to serving in the IDF at all. In addition, while the reservists don't claim to be furthering a personal political agenda, Kaminer was willing to discuss his own at length.

The world's "capitalist elites" are behind the current crisis in the Middle East, he told the York gathering, adding that they "want war to shut down opposition so they can continue to exploit the resources [in the area] and maintain control."

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גידי קורן וחברים

מה יהיה?
חינה סיכום מצב כפי שהוא נראה לי במרץ 2002:
1) חטרור הפלשתינאי איננו קטן מפעולות צבאיות של ישראל. די ברור שכל תגובה ישראלית מביאה עוד צעירים פלשתינאיים להתגדר לחיות שהידים.
2) לא יהיה פיתרון צבאי לבעיית המסכסוך, כי ישראל איננה יכולה לעקור שלושה מליון פלשתינאיים מהגדה ומעזה.
3) המסקנה של הטאמר לעיל היא שרק פיתרון מדיני אולי יכול להביא לשינוי. מטבע הדברים יש בישראל חוסר אמון מוחלט ברצון הפלשתינאים להגיע לשינוי.
4) גם שרון מבין שאי אפשר לחכות לשקט לפני שיתחיל משא ומתן. עד לפני חדשים ספורים הוא חשב לתומו שחומן פועל לטובת ישראל. עכשיו מתברר בקצב מבהיל שההתנחה הזאת היתה מוטעית ושיש לדבר עם מי שמוכן לדבר.
5) ארה"ב לא תתמוך בישראל אוטומאטית אם לא תהיה נכונות למו"מ. האמריקנים מוכנים לחדש טרוריסטים רק אם הם פועלים במגדל התאומים, אבל לא אם הם מפתצצים מסעדה בירושלים.
6) למרות ששרון עושה קולות של נמר, תפסקת הסיוע האמריקני נגרמת לו לעבור לקולות של שטיח ולצאת מערי הגדה תוך שעות.
7) בקלפים הנרועים שיש בידי ישראל, כדאי לה לחזק את הכוחות הפלשתינאיים המתונים, גם אם מנהיגם הוא עראפת. הטענה שהוא יכול לעצור את החמאס היא אבסורדית, בעיקר לאור העובדה שגם ישראל איננה יכולה לעשות הרבה נגד מי שמוכנים להתאבד ולקחת איתם לשמים יהודים ישראלים.
אבל שישאר בינינו.

רצח בדרך בית לחם
זהו ספר הבלש החמישי של בתיה גור. אהבתי את ספריה הקודמים משום שמסביב למעט מאד בלשות היא הביאה חמון חזויה ישראלית. הספר הנוכחי איננו שונה בכך. הרצח קורה בשכונה ירושלמית שיש בה את בני כל העדות, עם כל הדיעות הקדומות והמתחים והאינתיפאדה ומה לא. אתה ממש מרגיש על המרפסת של השכנית, שומע את כל חרכילות השכונתית. ממש חמימות של בית שחי, עם רטיבות וסירחון קל. מה שכן, יש שם מעט מאד אהבת אדם. אולי זה בא לייצג את איך שגור רואה את ישראל העכשווית.
חקטע של הבלש הוא כמו הרבה דברים ישראליים שמנסים להיראות מקצועיים אבל הם בעצם כאילו, או כמו שהגשש קוראים לזה "יְשָׁרָא בְּרִיךְ". כמו כדורגל ישראלי וסצינות אחבה בסרטים ישראליים. בערך בעמוד 50 אתה כבר יודע מי הרוצח, וגור אפילו לא מנסה ליצור אלטרנטיבה. על כל חמישה עמודים של פטפוטים יש כחצי עמוד של בלשות. זהו ספר שאפשר לקחת לחופשה באי בודד ולהשאיר אותו שם. זוה מה שעשיתי.

חופשה באי
חיינו ברפובליקה הדמוקרטית לחופשה עם "רצח בדרך בית לחם". חברה הזמינה אותנו לא לצאת מאזור המלונות וכך עשינו והיה בסדר. אבל למזלנו גרים שם זוג מחקיבוץ שחקימו חווה חקלאית, וחם השלימו עבורינו את מה שהתחייר אינו יכול לראות. למשל, באינטרנט כתוב ששלושה אחוז משמנת מליון תושבי האי נוגעים בנגוע האיידס, שזה מספר מבהיל לפי כל קנה מידה. אמר לי החבר שלדעתו המספר האמיתי הוא הרבה יותר גבוה, כי גבר ממוצע ברפובליקה חי עם ארבע או חמש נשים, ואחר ובאי מספר הנשים והעוברים פחות או יותר שווה- גם אישה ממוצעת חיה עם ארבעה חמישה גברים. זה נשמע מעניין. בעיקר אם אתה חוקר של מחלת האיידס. ואיך קוראים ברפובליקה לציפור תלאומית השחורה? חזיזוס, שזה "יהודי דתי לבוש שחורים", או בקיצור- דוס. אבל שישאר בינינו.

FUGITIVE PIECES -Anne Michaels את אבי קען
אמנות היא אחת הדרכים להתמודד עם זוועה. וכך קראתי את ספר החובה הזה, שבאיכותו ובדרך עיבודו- מקומו על מדף השירה. הכותבת, תושבת טורונטו, משמרת בכתיבתה חוויית שואה. סיפורו של דור השואה והמשכיותו. ילד בן תשע הנמלט מן הגיטו ומאומץ על ידי פרטיזן, מתאר תלאות וקשיים עד הגיעו לטורונטו. התחיינות של החיים הבלתי אפשריים מתקיימת רק בחשלמה עם זכרון המתים. חמוות משמש בסיס לסוד החיים. זהו ספר אהבה יפצא דופן. קשה שלא לחשוב על השלכות השואה, או כל שואה שהיא, על הדור חשני והשלישי. מה היא תרומתנו לעתיד מי שנשללה ממנו חירות- כיצד יידע לאפשר אותה לילדיו? עם בוא חג הפסח יש לנו הזדמנות לחוות את התחלתך של יציאה מעבדות לחירות. בהוצאת McClelland & Stewart.

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Murdered boy's dad blames PA for fomenting hatred

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Rabbi Seth Mandell blames the leadership of the Palestinian Authority (PA) for the death of his 13-year-old son who was murdered last year near the family's West Bank village, not the unknown killers.

"I believe the PA has been inciting people to hate Jews since it came to power and that created the environment that enabled these guys to kill my son," said Rabbi Mandell in a recent interview. He was in Montreal by invitation from Rabbi Chaim Steinmetz of Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Synagogue, where he gave a public talk.

"The hatred it expressed was nurtured and cultivated by the PA's official media and educational system," he said.

Koby Mandell's body and the body of his friend Yosef Ishran, 14, were found in a cave last May, near their home Tekoa, about 45 minutes south of Jerusalem. They were bludgeoned to death and their blood smeared on the walls.

Since his son's death, Rabbi Mandell has been speaking to Jewish communities abroad, trying to put a human face on the Israeli victims of terrorism. He said his travels are a way of coping with his loss, painful though it is to recall over and over the way his happy, sports-loving boy's life ended.

"It's better than the alternative; something like this could literally destroy you."

Rabbi Mandell said he wants Jews abroad to know that all the victims of terrorism, like Koby, were real people, not just statistics.

"Over 300 Israelis have been killed; each one was a Koby, each had a story, a family, a community," he said.

He also wants to reassure Jews here that Israel has nothing to be ashamed of in the way it is dealing with the Palestinian uprising.

"Moral equivalency," he said, "should not be drawn between Palestinians who murder innocent Israelis and Israel's retaliatory military actions that sometimes result in civilian deaths."

Rabbi Mandell said he and his wife, Sherri, never wanted revenge.

"We had low-key anger, but we made a conscious effort not to think about revenge... We wanted to see if we could make this a better world instead and thereby honour Koby's life."

He objects to the current portrayal of the escalation of violence as a cycle of tit-for-tat killing.

"I do not believe the Israeli military or Israelis in general are acting out of revenge, but rather self-defence or to save lives," he said. "If the Palestinians stopped attacking Jews, the military action would be over. When Israelis enter Palestinian towns they do not target innocent people. When a civilian is hurt, Israel apologizes. Not one Palestinian leader or civilian expressed any kind of regret to us."

Nevertheless, he said he feels no ill will towards the Palestinians and is careful not to demonize them as a people.

A native of Connecticut, Rabbi Mandell, 51, and Sherri moved to Israel six years ago from Silver Spring, Md. The former Hillel director at the University of Maryland began teaching at Hebrew University, but recently moved into the high-tech business. The Mandells have three other children, aged seven, 11 and 12.

Rabbi Mandell, who grew up secular, became observant during an earlier stay in Israel and came to believe settling in the biblical land was a fulfillment of his faith.

Today he describes himself as apolitical, even more so since Koby's death.

"I regret that my kid was killed, but not about making aliyah. We are not leaving Israel or Tekoa, because that is where my children's friends and community are," he said.

Rabbi Mandell has created a foundation in memory of his son to help other Israeli families who have lost loved ones. To date, it has raised over $700,000 (US). The money will be used to set up a summer camp for the siblings or children of victims to receive mutual support and counselling while enjoying recreational activities.

Opening in June at a kibbutz near Ashkelon, it is expected that between 250 and 300 children aged nine to 13 years old will attend the camp's five-day sessions, he said.

The foundation's other project is a women's "healing retreat" where mothers and wives can relax in a spa-like setting and discuss their experiences.

West hasn't learned from Sept. 11: Fulford

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Six months after Sept. 11, Americans and Canadians are still lost in a fog of cultural relativism and a desire to accommodate an implacable foe that cannot be mollified, says one of Canada's leading journalists and thinkers.

National Post columnist Robert Fulford made the argument in a wide-ranging lecture March 14 at Winnipeg's Shaarey Zedek Synagogue. In an hour-long talk, part of the Asper Foundation Performances Lecture series, Fulford took issue with political correctness, Canada's foreign policy, multiculturalism and the western world's discomfort with the concept of evil.

One of the first lessons learned from Sept. 11, he said, is that "our most hateful enemies are more dedicated, cunning and patient than we ever imagined. I remember at the time a New York policeman saying that we relied on the incompetence of terrorists. No longer can we assume that a highly technological society is superior to an underdeveloped society and their terrorists."

Fulford stated at the outset that he is no expert on military matters, religious history or the Middle East. Rather, he said he was interpreting how the events of Sept. 11 have changed our outlook and where they fit in history.

He said he expected that following Sept. 11, the American public would have demanded an accounting of the policy and intelligence failures that allowed the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon to happen. Instead, he noted, the public has rallied around U.S. President George W. Bush, who has made the war against terrorism the cornerstone of his foreign policy.

Fulford said North America and Europe have learned little about airport security in the last six months. Although a manicure set was taken away from him before he boarded a plane at Toronto's Pearson International Airport and his wife's eyebrow pluckers were confiscated at Heathrow Airport in London, he said he has otherwise seen little change in airport security.

He argued that there has also been little change in intellectual circles. Over the past 15 years, universities have made it fashionable and politically correct to condemn western civilization, he charged, adding that political correctness is a "plague on society" from which no one has been immune.

In such a climate, Fulford argued, anybody can be accused of being racist, imperialist, sexist or uncaring.

"This has created an atmosphere of dread that has affected all institutions," he said. "It is a matter of purchasing social peace at any price, where truth is the principal casualty. We have come to live in fear of giving offence to anyone.

"It is worse than McCarthyism, because you could fight McCarthyism."

Bush's repeated use of the word "evil" to describe Osama bin Laden and his ilk has been a cultural as well as a political statement, Fulford observed.

"Our civilization has abolished the concept of evil," he said. "We have replaced it with the concept of pathology. Bad people have wounded psyches. That makes everyone a victim, even a terrorist."

Fulford compared Canada's attachment to multiculturalism to a religious tenet.

"Multiculturalism views all cultures and religions as equal," he said. "Those who disagree are treated as eccentric or worse."

Along those lines, Fulford said that after Sept. 11, the news media sought out North American Muslims to assure the public that Islam is a peaceful religion, that its extremists have very little support, that "Jihad" means inner struggle and not holy war, and that Islam does not permit suicide bombings.

Yet, Fulford said, not a single Muslim cleric anywhere has spoken up against terrorism and claimed it is wrong.

While the western world has become more open to questioning religion and religious texts over the past several hundred years, the Muslim world has gone in the opposite direction, to the point where questioning anything in the Koran courts death, Fulford argued.

Prior to Sept. 11, Muslim terrorism had been seen principally as Israel's problem, despite evidence to the contrary, Fulford said.

"I think we in the West now have a better understanding of Israel's position."

Canada's modern foreign policy, he noted, was enunciated more than 40 years ago by the late Lester Pearson. In it, we see ourselves as "honest brokers" who listen to both sides, find areas of agreement and try to build on them, Fulford said.

"It sounds wonderful, but what if there are no areas of agreement? What if one side's only goal is to wipe out the other side?

"In the Middle East, we act as if everyone wants peace and it is just a matter of some misunderstanding. That is why our government tries to deal even-handedly with Israel and the Palestinians, while CBC reporters condemn violence on both sides.

"George Jonas recently wrote in the *National Post* that it has long been our country's belief that we achieve moral stature in the world by remaining strictly neutral in a conflict between good and evil.

"We should have taken Israel's side long ago."

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Coast to Coast

The Saudi plan: real or an empty gesture?

In the *CJN*'s March 7 issue, this column asked how the Saudis could be sincere about pursuing an unofficial peace initiative that seemed to call for normalization of relations with Israel while remaining wedded to fanatical Islamic clerics who revile Jews and call for Israel's destruction. "We may soon find out" were the column's concluding words.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

It didn't take long to see the direction events were taking. In only days, the Middle East Media Research Institute (MEMRI), which translates the Arab media, revealed that the Saudi daily *Al-Riyadh* (all Saudi media are state-controlled) had published a profoundly anti-Semitic article perpetuating a variation of the age-old blood libel, that Jews use the blood of Christians and Muslims to prepare Purim pastries.

The *National Post* covered the story in both an article and editorial (March 15), though very few other media outlets picked up the story. Recounting other instances of Arab anti-Semitism, the editorial concluded that Arab "offers of 'normal' relations with Israel in exchange for sacrifices of Jewish security" are not to be believed, and "will remain so until Arab governments and intellectuals stop nuturing venomous myths about the Jews designed to direct the hatreds and fears of the Arab masses against an outside enemy rather than against their domestic oppressors."

On NBC News' "Meet the Press" (March 17), moderator Tim Russert interviewed the *New York Times*' Thomas Friedman and the *Weekly Standard*'s Bill Kristol about prospects for the Arabs' normalizing relations with Israel in light of this week's Arab League summit in Beirut.

Friedman disclosed something about the Saudi initiative that he found fascinating, but which might cause concern: when Crown Prince Abdullah divulged his peace plan to the *New York Times* reporter, he had not even told anyone else in the royal family or anybody else in Saudi Arabia for that matter. For Friedman, Abdullah's plan was a "coup d'etat" meant as a "jolt" to the family – a wake-up call to join the real world. Maybe it's that, or maybe it is an initiative without any meaningful support.

Russert asked Friedman to comment on the backtracking in the so-called Saudi peace plan, about the "profound" difference between "normalization" of relations between the Arabs and Israel, as initially reported, and mere "peace" being referred to now.

"Is it time for the Arab nations to put up or shut up?" Russert asked.

"Oh, it's well past time," Friedman replied.

Friedman went on to boldly predict a "real fight" in Beirut over the future of the Arab world. How genuine that long-overdue internal debate remains to be seen. Of interest also is the amount of attention the western media may devote to the broader Middle East in the wake of the Beirut summit, since it ordinarily transfixes on Israeli-Palestinian affairs. Once again, we may soon find out.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

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Remember the victims at the seder

Continued from page 1

The physical acts of reclining, of eating special foods, of standing to greet Elijah the prophet, help us feel the joy of *yetziat Mitzrayim*, of leaving Egypt. And, in an affirmation of the importance of peoplehood, we mark this special moment not as individuals but as a community.

In that spirit, we cannot proceed with business as usual during these difficult times. We must improvise a new ritual that marks our present pain, that illustrates our connection with Israel and with Israelis today. Let each of us, as we gather at our seders, intrude on our own celebrations by leaving one setting untouched, by having one empty chair at our table.

Let us take a moment to reflect on our losses from this terrible year-and-a-half. And as we do that, let us not just remember the dead as hundreds of nameless and faceless people, but let us personalize them. Let us take the time to find out the name of one victim of the current conflict, one Jew who cannot celebrate this year's holiday, one family in mourning.

Let us call out the name of Benny Avraham, age 20, one of the Israelis kidnapped by Hezbollah in October 2000, and now presumed dead. Let us call out the name of Koby Mandell, age 13, a young American immigrant brutally killed last May, whose father, Rabbi Seth Mandell, talks about the empty seat at his Shabbat table and shares the pain of watching other boys grow up, watching their voices deepen, their shoulders broaden, their gaits quicken, even as his son lies dead.

Let us call out the name of Ayelet Haschachar Levy, age 28, who was "guilty" of the crime of walking down an alley near Jerusalem's Machaneh Yehudah marketplace – the wrong place at the wrong time. Let us call out the name of Mordechai Schijveschuurder, 43, Tzira Schijveschuurder, 41, Ra'aya Schijveschuurder, 14, Avraham Yitzhak Schijveschuurder, 4, Hemda Schijveschuurder, 2, five members of one family murdered in the Jerusalem Sbarro Pizzeria bombing. Let us call out the names of Shlomo Nehmad, 40, Gafnit Nehmad, 32, Shiraz, 7, and Liran, 3, the family killed, along with three cousins, as they spilled into the streets at the end of Shabbat just a few weeks ago.

And as we call out these names, unlike too many of our enemies, let us not call for vengeance, let us not call for more bloodshed. Instead, as we mourn, let us hope; as we remember the many lives lost during this crazy and pointless war, let us pray ever more intensely for a just and lasting peace.

Information about many of the Israelis killed in the current violence can be found at the Israeli Foreign Ministry's Web site: http://www.mfa.gov.il/mfa/ home.asp. Click on the "In Memoriam" section.

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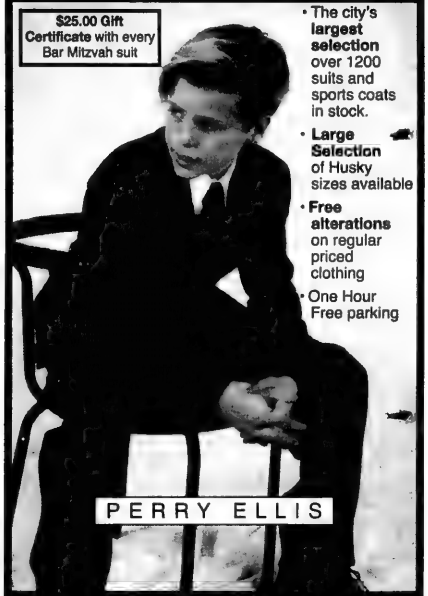
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Feature

A Passover Miracle

By ELI RUBENSTEIN

The holiday of Passover commemorates a time when the Jewish people were saved from the hands of the Egyptians some 3,500 years ago. But the Passover that took place in April 1944 led to a lesser-known miracle for one Jewish family in the town of Kosice.

During World War II, in the Nazi-occupied countries, most Jews were unable to escape the Nazis' machinery of death and destruction. For those few Jews who did miraculously escape, the majority attribute it to chance, luck or divine intervention. Yet there are stories of rescue, perhaps only a very few, where logic, a pattern of action and consequence, is very much apparent.

This is one of those rare stories.

* * *

Aaron Lorber was part of a family of five living in Kosice, a town located in eastern Czechoslovakia (or eastern Hungary, depending on the era). During World War II, after the occupation of Czechoslovakia in 1938, Kosice was part of Hungary, having been handed over by its ally, Nazi Germany. Moshe Lorber, Aaron's father, was involved in the family business, a prosperous sawmill located in Kosice. The business employed some 100 workers from the region.

Until 1944, Hungary's Jews fared better than the rest of Europe's Jews. Despite the increase in anti-Semitism, Hungary's Jews were spared the worst excesses of Nazi occupation. But on March 19, when the Nazis took over direct control of the country, all this changed. Within weeks, the ghettoization and deportation of Hungarian Jews to the death camps in Poland was being organized – and Kosice was the first town on the list.

On the Sunday following Pesach, rumours circulated that the Lorbers' neighbourhood was to be evacuated next. Upon hearing the news, Aaron's mother, Esther Lorber, started packing; Moshe Lorber went outside to fetch his bicycle.

"Where are you going?" his wife asked.

"To pay the workers – it's Sunday, their regular payday," he replied calmly.

"But what if we are separated? What if we are evacuated before you come back?" she pleaded.

"They worked for their money and I am going to pay them," he answered. "I don't want anyone to ever say that a Jew ran away with their money," he continued. "Don't worry; if we don't meet here, I'll meet you at the place where we are being gathered."

Moshe reached the factory, where a long line of workers patiently awaited him. But two men seemed to be lingering, purposely not proceeding to the front of the line. Moshe feared the worst. Perhaps they had an old score to settle. Finally, the rest of the line was finished, and the two men approached him.

"We have decided to save you," said Mr. Biak, one of the workers. "My friend here, Mr. Oravec, will take you in because his house is on the outskirts of town. They are much less likely to look for you there. But you must hurry!"

Mr. Oravec immediately rushed back to the house to collect the Lorber family. A few hours later, Mr. Biak led Moshe and Esther to the Oravec home, avoiding the rush of panicked Jews hastily heading toward the evacuation location.

The Oravec family of five lived in a humble, two-room house (neither room larger than 7x3 metres), without running water, toilet facilities, a separate kitchen area or a basement. To this they welcomed the five members of the Lorber family – Moshe and Esther and their three children, Aaron, Tibi and Yehudit (barely four years old at the time) – plus three others: Moshe's sister Bertha, his brother-in-law, Leib, and their son, Kalman. The Oravecs moved their entire family into one room while their eight guests occupied the other.

Nine cramped and starving months later, the Soviet troops reached Kosice. For the first time since the day they fled their home in Kosice, the hidden Jewish family gazed at the sun in the blue sky and breathed fresh air.

"The fresh air tasted like whiskey," Aaron, who was only 15 years old at the time, remembers today.

Is that the whole story? We have barely scratched the surface. There were countless other brushes with danger before and even after their liberation. Yet events conspired to save the family from discovery and execution. Each and every time.

Aaron recalls on the day of the evacuation of Kosice, Moshe and Esther were fleeing toward the Oravec home in the outskirts of the city. As they ran, they noticed a Hungarian policeman at the end of the road, stationed by the Nazis to apprehend escaping Jews. Trying to bide time, the couple stopped at a water pump and began to wash their face. A Roma (gypsy) woman happened to be watching and understood their dilemma immediately. She led them down a secret alleyway to safety.

Aaron also remembers the day when another Hungarian policeman, perhaps acting on a tip, arrived in the Oravec household demanding the door be opened to the second room – the one in which the Lorbers hid. When he was told the locked room belonged to the daughter, who was at the market with the key, the policeman dragged Mr. Oravec's wife off in search of the daughter, and then suddenly lost interest, releasing her without further investigation.

And Aaron will never forget the evening when Mr. Oravec, filled with a little too much to drink, started yelling in the streets, "I like Jews! I have no problem with Jews! Why do people cause them so much trouble?"

On yet another night, a friend of Mr. Oravec's, a Ukrainian Nazi, accompanied him home. The two spent the night drinking, with the soldier asking Mr. Oravec all the while to take him into the other room. A short time later, the same soldier returned, broke down the door – but saw nothing. Weeks earlier, Moshe had instructed Mr. Oravec to bring wood from the lumber mill; with it he built a fake wall, and behind it he made room for a hidden passageway, less than one foot wide. The panicked family was squeezed into this space as the soldier's eyes scanned the room. One knock on the wall would have revealed that it was hollow and would have led to their discovery.

Then there was the harrowing morning when one of the neighbours saw Moshe in the Oravec kitchen. The neighbour reported the discovery to his wife. She said, "You think I didn't know. Keep your mouth shut – it's no one else's business!"

And one time, Hungarian collaborators accused Mr. Biak of hiding the Lorbers. He was beaten and tortured, but brave and loyal Mr. Biak did not divulge a word!

Illustration by Aaron Lorber

Finally the day of liberation came. That same day, the Lorbers returned to their old home, where their landlady had moved in their absence. She welcomed them back and immediately began to cook for them. At that time, Russian soldiers were roaming the city in search of booty. Two drunken soldiers barged into the room where the Lorbers were standing. They whispered to each other, and then one asked the other whether anyone knew the time.

Aaron, proud of the bar mitzvah watch he was still wearing, immediately responded. His father grimaced and Aaron immediately realized his mistake. He ran to the kitchen and threw his watch into a pile of vegetable peelings.

But the Russian soldiers were on to him. They ran into the kitchen after him, demanding the watch. When Aaron denied having one, one of the soldiers began frisking the 15-year-old boy. The soldier jammed his finger into the boy's shirt pocket, and cried out angrily as he pulled his fingers out, one of which was now bleeding profusely. (Aaron, an aspiring artist, always kept a razor in his pocket to sharpen his drawing tools.)

The enraged soldier dragged Aaron out of the kitchen toward the front door, pointing a gun at his head, a grim signal of the execution he was planning for the boy. Only the intervention of his fellow soldier – and the landlady, who offered him whiskey, bandages and a few soft words – kept the soldier from shooting the young lad. As it was, the two defenders had to drag the still-threatening soldier out of the house, away from the boy.

These and many other miraculous escapes happened. Yet we still have not addressed the central question of this tale which is, in fact, the very essence of the whole story: why did Mr. Biak and Mr. Oravec risk their lives, and the lives of their loved ones, to save the Lorber family? The question was answered by Mr. Biak one Sunday when he came to visit the hiding family.

"We saved you because you always treated us with respect," he said that Sunday afternoon. (In addition to working at the factory, Mr. Biak would occasionally do odd jobs around the Lorber home.)

"My mother never looked down on any one. She was respectful to all," Aaron confirms as he retells the story.

"And you always paid your workers on time. Not only that, you would give us advances whenever we asked," Mr. Biak continued, as Mr. Oravec nodded.

"The week before the evacuation order was issued, you were especially nice to us. Do you remember? We came to your home asking for an advance, and you, Moshe, answered the door. You apologized, saying it was not possible, it being your Jewish holiday when you could not touch money. [It was during the first days of Pesach.] Just then your wife came to the door, and joined the conversation.

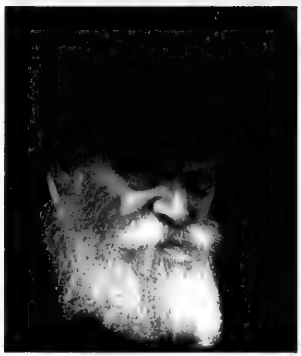
"'Moshe,' she insisted. 'There's no problem. Just take them to the safe, open it up and let them take out the money.' You agreed, and we were able to receive our advance.

"We were very moved by this gesture. It impressed us so much that you were even willing to interrupt your holy day to help us. And that is why we decided to help you."

* * *

Why must we tell these stories? So that we remember that even in the "Kingdom of Night," there lived exceptional human beings who followed their conscience, people who defied the Nazi evil and the complicity and silence of their own neighbours. These individuals, it has been noted, saved not only Jews but the very reputation of humanity. And we tell these stories, perhaps, because it reveals to us that – at least some of the time – the universe seems to be unfolding as it should.

Eli Rubenstein is the national director of the March of the Living and the religious leader of Congregation Habonim in Toronto.



Celebration 100

11 Nissan – March 24

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The Rebbe's Message

From the beginning of the Rebbe's leadership, his message has remained constant: Each and every Jew is invaluable and essential to Am Yisrael, and through each and everyone's acts, words and thoughts, we can and will achieve the purpose of creation and bring the world to perfection.

Moving Forward

The Rebbe's teachings continue to inspire all of mankind. The wide-ranging programs he set in motion continue to grow and to provide for the spiritual, emotional and often physical needs of Jews around the world. The thousands of men and women who serve as *Shluchim*, his emissaries, reach out to every Jew in all four corners of the world, enriching the lives of Am Yisrael and beyond.

Taking Part

Maimonides states, "One should view the world as hanging in the balance, and the next act will tip the scales for the individual and the whole world." In a similar vein, the Rebbe said, "The era of Redemption is within our grasp... Moshiach is ready to come ... all we have to do is add in acts of Goodness and Kindness."

On the occasion of this auspicious day, let each of us resolve to do one more mitzvah, one more act of Goodness and Kindness. May that deed bring security and peace for our brethren in Israel and the ultimate Redemption through Moshiach.

May we celebrate this Passover with Moshiach in Jerusalem.

For any Passover information contact the local Chabad Lubavitch branch
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Edmonton hosts its first Jewish film festival

By TAMARA STECYK
Special to The CJN

EDMONTON — Despite snowy weather and temperatures of -37 C, four films attracted almost 900 people to the first-ever Edmonton Jewish Film Festival.

Chair Michael Saouli said the goal of the festival, held March 6-7 at West Edmonton Mall's Cineplex Odeon theatre, was to entertain the community and encourage people to think for themselves as opposed to accepting what they see on the news.

"We let the movies do the talking," he said.

Saouli, who is also on the board of the Jewish Federation of Edmonton and a producer for Alliance Atlantis, is proud of the award-winning films in the festival, especially *The Believer*.

"This was a major coup. It was almost like a stroke of luck," he said of the true story of a Jewish neo-Nazi.

The Believer explores a Jewish student's journey as he tries to understand the meaning of Judaism in his life. The film, which does not have a Canadian distributor because of its strong subject matter, won the 2001 Sundance Festival's Grand Jury Prize for best drama. It will be screened next at Toronto's Jewish Film Festival on April 21.

Saouli says after watching *The Believer*, most of the audience walked out of the theatre without saying a word.

The Man Who Cried, starring Johnny Depp and Christian Ricci, opened the festival. Ricci plays Suzie, who tries to find her father after he emigrates from Russia. Raised by a British family, her talent for singing and dancing brings her to Paris, where she meets Cesar (Depp), a Gypsy, and Lola, a fellow dancer from Moscow. Following the Nazis' takeover of Paris, Suzie must decide whether she should remain with Cesar or try to find her father in America.

A film from the Czech Republic, *Divided We Fall*, explores the decisions that a childless couple, Josef and Marie Cizek, make in Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia. The Cizeks create a safe haven for David Wiener, a Jew and the sole surviving member of the couple's employer's family. They risk their lives as they hide David from the Nazis. *Divided We Fall* was nominated last year for an Academy Award for best foreign film but lost to *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

The fourth film in the festival, *One Day in September*, won the 2000 Academy Award for best documentary feature for its detailed look at how police handled the Israeli hostage situation at the 1972 Munich Olympics. *One Day in September* shows footage taken at the time and has interviews with Jamal Al Gashey, the only known surviving Palestinian terrorist involved in the incident.

Saouli said he plans to chair the festival for one more year before handing over the project to another volunteer.

"People loved the movies. The general public said we should have [a festival] every year," he said.

Saouli said he is considering moving the festival to a warmer month of the year after the theatre manager told him the extreme weather lowered attendance by about 150 people per screening.

He estimates the Edmonton Jewish Film Festival will end up netting more than $16,000 to help finance one of the many projects funded by the federation.

Up until 1998, Edmonton had an Israeli film festival that used video projection to show movies, but its highest-ever profit was just under $800, Saouli said.

HELPING A HOSPITAL: Torontonian Atarah Grysman gives a doll to a patient in the pediatric department at Laniado Hospital in Netanya during a recent visit. As a counsellor at Camp Moshava, Grysman had her campers make dolls for the young patients. Starting with the 11th annual Dr. Joseph Weil Memorial Lecture on April 21, Canadian Friends of Laniado Hospital, Ontario region, will direct all funds raised locally to Laniado's new children's hospital, which honours the 1.5 million children killed in the Holocaust.

Canada's role limited, says Graham

Continued from page 7

"Israel's acts are seen in a totally different light. Israel is taking steps to defend itself in extremely difficult circumstances. We have urged only that it do so in a way that moves the peace process along."

He also addressed Israel's claim that it is being singled out.

"I think that is a perfectly fair comment. When I spoke to Rabbi Melchior, he certainly made that comment very forcefully that in their view, it is quite unfair that so many of the resolutions are directed toward one state and nothing is said about other states who have egregious human rights records.

"I emphasized [with Rabbi Melchior] that we will work in consultation with Israel during this session," and Rabbi Melchior expressed the need for Canada to continue to be engaged on these issues, Graham said.

As for battling general anti-Israel bias at the commission, Graham said Canada's role is limited.

"We don't control the whole process there. We are one of a group of states and if the other[s] decide to go down a certain track we can only dispute, object, etc. We can't stop that from taking place."

In a brief submitted last month to the department of foreign affairs, Canadian Jewish Congress said the commission's resolutions "are inflammatory and unfairly place the responsibility for the condition of the Palestinians solely at the doorstep of Israel. There is no recognition of Palestinian violence and terrorism, abetted by states such as Iran and Syria, that in recent months has been responsible for the murder and maiming of hundreds of innocent Israeli civilians.

"The time has come for Canada to end this sham, seize the moral high ground and demonstrate bold leadership in saying that enough is enough," CJC stated. "We respectfully urge Canada to vote against one-sided, inflammatory anti-Israel resolutions on the agenda of this year's [commission meeting]."

Group aids Orthodox youth fight drug, alcohol addictions

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — We must do all we can to help young people who have spun out of control, says Rabbi Eitan Eckstein, the founder of a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping Jews around the world overcome their addiction problems.

This belief impelled Rabbi Eckstein to found Retorno, which treats Orthodox youth aged 13 to 18 and adults who have drug and alcohol addictions, eating disorders and compulsive behaviours such as gambling.

Founded four years ago, Retorno's main facility is in Givat Shemesh, Israel, with branches in Mexico, New York, Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and Venezula.

Children, even in Israel, are "hanging around, looking for how they will fill the night," said Rabbi Eckstein, who was in Toronto recently to promote the creation of a branch here and to raise funds for the organization.

Peer pressure and curiosity lead them to try drugs or alcohol at least once; personal problems lead them to continue, he said.

"These kids are looking for help. They are suffering, even if they are laughing, and hanging around, burning their hands with cigarettes or cutting themselves," he said.

It is essential to find out the real reasons why they act out, Rabbi Eckstein said, and then find a way to "release them from the burden."

Those reasons might be violence in the home or outside it, sexual abuse or even involvement in the criminal world.

One of the first steps that Retorno takes is what the rabbi called deep therapy. The individual is put in a small, dark room with one chair, for 10 minutes a day. After the 10 minutes, the light is turned on, and the person is told to look at him or herself in a mirror.

"They are afraid to look at themselves," Rabbi Eckstein said. "After four or five days, they open their eyes, and usually cry. That is the first step to treatment."

The program is based on the 12-step approach of Alcoholics Anonymous, and includes private, group and family treatment. The individual is in treatment for seven to eight months, although, the rabbi said, it can be two months until he or she is ready to accept treatment in earnest.

Staff includes medical doctors, psychiatrists, counsellors, social workers and psychologists who are either experts on addiction or are ex-addicts themselves.

"These youngsters know how to wrap ordinary [helping staff] around their finger – these guys know all the tricks, because they have used them themselves," Rabbi Eckstein said.

Each Retorno branch in North and South America and Europe provides support group services and guidance for parents of youngsters having problems, as well as for individuals returning from treatment in Israel.

In addition to deep therapy, treatment includes art, nature, water and movement therapies, as well as creative writing. Rabbi Eckstein also encourages the youngsters to return to religious observance if they have strayed.

It costs $1 million a year to operate the Givat Shemesh facility. Treatment fees are high, at $4,000 (US) month. For this reason, one of Rabbi Eckstein's aims is to be able to provide scholarship money.

Although the promotional literature cites a success rate of 80 per cent, the rabbi admitted that research is considered valid only after five years. However, he said, "I don't take statistics seriously. To me, every success is a 100 per cent success, and every failure is a 100 per cent failure."

For more information, e-mail Retorno at retorno@retorno.org, or call 011-972-2-999-8243 or 011-972-5-377-6877.

Doctor sues McGill in leukemia case

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Barry Mishkin, a 33-year-old physician with life-threatening leukemia, is suing McGill University for $12.85 million, claiming that the origin of his disease can be traced back to unhealthy conditions he worked under when he was a laboratory technician there 10 years ago.

In his suit, Mishkin alleges that he was unwittingly exposed to carcinogens such as formaldehyde and benzene because of an improperly functioning ventilation system in the east wing of the Strathcona building, where he worked in the summer of 1992. He alleges that McGill "knew or ought to have known" of the risk and neglected to make the necessary repairs or to inform those working in the building of the health risks.

Mishkin, who is represented by lawyer Gordon Kugler, says that two other young men, identified as J.B., 28, and L.A., 31, who worked in the labs in 1991 and 1992 respectively, have also contracted leukemia.

His lawsuit states that the statistical probability of a 30-year-old getting leukemia (the age at which Mishkin was diagnosed with acute lymphacytic leukemia) is about .7 per 100,000 individuals. The chance that three young men working in the same place would get leukemia are "so low that it is infinitesimal."

McGill knew, prior to 1993, when renovations were completed, that the Strathcona east wing ventilation system was "either non-existent, non-operational and/or so defective that the building was considered to be a health hazard," he alleges.

The suit contains the text of a speech the former chair of the anatomy department gave in May 1995 at a testimonial event for the former dean of medicine. In the speech, he speaks of renovations needed and those already done to the Strathcona building: "In the east wing, a major ventilating system was installed in the gross anatomy and histology laboratories, thus avoiding the risk of being closed down as health hazards."

McGill has issued a statement denying any responsiblity for Mishkin's medical condition.

"Dr. Mishkin has provided no credible evidence of a link between his leukemia and the time he spent in the Strathcona Anatomy and Dentistry Building a decade ago," McGill's statement reads.

As for his claim that two other former students suffer leukemia, the university responds that this "presumes that there is a link between their condition and his own. There are many types of leukemia, and their causes are unknown."

McGill adds, "Coincidences are not evidence of cause and effect, either scientifically or legally."

It further states that a "major renovation project" was carried out in the Strathcona building in 1992-93, "including work on the ventilation and heating systems... It is wrong to infer from this that the building was unsafe."

The Montreal Jewish community has taken a special interest in the case of Mishkin, who was born here and now lives in New York. Last September, 1,600 prospective donors turned out be tested to see if they might have matching bone marrow. A transplant is Mishkin's only hope of survival.

Neither of his parents, Shaindel and Seymour Mishkin, also a doctor, nor his two siblings are a match.

Mishkin grew up attending Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem Synagogue, where his parents are members.

Drives were held this winter in Riverdale and Long Island, N.Y., where a total of over 4,000 Jews of mostly eastern European ancestry (likely the best match) came forward.

Mishkin's name was also included in multiple drives for donors in other U.S. cities, Mishkin's mother said in an interview.

On March 18, Mishkin was scheduled to undergo a transplant using an imperfect match at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Hospital in New York, she said.

No information is available on who the donor is or what city he or she was from because such data is kept confidential for one year, she said.

The major part of Mishkin's claim is $12 million for loss of earning capacity over a normal lifetime. The lawsuit says that Mishkin probably would have completed a fellowship in gastroenterology, if he had not become ill, and become a specialist in the United States. He calculates that he would have earned approximately $500,000 Cdn a year through to age 65.

Mishkin dropped out of a fellowship program at Yeshiva University's Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York, the suit states. Mishkin, who is married and has a three-year-old son, graduated from McGill with a bachelor of science degree in 1991. He later studied medicine at Albert Einstein. Before he became ill, he was chief resident of internal medicine at the Montefiore Medical Center in the Bronx.

BBYO PRESIDENTS MEET: The BBYO n'siot and gedolim (presidents) from the Canadian regions: northwest Canada, eastern Canada, Lake Ontario, Red River and Evergreen met in Washington, D.C., recently for the international executive meetings. Seen here (back row, from left) Aviva Zimmerman, NWC; Adam Oppenheim, NWC; Jill Pottel, ECR; Andy Fenyes, LOR; Catriona Remocker, EGR; Aliza Millo, RRR; (front row) Mikey Kaufman, ECR; Dan Sacks, EGR; Josh Slayen, RRR; and Kevin Goodman, LOR.

At last Sunday's rally. [Frances Kraft photo]

Toronto Jews hold rally

Continued from page 3

after 50, and I did not overcome the Soviet KGB to succumb before the PLO."

He recalled how much it meant to him that Jews around the world once added an extra matzah to their seder table for Jews in the Soviet Union.

"This Passover, rather than an extra matzah, let's add a little extra meaning to the seder's closing words: 'Next year in Jerusalem.' For next year, all of the world's Jews should be able to celebrate in peace in Israel."

Israel's consul general in Toronto, Meir Rohem, exhorted the audience to show their solidarity by visiting Israel, investing in Israel and making aliyah. He called the cancellation of Israel trips such as the March of the Living "a tragic mistake."

Julia Koschitzky, chair of the consortium said that those who cannot be present in Israel are expressing their solidarity through activism and prayer.

"These are critical days," she said.

Cantor Yaakov Motzen, rabbis John Moscowitz, Moshe Shulman and Baruch Frydman-Kohl, and Daniel Held, facilitator of the Toronto Jewish Youth Council, also took part in the formal program.

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March of the Living cancels Israel portion

Continued from page 5

Israel, as well as no Canadian government advisory against travel to Israel and a minimum of 20 participants for the full itinerary.

As of March 11, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade was advising Canadians to "consider deferring" tourist travel to Israel. It also advised travellers to avoid certain areas.

In Israel, the Jewish Agency and the Ministry of Education are "still saying they feel we can make the trip, but we have to take extraordinary security precautions," said Finkelstein.

Among the alternatives available to the 60 Toronto participants (down from more than 100 before the violence in Israel intensified), organizers are suggesting UJA Federation's Yom Ha'atzmaut Solidarity Mission to Israel next month or next year's Anguish to Hope trip to Poland and Israel for university-age students, under the auspices of UIA.

Last week, some Toronto participants were looking into joining the Montreal group, Najman said.

"Officially, we're keeping the group together," said Seymour Epstein, executive director of UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, which is responsible for the March in Toronto. "We're talking about a Shabbaton and ongoing educational programs. The group has been terribly disappointed."

Epstein said he hoped most of the group would be eligible for a "special March," which would run next year. Normally, the Toronto MOL runs every other year.

Winnipeger Morris Henoch, a longtime chaperone for participants from outside Toronto and Montreal, which as of last Thursday included 14 students from Winnipeg and 10 from Calgary, said that two weeks ago, he would also have said the trip couldn't be done without going to Israel. But now he feels that a safe trip – "both emotionally and physically" – can be provided with a revised Poland itinerary.

With the new schedule, the last weekend in Poland will be dedicated to life and rebirth, and there will be additional time in Toronto on the way home for "debriefing and discussion," said Henoch.

"Of course, all the communities had people dropping out after each bombing in Israel. We now have people coming back in. It's a very sad statement, but under the conditions today, that's unfortunately the reality."

Seymour Epstein

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Moshe Ya'alon

Ya'alon appointed new IDF chief of staff

By GIDEON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The cabinet Sunday unanimously authorized the appointment of Major General Moshe "Bugi" Ya'alon as the IDF's 17th chief of staff. Ya'alon will take up the post on July 9, in place of outgoing chief of staff Lieutenant General Shaul Mofaz.

Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said he chose Ya'alon for the position because of his credibility, modesty, directness and professionalism, adding that these are values required by a commander standing at the head of an army.

The IDF's senior ranks see Ya'alon as a professional authority and a personal example, he said.

Ben-Eliezer said Ya'alon has been through the widest range of command posts out of the four candidates for chief of staff. Ya'alon served as head of the elite special-operations force, Sayeret Matkal, head of the Paratroop Brigade, head of IDF forces in the West Bank, GOC Central Command, head of military intelligence and deputy chief of staff.

Ben-Eliezer told the cabinet that the change of guard was taking place as the fighting continued and that consideration had been given to Ya'alon's combat experience and his knowledge of the territory.

Saudi plan offers normal ties, calls for 'just solution'

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

BEIRUT — Arab leaders meeting in Beirut this week for the Arab League summit will offer Israel normal ties in return for a complete Israeli withdrawal from occupied lands and a "just solution" for Palestinian refugees, according to a draft text.

The following is a translation of the draft text of a Saudi-initiated peace plan, due to be presented for approval at the summit:

The Council of the Arab League, which convenes at the level of a summit on March 27-28, 2002 in Beirut, affirms the Arab position that achieving just and comprehensive peace is a strategic choice and goal for the Arab states.

After the council heard the statement of Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz in which he called for the establishment of normal relations in the context of a comprehensive peace with Israel, and that Israel declares its readiness to withdraw from the occupied Arab territories in compliance with United Nations resolutions 242 and 338 and Security Council resolution 1397, enhanced by the Madrid [peace] conference and the land-for-peace principle, and the acceptance of an independent, sovereign Palestinian state with al-Quds al-Sharif [Jerusalem] as its capital, the council calls on the Israeli government to review its policy and to resort to peace while declaring that just peace is its strategic option.

The council also calls on Israel to assert the following:

· Complete withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied since 1967, including full withdrawal from the occupied Syrian Golan Heights and the remaining occupied parts of south Lebanon to the June 4, 1967 lines.

· To accept to find an agreed, just solution to the problem of Palestinian refugees in conformity with Resolution 194.

· To accept an independent and sovereign Palestinian state on the Palestinian lands occupied since June 4, 1967 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and with Jerusalem (al-Quds al-Sharif) as its capital in accordance with Security Council Resolution 1397.

In return, the Arab states assert the following:

· To consider the Arab-Israeli conflict over and to enter into a peace treaty with Israel to consolidate this.

· To achieve comprehensive peace for all the states of the region.

· To establish normal relations within the context of comprehensive peace with Israel.

International community urged to support propsal

The council calls on the Israeli government and the Israelis as a whole to accept this initiative to protect the prospects of peace and to spare bloodshed so as to enable the Arab states and Israel to coexist side by side and to provide for the coming generations a secure, stable and prosperous future.

It calls on the international community with all its organizations and states to support the initiative.

The council calls on its presidency, its secretary general and its follow-up committee to follow up on the special contacts related to this initiative and to support it on all levels, including the United Nations, the United States, Russia, the European Union and the Security Council.

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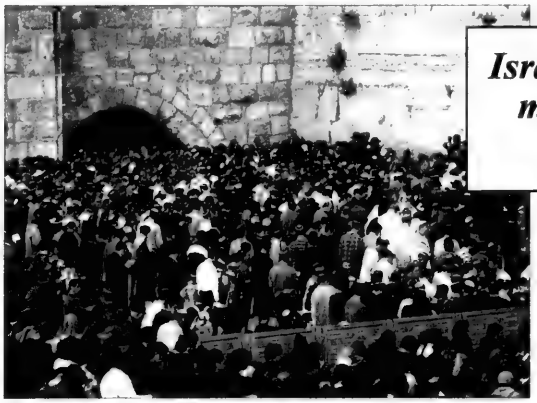

[Isranet photo]

Israel to spend NIS 23 million to renovate Western Wall

By GIDEON ALON
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The government decided Sunday to allot NIS 23 million to finance improvements and renovations to the area surrounding the Western Wall, as well as to allocate funds to a program sponsoring visits by soldiers and youths to the Wall and its surrounding areas.

According to the decision, the improvements will be financed by the budgets of nine government ministries.

The program, which is hoped to improve "the fundamental and functional condition of the area surrounding the Western Wall, so as to provide visitors with suitable conditions," was initiated by the Ministries of Tourism and Religious Affairs, as well as by the municipality of Jerusalem.

Top Islamic leader calls Palestinian suicide bombers 'holy'

By YAIR SHELEG
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Sheikh Mohammed Sayed Tantaoui, a leading Egyptian cleric and former rector of Cairo's prestigious al-Azhar University, last week praised Palestinian suicide bombers as "holy."

According to Tantaoui, "anyone who blows himself up among aggressors who destroy houses and kill women and children, while defending the honour of our brothers in Palestine is holy, because he blows himself up in the heart of an enemy who is raping his lands, disgracing our honour and killing people."

Tantaoui added that, "if the suicide bomber is in an Israeli town, and it is proved that there are aggressors there and he blows himself up, killing men, women and children, he is also holy, because he cannot distinguish between them." However, the sheikh said that the bombers should not detonate intentionally "among the weak [women and children]" because it did not conform to the tenets of Islam and humanity.

About two months ago, Tantaoui took part in an inter-religious council in Alexandria, at the end of which he signed the council's closing statement that, "the murder of innocents – supposedly in the name of god – is sacrilege of His holy name and disgraces the religion worldwide." However, after participating in the council, Tantaoui received death threats from Islamic extremists, which may have caused him to change his attitude.

Boy killed by Palestinians, not Israelis: report

Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — A Palestinian boy whose death became a symbol of the intifada actually was actually killed by Palestinian, not Israeli, gunfire, as was widely reported at the time his death was filmed, a German news report says.

German ARD Television said news footage of the death of Mohammed Al Durrah was censored by the Palestinians to make it look as if he had been killed by Israeli gunfire.

The dramatic footage, taken in September 2000, showed the boy being sheltered by his father shortly before being shot dead during a gun battle between Israeli troops and rioters attaking their position at Gaza's Netzarim Junction. The footage was broadcast repeatedly on Arab television and greatly contributed to anti-Israel fervour in the early stages of the intifada.

IDF officials said it was a "grave mistake" for Israel to apologize for Al Durrah's death immediately after the incident.

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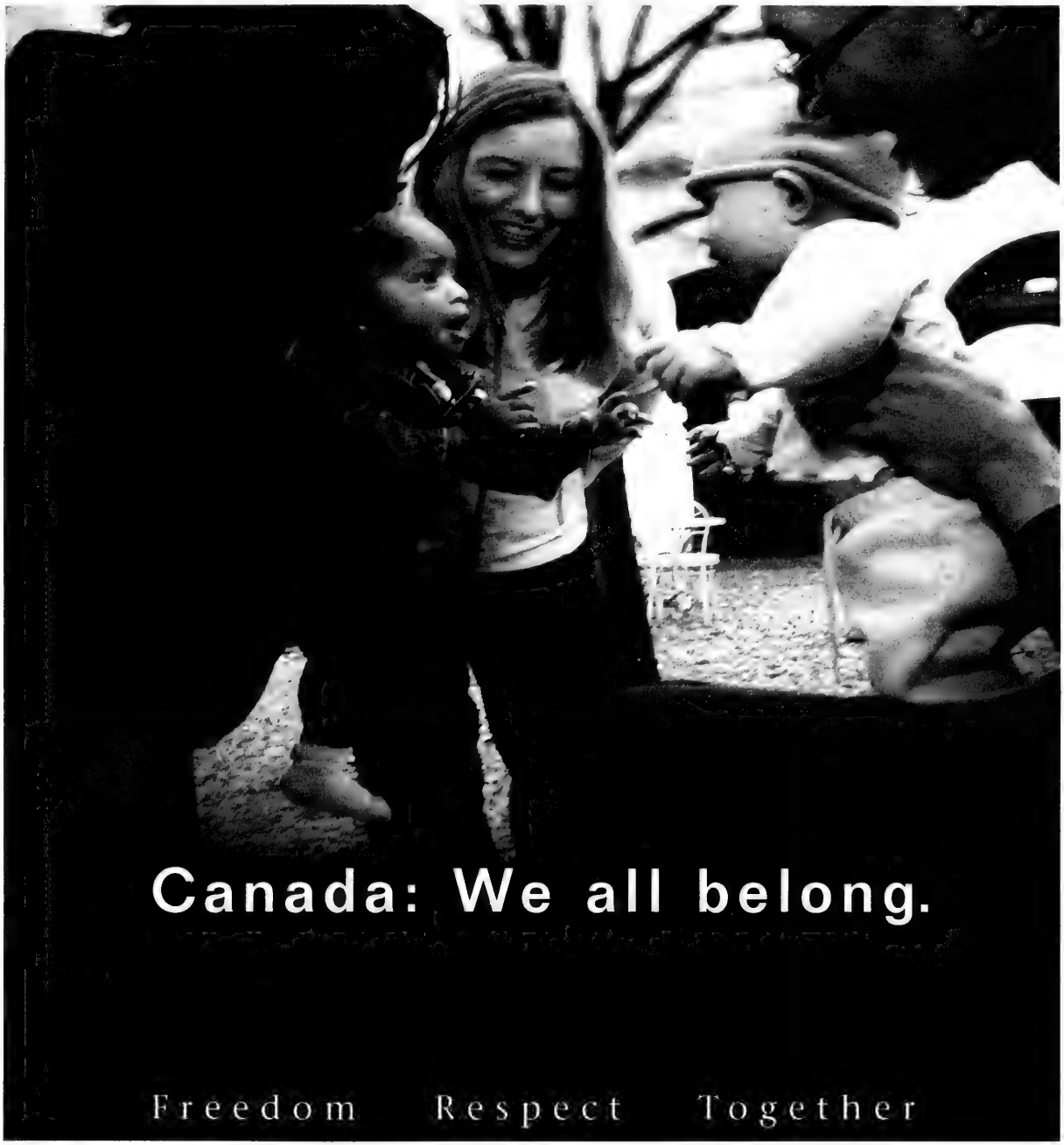

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Algerian compares Israel to Nazis

By MICHAEL J. JORDAN
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

NEW YORK — The Arab world's assault on Israel in international forums reached new heights – or new lows – in Geneva last week, Jewish observers say.

It was there that the Algerian delegate to the UN Commission on Human Rights repeatedly invoked Holocaust imagery to describe Israeli treatment of the Palestinians.

As the Geneva meeting kicked off its 58th session last Monday, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict once again was expected to garner a disproportionate amount of attention and further harm Israel's international image.

The 53-member commission – which is touted as the world's leading body for protecting and promoting human rights, although Syria, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Cuba, China and Sudan are members – ostensibly strives to bring peace to the Middle East, but its one-sided resolutions continue to prove counterproductive, pro-Israel advocates say.

"There are two parties to this contentious issue, and if one of these parties feels it's bludgeoned and ganged up against – every time and in every international forum – then why would it feel moved to act?" said Dan Mariaschin, executive vice president of B'nai Brith International, whose small delegation in Geneva was led by President Richard Heideman.

"For that reason, it should fall on deaf ears in Israel."

In his opening remarks last Thursday, Mohamed-Salah Dembri, the Algerian ambassador to the UN in Geneva, reportedly said: "Kristallnacht repeats itself daily" against "the ghettoized Palestinian people."

In comments translated from French by UN Watch, he added: "We must end this 'night and fog'" – a reference to the German expression "*nacht und nebel*" used by the Nazis – "inflicted on the Palestinian population by the inheritors of the Shoah."

The commission meeting, which lasts six weeks, comes amid a diplomatic spat between Israel and UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who recently condemned Israel's "illegal occupation" of parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip and whose letter to Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon criticizing Israeli policy was leaked to the media.

The commission gathering is the first to discuss global human rights issues since last summer's UN-sponsored World Conference Against Racism in Durban, South Africa.

Israel and the United States walked out of that event, charging it had been hijacked by anti-Israel extremists.

In Durban, Israel was accused of "apartheid," "genocide," "ethnic cleansing" and "war crimes." A final document was toned down – lamenting the "plight of the Palestinians" under "foreign occupation" – but the fact that such wording appears in an anti-racism document implies that the Palestinians are victims of Israeli racism.

Israel maintains that the conflict is over politics, not race.

Jewish activists in Durban said they were stunned by the level of vitriol aimed at Israel and the Jews, and talked of being better prepared next time.

'Debate worse than expected'

They expected more of the same at the Geneva meeting, and lobbied various governments with their concerns. But the first week of debate was even worse than anticipated, Jewish observers reported.

This was due to the dramatic increase in bloodshed over the past month of Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to the U.S. absence from the commission, they said.

The United States, which routinely raises its influential voice in defence of Israel, has been relegated to "observer" status. Last spring, the country lost its seat for the first time since the commission was created in 1947, when votes for the three seats designated for western countries went to France, Austria and Sweden.

Many observers viewed the humiliating ouster as a rebuke of America's perceived unilateralism, its disregard for international treaties and its controversial plan to build a missile-defence system.

Washington reportedly lobbied for months to win back its seat.

That campaign seemed to culminate recently with the announcement by Spain and Italy that they were withdrawing their candidacies to fill several new vacancies, paving the way for a U.S. return to the commission next year.

Elections will be held at the end of the current session, in late April.

But with Washington marginalized at the Geneva meeting, Jewish observers suggest it may embolden the Arab world to issue harsher denunciations of the Jewish State.

During the first week, the Syrian representative accused Israel of "genocide" and "massacres of children."

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson opened the session last Monday, saying, "Palestinians continue to be subjected to a wide range of human rights violations related to the ongoing occupation. Israel also continues to suffer from deliberate killings of civilians."

Robinson, who announced her intention to step down from the post, called for international observers to act "as a deterrent to the violations of human rights in the occupied Palestinian territories and also to promote human security against suicide and other attacks on Israeli civilians."

But Jewish activists were most taken aback by the remarks of Dembri, the Algerian ambassador.

"Must we wait in silence until new death camps are built, new massacres like at Babi Yar?" he said, according to the UN Watch translation. "What about the Israeli soldiers, the true disciples of Goebbels and of Himmler, who strip the clothes from their Palestinian prisoners in front of the cameras of the world and inscribe numbers on their bodies, just as they were tattooed in the concentration camps?"

"By taking the language of the Holocaust and turning it on its head, they [the Arabs] are denying the history and the identity of the Jewish people," said Amy Goldstein, Hadassah-WIZO of America's director of Israel, Zionist and international affairs.

"How are the Europeans going to respond to the hijacking of their history in this way?"

It hasn't, Jewish activists say. Instead, Guatemala was the most sharply critical of the Arab rhetoric.

According to a UN Watch observer at the meeting, the Guatemalan delegate said his country recognizes the right of the Palestinian people to an independent state, but as long as the Palestinians and the Arab states are not encouraging peaceful negotiations, Guatemala will not accept their efforts.

As the 58th session progresses, Jewish activists say they hope that Canada will fill the void left by the Americans.

Israel, U.S. believe Arafat formed alliance with Iran

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NEW YORK — The *New York Times* reported last Saturday that intelligence officials from the United States and Israel recently concluded that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat has entered into a new alliance with Iran, one that guarantees the Palestinians millions of dollars in funding, as well as an array of weaponry.

Israel has expressed concern over such a connection, the paper reported, because it would provide the Palestinians with what the *Times* describes as "a powerful and well-armed patron."

A possible link between Iran and the Palestinians first emerged at the beginning of January, when a covert operation by Israel resulted in the seizure of a ship bound for the Gaza Strip coast. The ship was found to be smuggling about 50 tons of weapons from Iran into Palestinian areas.

Yasser Arafat

The two sides denied, and continue to deny, any ties, but the paper says the United States and Israel now view the intercepted *Karine A* as one aspect of "a broader relationship."

Officials quoted in the report say the new alliance was secretly arranged by senior Iranian and Palestinian aides during a visit by Arafat to Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow last May.

Ali Khameni

The U.S. officials are reported by the paper as saying that Israel provided the American administration with details of the Moscow meeting following the interception of the *Karine A*.

The paper quotes a senior State Department representative as saying there is "plenty of evidence to show that it wasn't a rogue operation."

March 18

• Israel withdrew its troops from Bethlehem and the Gaza Strip but left troops surrounding several Palestinian towns and cities in the West Bank due to a high alert for terror attacks both in the West Bank and in Israel proper.

March 19

• Israel must compensate the families of two Palestinian victims of the first intifada, the Israeli Supreme Court ruled. The judges determined that Israeli soldiers killed one of the Palestinians and injured the other in August 1988 in a police action, not in an act of war.

March 20

• A Palestinian suicide bomber killed seven people and wounded more than 30 in northern Israel. The bombing took place on an Egged bus near the Israeli Arab town of Umm el-Fahm, close to Afula.

March 21

• A suicide bomber killed at least three Israelis and wounded more than 100 when he detonated his explosion in downtown Jerusalem. Mohammed Hashaika, 22, had been released last week from a Palestinian jail. He was a member of the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a militia affiliated with Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement. Until his arrest, he had served as a PA police officer.

March 22

• PA Chairman Yasser Arafat appeared on Palestinian TV and, under heavy U.S. pressure, read out, in Arabic, a "vehement" condemnation of the previous day's Jerusalem bombing, as the United States declared the Al Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade was being added to the U.S. list of terrorist organizations, joining Al Qaeda.

Files from JTA and Ha'aretz

Int'l parliamentary body votes to admit Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

Israel doesn't register too many victories on the world diplomatic stage, but last week an Israeli delegation had reason to smile as an international organization of legislators voted to include the Jewish state in a key regional grouping.

In a 54 to 6 vote with 10 abstentions, the 12+ grouping of the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), which includes Canada and most European nations, voted to include Israel as a member. The vote came after years of lobbying by Israel and its supporters and had the strong support of the Canadian delegation, said Irwin Cotler, MP for Mount Royal in Montreal.

Irwin Cotler

Israel's inclusion in the 12+ group will allow it to participate in important committee work and be heard on issues ranging from human rights to terrorism to a resolution of the Mideast conflict, Cotler said in a telephone interview from Marrakech, Morocco, where the IPU's bi-annual meeting took place.

"This is an important victory for Israel," he said. "It gives official standing to Israel as a member... in the world's oldest parliamentary organization. This is a very significant political development.

"I know the Israeli delegation was delighted. It almost gives a psychological boost when the country feels isolated," he added.

Cotler was part of an eight-person delegation of Canadian parliamentarians at the IPU meeting. The IPU was founded in 1889 to bring together legislators from various nations. It has evolved into an organization of parliaments of sovereign states with 142 affiliated national legislatures and five associated regional assemblies. Six hundred and seventy two MPs from 130 countries attended last week's conference.

"The [IPU] is the focal point for worldwide parliamentary dialogue and co-operation among peoples and for the firm establishment of representative democracy," states the organization's Web site.

Its goals are to foster contact and facilitate the exchange of information among MPs and parliaments; discuss issues of international interest; promote and defend human rights; and educate the public on the workings of representative institutions.

Despite the lofty sentiments set out in its mission statement, the IPU had sanctioned the exclusion of Israel from all of its regional bodies. Arab states refused to admit Israel into the Middle Eastern regional grouping – its natural geographic association – leaving it as the only country not included in such a grouping.

Israel's exclusion was seen as "blatant discrimination, an exclusion that was so egregious that fairminded parliamentarians felt it was unfair," Cotler said.

The 12+ grouping, which includes most European and Western democracies, including Australia, voted overwhelmingly in favour of Israel.

Each of the grouping's 41 countries was entitled to two ballots and a two-thirds majority (43 votes) was needed to pass. Both Canadian votes were cast in favour of Israel, Cotler said. Moreover, the Canadian delegation, led by its chair, MP Paddy Torsney, lobbied actively for Israel's inclusion and retired Senator Sheila Finestone was a strong advocate on Israel's behalf at an IPU meeting last year.

The stiffest resistance came from the British delegation, which cast both its ballots against Israel. Sweden, Italy and Australia cast single nay votes, Cotler said.

Despite the gain made by Israel in the regional grouping, the Jewish state was still attacked by Arab delegates at the IPU's plenary assembly.

King Mohammed VI of Morocco, in his opening address, "criticized Israel for embracing the logic of force and killing defenceless Palestinian people," Cotler said. An Egyptian delegate "referred to Israeli 'genocide' of Palestinians" while the Palestinian Authority (PA) representative said Israel was employing "Nazi policies against the Palestinians," Cotler said.

"You had this atrocity propaganda emanating from Egypt, the PA, Yemen and in a lesser sense the king of Morocco. This was a disturbing part of the public rhetoric," he said.

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Canada

Zimbabwe's Jews wary after elections

By MOIRA SCHNEIDER
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

CAPE TOWN — Zimbabwe's Jews are facing an uncertain future following the country's recent presidential elections.

With food shortages, the threat of strikes and selected sanctions being imposed added to the country's myriad problems, the mood among the country's 700-strong Jewish community is one of bewilderment.

Many people were "fairly stunned" that President Robert Mugabe was re-elected in the disputed vote "because they expected an outcome that would lead to better days," said Peter Sternberg, acting head of the Zimbabwe Jewish Board of Deputies.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said the March 9 to March 11 election, in which Mugabe won 56 per cent of the vote to challenger Morgan Tsvangirai's 42 per cent, was marked by "numerous, profound irregularities" that thwarted the will of the people.

Zimbabwe has also been suspended from the Commonwealth for one year because of irregularities in the election.

After being sworn in for another six-year term last week, Mugabe called on his countrymen – as well as his African neighbours – to join his fight against Western imperialism.

Mugabe has supported an effort to turn over white-owned farms to black squatters, a redistribution of wealth that has been accompanied by widescale violence.

Last week, a white farmer whose farm was besieged by black militants was dragged from his car and executed. He was the 10th white farmer killed since the Mugabe-backed offensive against white landowners began two years ago.

Sternberg described the violence that has followed the elections as "revenge taking."

He said "the winners now feel that they've got the government behind them and can do what they want – this is not a good trend for any country."

The Jewish community, which at its height in the mid-1960s numbered some 7,500, is a small minority within the country's white minority and has never felt threatened as such.

Most Jews in Zimbabwe are older than 70. While some families are making plans to leave, Sternberg said the majority that would remain have lived in Zimbabwe for most of their lives and can't imagine settling elsewhere.

"They feel they would be a burden on their children. In addition, we have the problem in this country that when one leaves one cannot take one's money, plus the fact that it has been devalued to such an extent that it's pretty laughable," Sternberg said.

"Those that have lived here so long might feel, 'Let's carry on as long as we've got something to eat and the sun is shining,' but if the crunch comes they'll have no choice but to leave," he said. "We hope it won't happen."

Mervyn Smith, chairman of the South African-based African Jewish Congress, said there had been some incidents against Zimbabwe's Jews in the past, though the Jewish community had never felt targeted as Jews per se.

"It was good to observe that there were no anti-Semitic statements made in the election campaign," Smith said. "We continue to be in constant touch with our brethren in Zimbabwe and very vigilant and ready to help in case things should get out of hand. This has been the position for some while."

David Joffe, a regional director of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, was one of the board's representatives on South Africa's observer mission to the elections.

"It was an opportunity to touch base with the Jewish community there," he said. "They feel very comfortable there – they may not always like the politics but most of them are committed to the country, otherwise they would have left a long time ago."

Zimbabwe's Jewish community still maintains three synagogues – two in Harare, the capital, and one in Bulawayo.

Ivor Davis, president of the Harare Hebrew Congregation, said Jewish life is continuing, though there is concern for the country's future.

"We keep the Jewish flag flying. Our shul has daily services and we are getting ready for Pesach," he said last week. "The matzah has arrived and is being distributed... Life goes on."

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South Africans call for Israel sanctions

By MICHEL BELLING
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

CAPE TOWN — Several organizations are calling on South Africa to couple its annual commemoration of a 1961 massacre of blacks with support for "human rights in Palestine" and sanctions against Israel.

Muslim groups from around the country have been joined in these calls by leading political parties and trade unions, as well as some Jews and a significant church body.

Marches took place last week in Cape Town and in Johannesburg, and a full-page advertisement in the *Johannesburg Star* newspaper called for people to march on the Israeli and United States embassies in Pretoria on March 21, South Africa's Human Rights Day.

The organizers of the Pretoria march included the African National Congress and its two partners in government, the Congress of South African Trade Unions and the South African Communist Party, as well as new Palestine Solidarity committees in Johannesburg and Cape Town.

The Palestine Solidarity groups are composed of several Muslim organizations, the Western Cape Council of Churches and Not in My Name, a Jewish group led by Water Affairs and Forestry Minister Ronnie Kasrils.

Members of the solidarity groups last week urged the government to sever all trade ties with Israel.

It seems unlikely the government will heed the calls. Earlier this month, South Africa's deputy foreign minister, Aziz Pahad, told the South African Zionist conference that the government intended to take an "even-handed" stance toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

The Talmud says that the town of Zippori, in the Lower Galilee northwest of Nazareth, was so named "because it is perched on the top of a mountain like a bird [*zippor*]."

Also perched on this picturesque mountain, roughly 1,800 years ago, was the Sanhedrin, the grand rabbinic-judicial council of ancient Israel, whose head, Rabbi Yehudah Hanasi, spent his time here redacting the Mishnah, the massive codification of Jewish oral law that is the foundation of the Talmud.

Exiled from Jerusalem in 70 A.D., the Sanhedrin moved to Yavneh for 60 years, then to Beit She'arim and other spots in the Lower Galilee before settling in Zippori (also known by the Greek name Sepphoris) about 200 CE.

"This place is of tremendous importance in Jewish history," says our guide, Mike Rogoff, as he leads us up the gentle slopes of the former city, of which only excavated ruins remain. We are surrounded by a gently rolling panorama of fields, olive groves and more distant hills and towns, including Nazareth.

One wonders what these hills might say if they could speak! The best view is from the roof of a renovated Crusader watchtower whose walls incorporate some much earlier Roman sarcophagi.

A thriving Jewish town, Zippori submitted peaceably to the Romans during the great Jewish revolt of 66 CE, roughly 130 years before the members of the Sanhedrin found refuge here.

Zippori's surrender "didn't endear them to the Jewish world – it left a big gaping hole in the defence of the Galilee," Rogoff explains. "I think that would tend to hint at the prosperity of the town. It has always been my belief that rich men make poor rebels. They've got too much to lose."

The town was depopulated of Jews and newly-populated with Roman pagans and Christians, but the Jews returned after a generation, albeit now as a minority. "These three communities lived side by side, I wouldn't say in a paradise of relations, but they managed to co-exist somehow."

On a hillside is the ruin of a moderate-sized Roman theatre that must have been the scene of many ancient games, dramas and other entertainments. Higher up, we pass through a second- or third-century residential quarter under excavation by Duke University; an ancient mikvah or ritual bath leaves no doubt that the inhabitants were Jewish.

The Talmud mentions Zippori many times and records that there were 18 synagogues here when Rabbi Yehudah Hanasi lived here. Revered as a brilliant Torah luminary, his wealth and authority within the Jewish community were recognized even by the Roman administration, which conferred on him and the rabbinical council a quasi-royal status; hence the title *nasi* or prince.

While numerous synagogue sites have been identified at Zippori, only one has been fully excavated. Its central hall has a mosaic floor bearing signs of the zodiac, illustrations related to Temple sacrifices, and Greek and Aramaic inscriptions.

Further up the slope, at an advantageous vantage point, we enter a building protecting Zippori's most spectacular artifact, known as the Mona Lisa of the Galilee.

The well-preserved Roman mosaic was once the floor of a Roman villa, perhaps belonging to the governor. It shows multiple colourful scenes of the life of the Greco-Roman deity Dionysus. Staring out from one outstanding panel is the face of a lady who can send art lovers and archeologists into raptures.

"Just look at the blush in the cheeks – it's almost the level of an oil painting," Rogoff says. "We don't know who she was: Was she the governor's wife? His mistress? Some deity? It's the same kind of dilemma that we had with the Mona Lisa."

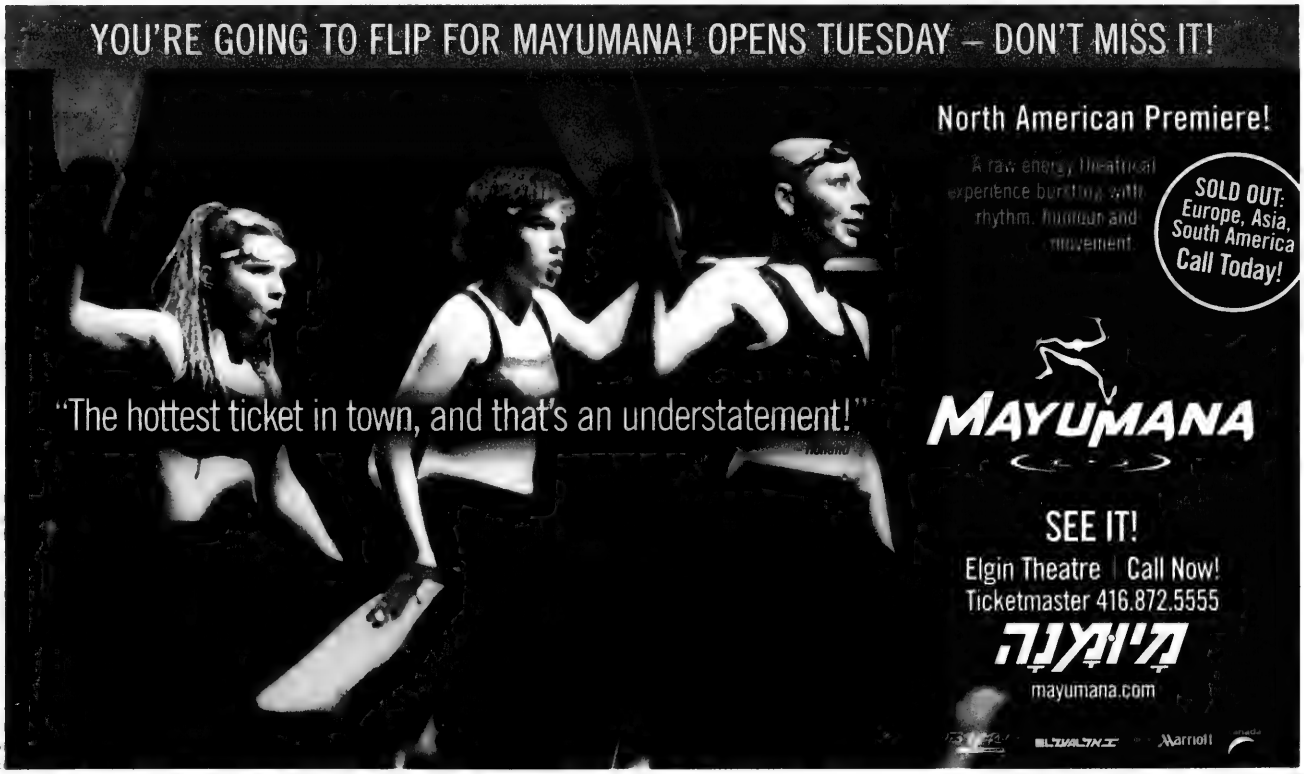
We spend 40 minutes or so regarding the various colourful scenes and reading the curatorial panels about the mosaic, which is an outstanding example of Roman art. A second Zippori mosaic, from the Byzantine era, is also regarded as a masterpiece; its series of panels depicts the "birth" of the Nile.

The Mona Lisa of the Galilee

Other worthwhile sights here include a colonnaded street, an ancient reservoir and dozens of varied excavations. One could easily spend a half-day or even an entire day here.

But not us, Rogoff says, as he leads us back to the van. "You'll have to come back another time to see the rest," he says.

Nobody really minds. It is early Friday afternoon and we are headed for Jerusalem, the proverbial "navel of the world."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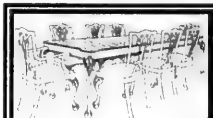
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Arts & Travel

Label owner trades high tech for blues

By RUTH SCHWEITZER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Fred Litwin used to be Intel's marketing manager in the Far East, but barely into middle age he retired, walking away from what many would consider to be an enviable career to start a blues music record label.

Litwin, a music lover with eclectic tastes who grew up listening to his older siblings' collection of folk music, was first touched by the blues in 1973, when he was 17, watching guitarist and singer Luther Allison perform in Montreal.

"I had never heard of blues before at all, but this concert just hit me over the head like a brick," he says. "At the end of the night, I knew that I had found the music I like most."

Litwin, who was born in Montreal and has a bachelor of commerce degree from Concordia University, joined Intel after LAN, a computer networking company he worked at, was sold to Intel.

He quit the company in January 2000.

"I was tired of the corporate stuff. Intel is a very hard-working company and I had had enough," he says. "I also was lucky enough to have enough money to retire."

Pondering his future, Litwin was inspired by the Canadian folk-music label Borealis. Litwin had invested in Borealis in 1996 and watched it become Canada's pre-eminent folk music label over the next four years.

"The more I thought about Borealis, the more I realized that I could do much the same for blues in Canada," he says.

In July 2000, Litwin launched NorthernBlues Music. By early this spring, the label will have released nine CDs.

Many have been praised extravagantly by critics, and many have received awards and award nominations.

Gritty electric NorthernBlues artists The Sidemen won four Canada-wide 2001 Maple Blues Awards, including recording of the year for their CD *Rattlebag*. Litwin himself received a Maple Blues Award as blues booster of the year. Harry Manx, who combines acoustic blues with Indian ragas, got the 2002 Canadian independent music award for blues album of the year for his NorthernBlues release *Dog My Cat*.

South of the border, Litwin's artist Otis Taylor has been nominated for four W.C. Handy Awards, including blues album of the year, for *White African*, a recording of protest blues about justice, race and class. The Sidemen got a W.C. Handy nomination in the best new artist debut category.

Nominated for awards, but can't get into stores

Litwin says he looks for original music that moves him and leans toward artists, such as Manx, who push the boundaries of the blues. One of Litwin's recent discoveries is David Jacobs-Strain, an 18-year-old cutting-edge blues guitarist whose CD *Stuck On the Way* will be released this May.

"He played like an old master," Litwin says of the first time he heard the young guitarist play. "It was scary how good David was."

Litwin compares the release of each new CD to giving birth, and says when he watches his artists perform live, he finds it hard to listen, since he is usually bursting with pride, particularly when audiences show their enthusiasm.

"The e-mail and letters that we get at NorthernBlues are just incredible. We are really touching people and that is a great feeling."

NorthernBlues CDs are sold in record stores and through the company's Web site, www.northernblues.com. It's difficult to get CDs into the stores, Litwin says, because more than 40,000 new CDs come out each year and a large store stocks only 9,000.

"Right now, some chains like HMV are getting more conservative and are focusing only on 'hits.' As a result, you will have trouble finding my CDs at HMV across the country, with the one exception being the Yonge Street store in Toronto," he says.

"This is very disappointing – particularly to know that my CDs are being nominated for all sorts of awards and they still can't get into stores."

NorthernBlues CDs are distributed across Canada, the United States, Europe and Australia, and Litwin is trying to get distribution in the United Kingdom and Scandinavia. In Canada, Litwin's CDs are handled by Festival Distribution, which specializes in marketing independently produced recordings.

There's a fairly good market for blues, according to Jack Schuller, Festival's president, because there is at least one blues club in every major city. But since Litwin's specialty is the blues – not pop or rap – there aren't huge amounts of money involved.

"You go into to it because you love the music and Fred loves the music," Schuller says.

He adds that besides releasing CDs, Litwin is also helping unknown artists establish their careers. "He's really put a lot into marketing them and supporting the artists, much more than most labels, even major ones."

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Ryerson prof presents new essays on Wiseman

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Ruth Panofsky, a Ryerson University English professor who specializes in the Canadian Jewish writer Adele Wiseman, has edited a new collection of scholarly essays that she hopes will make Wiseman's works more accessible to a new generation of readers.

Wiseman, who died 10 years ago, is best remembered for her novel *The Sacrifice* (1956), which won numerous literary prizes, including a Governor General's Award when its author was only 28. A second novel, *Crackpot*, was published to great critical acclaim in 1974. Both are steeped in Jewish content.

According to Panofsky, Wiseman was much more than a superb novelist. That's why the new collection of essays – titled *Adele Wiseman: Essays on Her Works* – takes a wider approach to a writing career that also included plays, essays, poetry, stories and a memoir. The collection is published in a handsome pocket volume by Guernica and costs $10.

"It's a scholarly collection, but the intent is to open up Wiseman's oeuvre to a broader consideration," Panofsky says.

Although Wiseman's books have never been out of print, she is mostly being read on campus these days, Panofsky says. "But each time I've taught her work, students love her. They really love *Crackpot*. It really resonates with young female readers."

The Winnipeg-born author, who later lived in Montreal and then Toronto, might be better known if scholars had greater access to her papers, Panofsky says. Considerable research restrictions apply to Wiseman's papers, which are housed in York University's Scott Library.

Panofsky, who had freer access to the papers while Wiseman was alive, previously co-edited a wonderful collection of letters, *Selected Letters of Margaret Laurence and Adele Wiseman* (1997), with Wiseman's full approval. Both Laurence and Wiseman lived for a time on the same street in Winnipeg and were almost lifelong friends.

The new volume of essays, which presents a range of scholars delving into diverse scholarly concerns and includes a lengthy 1990 interview with Wiseman, is bound to appeal to Wiseman devotees. Panofsky provides an introduction, an essay on Wiseman's treatment of female characters and a capsule biography and bibliography.

Panofsky says her deep interest in Wiseman was sparked partly because the author was both female and Jewish. "Of all Jewish Canadian writers of her generation, I think she left the deepest mark in terms of the Canadian Jewish landscape."

Assisted by a Canada Council grant, Panofsky's been writing a major work on Wiseman that she hopes to finish by summer's end. Its working title is *The Force of Vocation: The Career of Adele Wiseman*.

"It's the last piece," she comments. "It will really be a coming together of all those years of work."

Panofsky recently made a debut as a published poet with *Lifeline*, a book of poetry published by Guernica. The poems are "deeply personal, partly con-

Continued on page 57

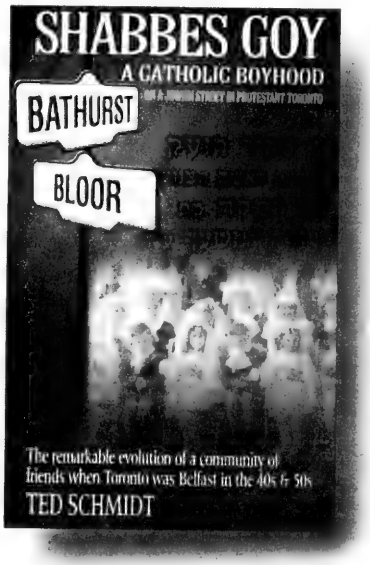
Book recounts growing up Jewish on Palmerston Blvd.

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to the CJN

Ted Schmidt, a Catholic educator who edits the independent *Catholic New Times* newspaper, has written and published a book in which he recounts his experiences "growing up Jewish" on Palmerston Boulevard in the Bloor-Bathurst neighbourhood of downtown Toronto.

With *Shabbes Goy*, Schmidt has laid down an engaging anecdotal account of his many friendships with his Jewish neighbours. Its full title – *Shabbes Goy: A Catholic Boyhood on a Jewish Street in Protestant Toronto* – gives perhaps the most thorough summary of its often amusing and insightful contents.

(A "Shabbes goy" is a vernacular term for a Gentile who performs tasks for Jewish neighbours, such as lighting a fire, that they are forbidden to do for themselves on the Sabbath.)


SHABBES GOY
A CATHOLIC BOYHOOD
BATHURST
BLOOR
The remarkable evolution of a community of friends when Toronto was Belfast in the 40s & 50s
TED SCHMIDT

Born in Toronto in 1939, Schmidt played on the Harbord and the YMHA baseball teams as a boy, and recalled one episode dodging "stones, bottles and ugly ethnic curses" as he and his Jewish teammates ran, victorious, from the sore losers on the other team who were not Jewish.

"What's a kike, Manny?" Schmidt recalls asking his friend as they raced down Winona Avenue.

"A Jew," Manny replied. "Keep running."

Growing up in close proximity to the Coopers, Weisbarts, Analevitzes, Fruitmans and other Jewish families in the neighbourhood, Schmidt acquired an early sensitivity about the tragic fate of the Jews in Hitler's Europe.

"What had Manny G--'s nine aunts and uncles done to merit incineration at Treblinka?" he pondered at the age of 10. "What had their innocent children done? Why had Nathan G--, Manny's dad, been stripped of his whole family?"

Later, as a public school teacher in the 1960s, he made a special point of teaching the Holocaust at a time when "barely concealed anti-Semitism... still festered."

> *'Forgetfulness prolongs the exile; remembrance is the secret of redemption.'*

"I never got tired of it. I believed with the Baal Shem Tov that 'Forgetfulness prolongs the exile; remembrance is the secret of redemption.' Catholics, I vowed, must deal with this issue, must confront 'the teaching of contempt' that had undoubtedly poisoned Christianity for 2,000 years."

Schmidt describes a remarkable encounter with a persistent Holocaust denier in his classroom who turned out to be the son of Ernst Zundel. Schmidt pitied him as "just a young man sadly in the grip of an obsessed father."

Eventually Zundel Sr. contacted Schmidt and "launched into a tirade about me falling under the sway of 'the Zionists' and their lies. I could barely be civil to him. All I could see were the faces of friends who lost families in the Shoah."

After being refused permission to bring his lies in the classroom, Zundel accused the teacher of being "anti-German" and had to be reminded of Schmidt's German surname.

Schmidt warmly recounts many details and episodes of the hallowed streets of his boyhood in the Bathurst and Bloor neighbourhood. He also devotes considerable attention to his Catholic upbringing and education, and the historic relations of the city's Catholics with Protestants and other groups.

Torontonians who grew up downtown in the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s will find much of interest in *Shabbes Goy*. It makes perfect sense that the launch party was held recently at David Mirvish Books on Markham Street, one block east of Palmerston.

'Writing scholarly work for a long time'

Continued from page 56

fessional and very spare," she says.

"I've been writing scholarly work for a long time, so the creative work came fairly late, when I was in my 30s. I started writing poetry when I started having children. The experience really moved me into writing in a different genre altogether."

Panofsky is one of a handful of poets scheduled to read at An Evening of Poetry at Israel's Judaica Centre, 897 Eglinton Ave. W., on April 1 at 7:30 p.m. Copies of the book of essays on Wiseman should be available. For details, call Israel's at 416-789-1010.

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Passover Sing-In, a community Passover celebration featuring many choral singers, cantors and soloists, takes place at the Holy Blossom Temple on the Sunday of chol hamoed Pesach. The public is invited to enjoy renaissance and contemporary music and a community sing-along of popular songs from the *Song of Songs* (*Shir HaShirim*) and the Haggadah.

The talent includes the **Beth Emeth Choir** and **Zemer Chorale** conducted by **Charles Heller**; **Holy Blossom Temple Singers** and **Lachan**, conducted by **Cantor Benjamin Z. Maissner**; **Shaarei Beth El Choir** conducted by **Ted Labow**; **Temple Emanu-El Choir** conducted by **Alice Malach**; **Temple Kol Ami Choir** conducted by **Vicky Essebag**; and the **Temple Sinai Choir** conducted by **Jose Shapiro**.

Cantor Bensoussan

Other participating cantors and soloists include **Aaron Bensoussan**, **Avraham Y. Keller** and **Anna Trubashnik** as well as the **Holy Blossom Simcha Band**.

Holy Blossom, 1950 Bathurst St. south of Eglinton. Adults $20, seniors and students $15. Sunday, March 31, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 224.

* * *

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

Yiddishland Cafe: Roots and Wings – Yiddish Song Then and Now is the theme of the 34th Yiddishland Cafe. The evening features **David Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner**, presenting new compositions and old favourites. Tickets $12 at Israel's Judaica Centre on Eglinton Avenue. Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Sunday, April 7, 7:30 p.m. Reservations, 416-787-2081.

* * *

Poetry Evening at Israel's: Mark the beginning of poetry month with an evening of poetry. Poets include **Roger Nash**, **Ron Charach**, **Harold Heft**, **Ruth Panofsky** and **Adam Sol**. Refreshments (strictly kosher for Passover); free admission. Sponsored by the Toronto Arts Council through the League of Canadian Poets. Israel's Judaica Centre, 897 Eglinton Ave. W. (west of Bathurst). Monday, April 1, 7:30 p.m.

* * *

Fine Art in Tel Aviv: Sotheby's Tel Aviv sale of International and Israeli Art on Sunday, April 7, features some important works by artists of the École de Paris. Active in a creative milieu that included **Picasso**, **Chagall**, **Soutine**, **Modigliani**, **Leger** and **Derain**, these Jewish artists, of mostly eastern European origin, made significant contributions to the stylistic development of French modernist art.

On offer in this auction are works by **Orloff**, **Feder**, **Kisling**, **Kikoin** and **Pascin**. Other important Israeli artists represented are **Gutman**, **Rubin**, **Mokady**, **Streichman**, **Zaritsky**, **Arikha**, **Uri**, **Nikel**, **Lavie** and **Geva**.

The works are on view from April 1 at Sotheby's, 46 Rothschild Blvd., Tel Aviv. The auction is April 7 at 8 p.m. Web site, www.sothebys.com.

* * *

Arts Briefs

- The 17th annual juried art show of the Scarborough Arts Council features the work of 85 Ontario artists, on view until April 4. Scarborough Civic Centre, rotunda, 150 Borough Dr. 416-698-7322.
- Third-year acting students at Ryerson Theatre School present Fire and Ayre, featuring the work of eight Renaissance playwrights and plenty of dramatic styles, period costumes, live music, dancing and choreographed stage combat. $10-$15. Ryerson Theatre, 43 Gerrard St. E. Until April 4. 416-979-5118.
- Care to study Yiddish in New York this summer? For details about YIVO's Uriel Weinreich program in Yiddish Language, Literature and Culture, contact **Yankl Salant**, 212-294-6138, e-mail ysalant@yivo.cjh.org, Web site www.yivoinstitute.org.
- It's Pesach time and the Toronto Jewish Film Festival is almost here. The 10th annual fest runs April 20 to 28 with many fine offerings. For details visit the Web site www.tjff.com and watch these pages in coming weeks. In the meantime, Chag Samayach to one and all.

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You Don't Have to Be Jewish a Stern look at Jewish films

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — When Bill Stern was young, his father, Morris, took him to the Standard Theatre, where he saw Maurice Schwartz, Molly Picon, Jacob Ben Ami and Paul Muni in person.

He developed an obsession with Jewish theatre and then film that has led him to write a book on the subject – *You Don't Have to Be Jewish: A Commentary on Selected Jewish Films*.

Stern, 80, a social worker, says he expects to be "blasted" by readers who don't agree with his choice of films.

He reviews 55 films in five sections – Jews in Canadian movies, Yiddish films, Israeli films, a general category and Holocaust films.

"I expect the biggest response will come from people who don't like my selection of 11 Holocaust films. Everyone is a film critic, he says. I included *Schindler's List* because so many people have seen it. Another is *Into the Arms of Strangers*, a feature which dealt with the 10,000 young Jews who were welcomed by the British people while its government was blocking the establishment of Israel.

"I consider *Triumph of the Spirit* about what happened to the Greek Jews from Salonika a great film, particularly since it had a lot about women in it, and how women survived under the Holocaust. I think it's a fine film and everybody should see it. I include a list of recommended Holocaust films at the end of the section.

"One of them is *Shoah* which is in a class by itself, needing nine hours to see all of it."

A film about the Jewish poet A.M. Klein, *Art is a Landscape*, is reviewed in the Canadian section, as is *The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* by Mordecai Richler and *Lies My Father Told Me* by Ted Allan.

"I did not know until I saw the film about Klein that he was a good friend of David Lewis, onetime leader of the CCF... They grew up together, went to university together, and both joined Zionist clubs. Lewis plays a big part and is wonderful to hear.

"I've included *My Grandfather's Hotel* by Karen Shopsowitz because it is about Monteith Inn [in Muskoka], and Karen is a Canadian filmmaker with a future. Maybe a lot of people will complain about this particular film being included."

He also reviews what he describes as a little-known feature, *Canadian Jews of 1980*, made by the Canadian Jewish Congress, which has remarkable footage on Saul Hayes, executive director of Congress for years, who was, Stern says, "a giant of Canadian Jewry."

Stern cut his teeth on Yiddish at the Standard Theatre and his father was a Yiddishist; hence the section on Yiddish films.

Stern cut his teeth on Yiddish at the Standard Theatre

"David Pinski, who wrote *The Singing Blacksmith*, with Moishe Oysher, was away ahead of his time in writing about social problems of the day. He wrote about a married man who fell in love with another woman who was also married. He was on a par with Sholom Aleichem and Sholem Asch."

Israeli films, at the beginning, dealt mainly with events surrounding the birth of Israel, such as *Hill 24 Does Not Answer*, a film Stern says he would like to see over and over again.

He says Ephraim Kishon, an Israeli filmmaker, who has produced a series of light humour films, is an expert on needling Jewish bureaucrats, and his *Sallah* is a classic of this vintage, starring the ever-popular Topol.

Two films, *The Summer of Aviya* and *Under the Domim Tree*, are reviewed by Stern, who says they are the autobiography of Israeli actor, Gila Almagor.

In the general film section, Stern has included *Hester Street*, which he says shows up at every Jewish film festival and can't be beaten as a realistic look at Jewish life in the early 1900s. He also chose Aviva Kempner's *Life and Times of Hank Greenberg* and *Partisans of the Vilna Ghetto*.

Shayna Rubinoff reads from a Hebrew exercise sheet, using skills which she can now use thanks to a cochlear implant. The outer part of the apparatus can be seen in her hair.

Group seeks services for hearing impaired day-school students

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Members of a new organization called Haazinu say they will lobby for funding to integrate children with hearing impairments into regular Jewish day schools.

About 15 founding members met recently with *The CJN* to say they won't let their children with hearing impairments flounder in Jewish day schools, nor will they transfer them to the public system, which provides services and equipment for them at no extra cost to parents.

"There is nothing wrong with public schools for those who belong there. Our kids don't," said Yisroel Janowski.

"Their soul will be lacking, because their Judaism is lacking, and the home can't compensate. The schools have an obligation to our children – they must not be disenfranchised."

The Haazinu parents said that although the province has pledged funds (through the Ministry of Health) to help children with special needs in private schools – including money for physiotherapy, nursing assistance and speech therapy – it has not designated anything for hearing impaired students.

And, the parents said, neither has UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education.

The development of the cochlear implant – a prosthetic replacement for the inner ear that allows for a degree of hearing by electronically stimulating the nerve that facilitates hearing – enables many children with hearing impairments to attend regular schools.

But accommodating them requires expensive adjustments to the classroom, as well as extra teacher training.

While some day-school parents fund the modifications themselves, most cannot do so and often end up transferring their children to public schools.

Stacey Daub, a manager for Community Care Access Centres (CCAC), the provincial agency that provides special help to schools, said the funding program, which is just a year old, provides professional and personal support to children with special needs in private schools – not equipment modification.

Daub said the services the province does provide are a "substantial step."

This is only the first phase of the provision of these services, she said, adding it addresses the most immediate needs of the students. "We recognize that there are many needs which have to be looked at."

Debbie Gladstone, special education consultant for the BJE, told *The CJN* the board is aware of the problem, and is consulting with the CCAC as to how to get services for children with hearing impairments into Jewish schools.

For people with profound hearing loss, either from birth or due to a severe illness such as meningitis, it may be possible to surgically implant a cochlear implant in the skull behind the ear and insert tiny wires into the cochlea (inner ear). The implant is then attached to an external microphone and a speech processor that converts sound into electrical impulses.

After auditory and speech training, a recipient is able to hear and interpret medium-level – and sometimes even soft – sound, and thus develop the ability for fairly advanced speech.

To accommodate students with the implant, a teacher must wear a microphone and the child must have a receiver on their desk or attached to the implant, so that even if the teacher turns away, the child can still hear.

(The teacher must also be trained, for instance, to recognize that a child with an implant can't necessarily hear questions from other non-miked students.)

Other modifications include closed captioning on televisions, carpets to buffer extraneous sounds, an in-class educational audiologist and a lowering of background noise.

Rivkie Steier, mother of a 15-year-old hearing impaired daughter, said a day school education is a priority for many parents and they are prepared to pay for it. However, she said, "don't penalize us for health concerns."

But the difficulties with the modifications are not purely financial. Many teachers hesitate to use the microphone, considering it inconvenient and intrusive. But "they would do it if it was explained to them," said Haazinu parent Tanya Goldschmidt.

In addition to lobbying government and community organizations, the founders of Haazinu, an offshoot of a New York organization of the same name, say they also intend to support other families and raise money.

For more information, call Goldschmidt at 905-889-7452.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 67.

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40 A	V	E	41 R	42 T	■	43 E	V	44 E	■	45 O	R	H	O	W
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72 L	E	C	H	E	■	73 R	U	I	N	■	74 N	E	O	N
75 E	S	S	E	N	■	76 S	E	T	S	■	77 T	A	R	T

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women seeking men

LOVER & BEST FRIEND
Single female, warm, caring, intelligent, passionate, slim, fit, outgoing, adventurous, creative, good sense of humour, enjoys nature, horseback riding, movies, travel, dining, seeks male, handsome, affectionate, intelligent, non smoker, non over weight, successful and ready for romance. **AD#1131**

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR
Single Jewish female, 64 yrs, smart, spontaneous, compassionate, good sense of humour, seeks male, 65-75 yrs, active, handsome, loving, kind, ready to share loving relationship **AD#1135**

SPRING ROMANCE
Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5' 5", 130 lbs. seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys **AD#1017**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Single female, 55 yrs, outgoing, loving, fit, sincere, good sense of humour, enjoys the theatre, movies, long walks, seeks male with similar qualities and interests **AD#1221**

FABULOUS FIFTIES
Single female, mid fifties, professional, enjoys music, sports, long walks, travel, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, caring, compassionate, seeks male, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1090**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single Jewish female, sincere, smart, romantic, passionate, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, theatre, seeks male, Jewish 65-80 yrs, thoughtful, loving, with a wide variety of interests. **AD#1262**

LOVING & CARING
Single mom of one 8 yr old child, attractive, 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests **AD#1026**

TAKE A CHANCE
Widowed female, early 60's looks 50 yrs, kind, caring, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys travel, the theatre, dining and dancing, seeks widower, non smoker, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1263**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests. The outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling. She works in science and engineering **AD#1548**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Single female, sensuous, witty, musical, shapely, sweet, sassy, stylish, warm, loving and caring, wonderful sense of humour. Seeks male 42 yrs to 52 yrs mature loving, honest, good sense of humour, similar qualities and interests **AD#1364**

LET'S DINE OUT
Single female, 55 yrs, enjoys dining and dancing, the theatre, a very popular oriented person, loving, caring, honest, warm hearted Seeks male 45-65 yrs with similar qualities and interests to share life's joys with **AD#1412**

FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances, into the arts, fit, non smoker Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality Wants a best friend, lovers later. Looking for a soulmate Please respond **AD#1232**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun, Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature **AD#1285**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

IN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun. Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature. **AD#1285**

STARTING OVER
Single, non smoking, professional lady, with 2 university aged children and a beautiful golden retriever, may be interested in you. this 51 year old likes long walks, sunsets, dancing, movies, travelling, having fun, good friends and honest communications **AD#1126**

VEGAS MOMMA
Las Vegas momma, roll the dice and give my mom a call. A kind, caring, compassionate, and vivacious woman widow. Early 60's, looks 50's. Enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining, Caesar's Palace Who knows, you may have dealt a royal flush. Seeking a non smoking male, similar qualities and interests. **AD#1259**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher. Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest. Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

INTELLIGENT FEMALE
Attractive Jewish female, intelligent, kind, easy going, enjoys outdoors, seeks honest man, non smoker, secure for possible long term relationship **AD#1145**

DANCING, DINING
55 yrs old, divorced female, enjoys dancing, dining, plays, seeks male with similar interests **AD#1078**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining. **AD#1590**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining. **AD#1590**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow. I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest. Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

DINING ART
Young female, pretty, Jewish, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys dining, art, solid outings. Desires man, 43-53 yrs, professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker, for mature relationship. **AD#1301**

MONTREAL LOVIN'
Single female, 58 yrs, in Montreal, slim, fun loving, classy, enjoys aerobics, travel, art, music, dancing. Seeks male, sincere, stable, traditional, kind and affectionate. Let's share travel between Toronto & Montreal **AD#1336**

FULLY LOADED
Blonde bombshell with brains No surprises, seeks same type of guy who is secure. Submit photo. Must be a professional. Time is limited, so hurry! **AD#1026**

SEEKS YOUNG AT HEART
Sexy, classy, attractive, slim, talented, intelligent, secular, non-smoking, multi-faceted lady who is fun, easy to be with and highly evolved seeks a man between 51-60 yrs who is young at heart and loves life. She likes the arts and working out **AD#1338**

HONEST PROFESSIONAL
Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, honest, professional, easy going, down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, travelling Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship **AD#1112**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Friendly, down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady seeks a sincere, attractive, hard working man for a committed future She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

SEXY SIREN
Sexy siren (LOL). Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together. Dancing, dining, etc. **AD#1356**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests **AD#1381**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-76 yrs old. **AD#1495**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
"The key is compatibility." Looking for someone who mutually clicks. Our personalities have to mesh. Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs See if our voices blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo. She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

CHAIM
Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female,35 yrs old, 5' 2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music. Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke. **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also She is looking for an honest relationship **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions. Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship **AD#1028**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me. I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids. I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired. I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1136**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature. She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family Please reply **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed. If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1106**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-56 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere Please call **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life **AD#1041**

AND THE OSCAR GOES TO
Best Actress of 1965, with charm, wit and Spanish eyes, seeks a leading man who is over 5' 10", with a kind heart and dashing smile Together we will make for an award winning performance. **AD#1446**

FAMILY MAN
Beautiful, educated, blue eyes, brown hair, 5' 7", intelligent, seeks healthy, canny man, 40-48 yrs, to make a family **AD#1087**

DANCING AND DINING
Attractive female, 5' 6", single female, 39 yrs, enjoys dancing, dining, interested in a man with different interests for serious commitment, 39-49 yrs. Please call, will meet for coffee. **AD#1433**

SOFT AND HONEST
28 yrs old, Asian lady, 5' 2", 110 lbs, single no kids, no baggage, independent, soft, honest, sweet, fun tobe with, trustworthy, considerate and affectionate, enjoys indoor and outdoor activities Seeks male with great personality, down to earth, honest, good looks good sense of humour, 27-32 years, no head games. **AD#1434**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
Single female, 50's, very pretty and attractive, sophisticated. Looking for love in all the wrong places Seeks a nice man, non smoker, or mensch, well groomed and, good hearted, easy to talk to, 60-68 years. Would like a photo. **AD#1577**

MY GREAT MUM
Kind, attractive, gentle, 55 yrs, 5' 8, brown hair and eyes. Loves music, dancing, movies. Seeks man, 58-69 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1514**

men seeking women

DREAM COME TRUE
Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys **AD#1179**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 30 yrs, never married, handsome, loving, passionate, enjoys ports, camping, outdoor activities, dining and dancing, movies, seeks female, 22-36 yrs with similar qualities and interests for long term loving relationship. **AD#1424**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tail, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park, Kind and caring wants future family **AD#1095**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1554**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale. Attention car buffs: '59 Caddy, exterior is tail, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty, Interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance: Let's have a wonderful life together **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1551**

CUDDLY DADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969. Waiting for you call. **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous. "Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight. She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and hasts my sweet embrace my shvalrest task will be done. And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sky is blue." **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship. **AD#1286**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1543**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile. **AD#1196**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic. **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors. A traditional male, works a a financal consultant Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female. **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk **AD#1510**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention. **AD#1427**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc... seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1329**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday. **AD#1399**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5' 6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks nice lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me. **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking. **AD#1267**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1208**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5' 9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer, things in life, emotionally and financially, stable, seeks female, with similar qualities. **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children. **AD#1502**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 176 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities as mine **AD#1242**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs, 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see. **AD#1546**

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Prestigiously located on East side of Bathurst, 3 bdrm. backsplit on 45 x 134 ft. lot. Priced for immediate sale at $399,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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3 bdrm. bungalow on 50 x 140 ft. lot. Close to TTC, schools. **ACT NOW!** Only $349,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Magnificent 3 bdrm. side-split. Family room, huge rec. room, w/o to yard, hardwood floors. Shows well! Priced for immediate sale at $399,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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3 bedroom, 2 storey on 50 ft. lot. Shows well! Family size kitchen, spacious front porch, faces park. Desirable location, only $349,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

* * *

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Detached 3 bdrm. bungalow, fin. bsmt., sep. entry to in-law suite. **ACT NOW!** Only $269,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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Prestigious executive home on gorgeous 67 x 432 ft. lot, ravine setting, tennis court, prime central location. Asking $1,299,000. Call David Eichorn* (416) 787-1712.

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$599,000 – Spacious 3+3bdrm. bung., in-law apt., reno. kit!

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$1,159,000 – Granite flrs., 5 baths, circ. drive, 100'x150'!!!

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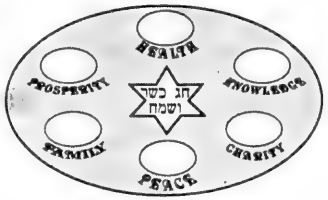

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Larry, Darlene, Lynsey and Tarah Wronzberg

ALAN NEWTON

From my Family to your Family. Wishing all my clients, friends and family a very happy & healthy Passover!
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Summer Sublet. Lrg. 1 bdrm. furn. apt. Kosher kitch. Bathurst Lawrence. Avail. May-Aug. $1095/month. 416-785-0918.

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110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

GRAVENHURST. Waterfront 4 bdrm. Good location. Avail. immediately. 416-630-2975.

120 COTTAGE WANTED

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WOLLMAN, Diana – on March 7, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.

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GROSSMAN, Sari – on March 8, 2002, late of 447 Walmer Rd., #909.
MELZER, Freda – on March 10, 2002, late of 556 Old Orchard Grove.
GARBUZ, Mona – on March 10, 2002, late of 265 Ridley Blvd., #1203.
CORD, STANLEY – on March 10, 2002, late of 18 Dewsbury Cres.
HAUSMAN, James – on March 9, 2002, late of 177 Dunvegan Rd.
GEWIRTZ, Abraham – on March 9, 2002, late of 35 Cedarcroft Blvd., #907.
LANGER, Morris – on March 10, 2002, late of 7 Chritine Cres.
NEWMAN, Melville – on March 10, 2002, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
FIELDS, Laura – on March 11, 2002, late of 2816 Bayview Ave.
KOSTMAN, Harry – on March 11, 2002, late of 500 Avenue Rd., #806.
BASSIN, Susan – on March 11, 2002, late of 14 Strathearn Rd.
PIFKO, Jenny – on March 13, 2002, late of 3705 Bathurst St.
DAVIDSON, Brian – on March 13, 2002, late of 61 Admiral Rd.
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Rabin hockey tournament just keeps on growing

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Yitzhak Rabin Memorial Hockey Tournament is growing about as fast as the 12- and 13-year-olds who participate in it.

This year, the tournament expanded to 12 teams from five. Spread over two divisions, the participants included a senior division consisting of wily, grizzled veterans in grades 6, 7 and 8; and juniors, those naive, wide-eyed, peach-fuzzed youngsters in grades 3, 4, and 5.

Regardless of age, all seemed to have a really good time as organizers prepared a day-long hockey festival that featured on-ice competition, musical entertainment (provided free of charge by Mandell Entertainment), food aplenty and a trophy for all participants.

Event organizer Andrea Nathanson said the tournament was an excellent opportunity to bring together Jewish youngsters from a variety of Toronto day schools. The kids look forward to it all winter long, she said.

Nathanson, whose son, Jesse, attends Associated's Kamin branch in Thornhill, and Wendy Himmel, pulled the event together along with a committee of parents from all the schools.

This tournament has proven so popular that several schools iced two teams. United Synagogue Day School (USDS) Bayview, USDS Richmond Hill, Bialik and Leo Baeck all iced junior and senior teams. USDS Bathurst, Associated Kamin and Associated Posluns (Neptune) each entered junior teams while Associated Leslie entered a senior squad. Altogether, 81 senior and 114 junior skaters participated, Nathanson said.

The blue-clad boys from Bialik finished second in senior competition.

In the junior competition, Associated Kamin defeated USDS Bayview 7-2 in the title game while in the senior championship, Associated Leslie beat Bialik 5-2.

The tournament is proving so popular, Nathanson has already fielded inquiries from other schools interested in participating next year.

Hapoel's European dream ends in defeat by AC Milan

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Hapoel Tel Aviv's remarkable UEFA Cup adventure came to an end last week when they were beaten 2-0 by AC Milan to lose the quarter-final contest 2-1 on aggregate.

After Rui Costa had put Milan ahead on the night with a fifth minute free-kick, the decisive goal came on the stroke of halftime when Hapoel captain Shimon Gershon headed a Rui Costa cross into his own net.

It was a bitter way for the cup run to end for Gershon, who had led Hapoel to memorable wins over Chelsea, Lokomotiv Moscow and Parma as they became the first Israeli side to reach the last eight of the competition.

They beat Milan, five-times European champions, 1-0 in the first leg of the competition a week before, in a match that was moved from Israel to Cyprus because of security concerns. Milan had to win its home game, played at San Siro, by two goals to eliminate Hapoel.

But while Hapoel showed the spirit, determination and organization that has been the key to their outstanding European campaign, they were beaten on the night by a Milan side that finally showed signs of finding their form in an otherwise dismal season.

Milan had advanced to the final eights with a victory on penalties over Dutch side Roda JC Kerkrade, but it took the home side only five minutes for Portuguese playmaker Rui Costa to open the scoring against Hapoel with a low free-kick from 20 metres.

Hapoel responded positively and four minutes later Milan Osterc came close to getting the equalizer with a header that flashed just wide of goalkeeper Christian Abbiati's right-hand post.

But on the stroke of halftime Milan gained the overall lead when Rui Costa crossed from the right towards a hovering Filippo Inzaghi and Gershon looked to intercept, but his diving header flew into the net.

Such a blow might have weakened the will of a more frail side, but Hapoel continued to take up the fight in the second half. Hapoel gave Milan a reminder the contest was still wide-open when Osterc forced a superb diving save out of Abbiati with a glancing header from a Yossis Abuksis free-kick.

Late in the game, Milan coach Carlo Ancelotti replaced striker Simone with midfielder Massimo Donati as he sought to tighten up ahead of a late rally from Hapoel.

But the last stand never came. Around 8,000 Hapoel fans made the journey to Milan, making most of the noise in the crowd of 23,184. Their applause at the end of the game offered a reminder that despite the defeat, Hapoel had made history with their inspiring run to the last eight.

Israeli duo wins ice dance bronze

By RAMI HIPSH
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Figure skating pair Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovsky made history last week when they became the first Israeli duo to win a World Figure Skating Championship medal.

The two, who finished in sixth place at the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, finished the competition in Nagano, Japan in third place, winning the bronze medal.

Chait and Sakhnovsky, who entered the first day of competition ranked seventh, had a near perfect performance in the original dance category. The two, who skated to the songs "Hava Nagila," "Yiddishe Mama," and "Heveinu Shalom Aleichem," earned high marks, which pushed them into third place, ahead of a pair of skaters from Lithuania.

The gold medal was won by Russian pair Irina Lobacheva and Ilia Averbukh. Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz of Canada came in second.

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The Jewish world suffers

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

The Jewish world is suffering. The anguish is evident, illuminating itself by the grave of yet another Jew murdered in Israel, and through the empty, disbelieving stare at a headline by a Jew travelling to work on the subway.

Jewish angst has found a home within the overworked hearts of the right and the left. It is displayed in the batei midrash of shuls, in corporate boardrooms, in school hallways – wherever Jews congregate. Deep sighs, *krechts* (Yiddish for a curdling moan), of sorrow exit the lips of a housewife on Bathurst Street, knowing the ache felt by her maternal counterpart in Haifa. The Torah says a parent's sins are expunged upon the death of their child.

The intifadah, the war on Israel – you choose your words – has pried open a portal that leads back along the spiraling line of persecution, pogroms and mass destruction perpetrated against Jews for millennia. A friend told me he believes our enemies, given the chance, would destroy Israel. Imagine the heaviness, the agony my pal carries with him. "The voice of your brother's blood cries out to me from the ground."(Genesis 4:10)

We know the feeling of being singled out as the world's only racist state, and the reality of standing first in the resolution line at the United Nations, and of witnessing the burgeoning anti-Semitism in France. It sickens us and baffles us that any massacre, famine or war on our planet, no matter how gross, plays second fiddle to Israel's actions. We are quite aware, as Aldous Huxley said, that "facts do not cease to exist because they are ignored."

The trauma of our history has once against reawakened, and subtly, like a quiescent and sluggish volcano, crept its way inside of us, prompting a noiseless fear and stoic incredulity. Again, Israelis and Diaspora Jews sit awkwardly among the nations of the world like a little girl among her new classmates for the very first time: Scared, lonesome and perplexed.

It's okay to be scared. I am. It's natural to be disappointed. It makes sense to cry out, "Oy, when will it all stop?" You can see the Jewish sorrow in my eyes, and I can see it in yours.

Pesach has arrived and we will drape ourselves in a flowing white *kittel* and sit majestically at our table, telling the story of our departure from slavery and the resilience of the indomitable Jewish spirit. We'll lean to the left in our chairs, slouched in the puffiness of our pillows, remembering that we were once slaves – but no longer. We are free!

This year, in 5762, perhaps we should lean with more vigour and commitment. Maybe we should settle into our place at the Passover seder with pride and unbridled optimism for our future. We should pray with passion for a time when Israelis and Jews are called upon to export our expertise in agriculture rather than our knowledge of early warning systems, and when we bid to import the great Egyptian books of poetry and the silky linens and spices of our current enemies.

This year, when we read the Haggadah and say, "Those who are hungry, let them come and eat," know that in some ways we are praying for ourselves. The hunger is ours. It is a hunger for peace of mind, safety and unity among all nations. When we say, "Next year in Jerusalem," consider that Jerusalem is a metaphor for harmony and holiness and that deep within the crevices of humankind lies our capacity to arrive at those very lofty places.

Leonardo da Vinci said, "Shadows can be infinitely obscure or display an infinity of nuances in the light tones." This year, on Pesach, let Jews everywhere find beauty and the colour of hope among the shadows of war that temporarily hover ominously over our heads.

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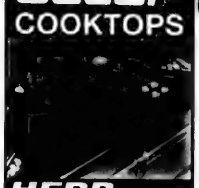

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Passover Eggplant Kugel

- 3 tblsp. margarine
- 1 chopped green pepper
- 1 cup chopped onions
- 1-1/2 cups grated carrots
- 1 small eggplant, cut into 1/2" cubes
- 10 oz. package frozen spinach
- 3 eggs
- 1-1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1-1/4 cups matzo meal

Mix ingredients together and bake in a 3-quart casserole at 350°F for about 45 minutes.

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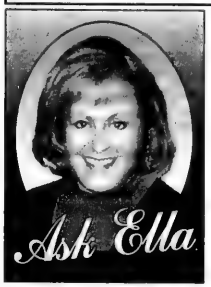
About Life



Dear Ella,

I belong to a very large family, and for the first seder each year, we all try to have it together. The only home large enough to have all of us is my aunt's. There are usually 42 people. We meet in advance to decide who will make what dish and we fill in whatever else we need by using a caterer.

As for set-up and cleanup, we get a couple of waitresses in to help with that. We split the cost of the extra food and the help equally.

Here is what bothers me. When it is over, all the leftovers remain at my aunt's house. She distributes some to her daughters and daughter-in-law, but never offers any leftovers to the rest of us.

The way I see it, we all make something and we all pay for the seder equally. Shouldn't we all share in the leftovers equally? I know it would save me a lot of extra cooking for the holidays.

Pass the Leftovers

Dear Pass the Leftovers

You are very fortunate to have such a large family that can all share in a Passover seder together. It must be a very special time for all of you, especially the kids.

As for the problem you have presented, I'm sure it is annoying, especially since it seems you have let it fester for awhile, but there is a solution. How about discussing this in advance at your pre-Passover meeting. When you all get together to discuss who will make what and how much money you each owe, why not suggest sharing in the leftovers too? I'm sure the rest of the crowd would like it, and very possibly your aunt hasn't even thought about it. The fact that she offers to host such a huge seder every year is quite an undertaking that should not be taken for granted.

After your aunt has put away whatever she wants, as she deserves first dibs, maybe the rest of you could bring your own containers so she wouldn't have any added work, and just have a free-for-all for the rest of the food.

The main thing is not to lose touch of the reason you are all together and enjoying the holidays – *family.*

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN. *e-mail: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

The Canadian Jewish news — Crossword Puzzle

(Answers to the crossword are on page 59.)

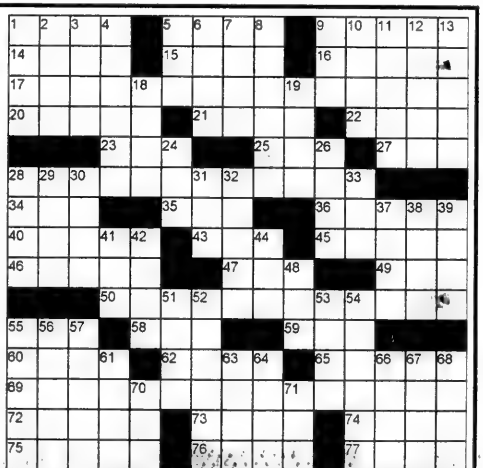
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

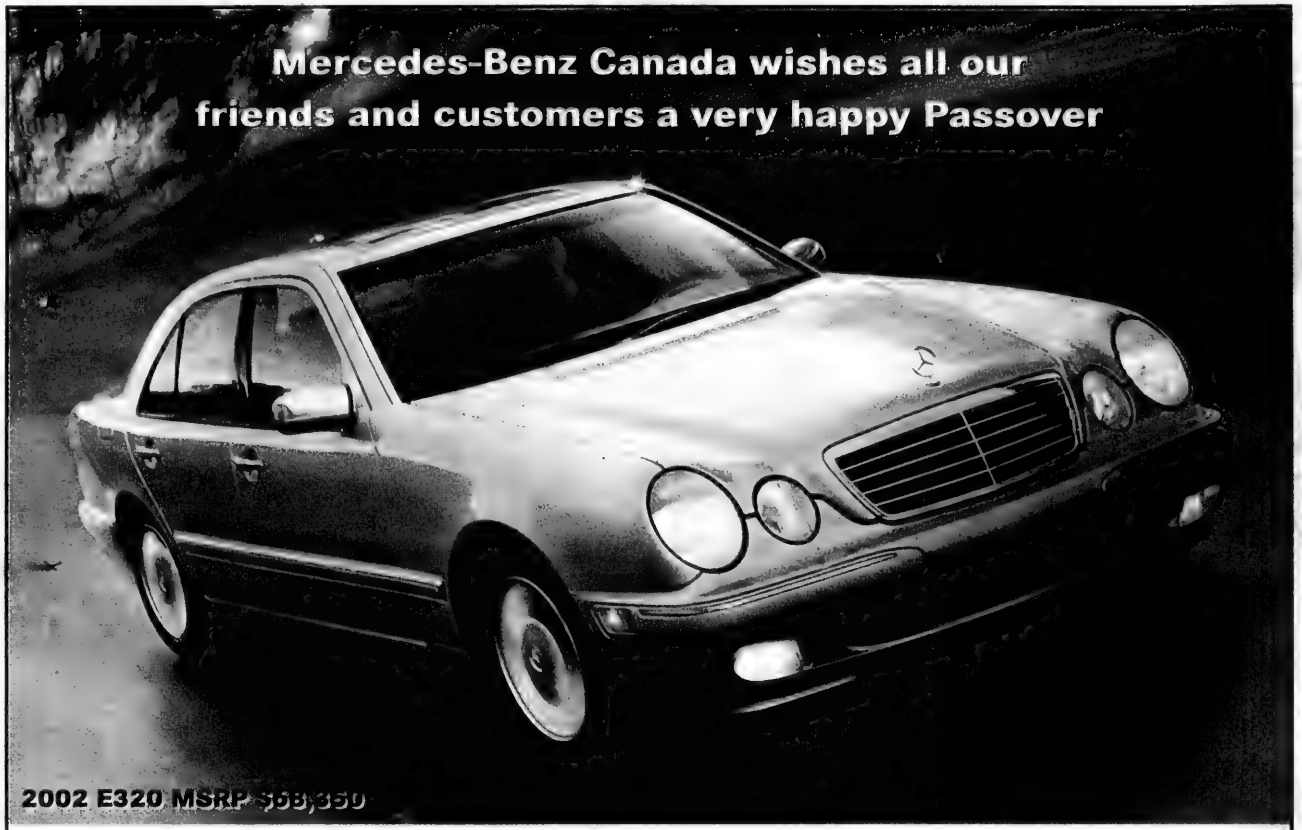
Across

1 "Mr. Holland's ___"
5 Served perfectly
9 Part of a famous Kubrick title
14 Stand against
15 Plantation in *Gone With the Wind*
16 Signs of feline contentment
17 Kubrick film of 1987
20 Extra in Kubrick's "Spartacus"
21 Peace Prize city
22 Franklin flew one
23 Long time
25 Balaam had one
27 Barbara Hershey, ___ Herzstein
28 Kubrick's last film (1999)
34 "White Diamonds" name
35 Part of an Israeli city
36 Dillon and Biondi
40 Cast away, as one's gaze
43 First lady
45 Part of the subtitle of Kubrick's "Dr. Strangelove"
46 Ark contents
47 "___ Crazy"
49 Steinem issue
50 Kubrick film of 1957
55 L.A. campus
58 Letter in Athens
59 Tool for Tiger
60 Two-time director of Tom and Meg
62 Army ___
65 Dodge
69 With "A," 1971 Kubrick film
72 Milk in Malaga
73 Level
74 Las Vegas light
75 German industrial city
76 Workplaces for Woody Allen
77 Desert choice

Down

1 Has removed, Bugsy-style
2 "Graceland" name
3 Where Bill Walton went to college
4 Freudian beings
5 Had challah
6 Roman statesman, 234-149 B.C.E.
7 Time periods
8 Cowboy's home
9 Health ___
10 It may go in the goal
11 "American Pie" actor
12 Its capital is Iraklion
13 Lauder of cosmetics
18 Garfield sound
19 Bible bk.
24 ___-picking
26 Japanese sport
28 Gulf of Aqaba port: var.
29 N.Y. educational institution
30 Israeli President Weizman
31 Billy ___ Williams
32 Honoree of 2-down
33 Road stuff
37 One of the Huxtables
38 Unit of pressure
39 Influence opinion
41 Beastie Boys' music
42 "___ she blows!"
44 Trump feature
48 Frequently
51 Easing of tension
52 Pulitzer Prizes, e.g.
53 Equipment
54 Israel is part of it
55 ___ Miltie (Berle's nickname)
56 Shoe parts
57 Gator cousins
61 Aspirin target
63 "___ Colors"
64 "Saturday Night Live" piece
66 Very draftable
67 Marty Feldman role
68 New car headache
70 He questioned Monica
71 Iron-___ (some patches)





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The Canadian Jewish news

Passover Greetings

A sofer at his own literary work: writing a megillah. [David Haas photo]

POETRY:

Berg, Susan Petersiel ..... *Prayer*
Bernard, Ruth ..... *The Legend of Now*
Bloomstone, Avrohom F. ..... *Jerusalem Bound*
Brodbar, Jay ..... *Ascents*
Dennman, Donia B. ..... *Oh You of Fleeting Conscience*
English, Daniella ..... *A Woman of Valour*
Fromstein, Joseph ..... *On the Death of an Anti-Semite*
Goldstein, Stanley ..... *Of Bonding*
Katz, Lotte (3) ..... *A Stone's Tears, Jerusalem Bookstore, A Song*
Langille, Carole Glasser ..... *If You Believe*
Lerner, Ricki ..... *Baba's Tablecloth*
Lidor, Lisa ..... *Rachela*
Mercer, Hania ..... *Did he Survive Pesach?*
Rudelman, Merle ..... *Shadow Fighters, First Pesach, Pe*
Segalow, Miriam Wa ..... *Ir*

Rottenberg, Archie ..... *Pesach: Feast of Unleaven*
Saban, Pearl ..... *The Doll*
Sheppard, Deborah ..... *Recipe Box, My Mother's Cousins*
Srebnik, Henry ..... *It Starts in Ephesus and Ends at Treblinka: Ruminations on Paul*
Yosowich, Miriam ..... *Illusion*

PROSE:

Painter, Andrew ..... *Isaac the Baker*
Garber, Ralph ..... *Three Wise Men and the Famous Jewish Kla*
Gould, Allan ..... *Don't Leave Home Without It! What Would Make a Good Personal Jewish Library?*
Lassner, April Shaw ..... *How to Make Kreplach, or Confessions of a Failed Kreplach Make*
Lipsett, Leila ..... *Living in a Sealed Room*
..... *The Passover Dove*
..... *Masha's Rec*

SIXTH ANNUAL PASSOVER LITERARY SUPPLEMENT

To our readers

We at *The CJN* are delighted once again to publish our annual Passover Literary Supplement. As always, we received many more worthy submissions than we were able to accommodate on our pages. We are deeply grateful to all the writers who sent their works to us. We understand the disappointment of submitting and not seeing one's work published and we hope that disappointment will not deter our readers from submitting new works in the future.

This year, we have included an essay by the renowned Canadian author and humourist, Allan Gould, who speculates on the books that might appear in a private Jewish library.

We hope our readers enjoy the supplement and find in it some tidbits of literary pleasures to match the many familial and spiritual pleasures of the holiday. *Chag Sameach.*

—SH and MBD

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Ha lachma anya

Punctuating the poetry and prose of this supplement are archival and current photographs by Dan Carmi of the Ethiopian aliyah to Israel. Though the photos are remarkable works of art in their own right, we publish them more to highlight the poignancy of the social and economic challenges Israel now faces in the midst of the violence into which it has been thrust by the Palestinian Authority. Some 85,000 Ethiopian Jews live in Israel, fully 23,000 of whom were born there. As a community, they are paying the heaviest price of the high rate of unemployment currently gripping Israel.

Ha lachma anya, the bread of poverty and hard times, which we recall each Pesach, is not only a metaphor at the seder table. It is also a difficult reality for many people today struggling to cope with many levels of anxiety and uncertainty. Let us bear that reality in mind when we all point to the matzah this year on Pesach.

[Photos courtesy of UIA Federations Canada]

By Merle Nudelman

Faces

Mother examines my face at angles
her head cocked to the right. She says
You're the image of my sister Rivkah.
then turns away, picks up the dishtowel.
Her neighbour from the Old Country
studies me hard, says *Just like your Sarah.*
Mother nods, father snarls *Impossible!*
She's like a twin to my Golda.
And so it goes over my years,
the shadows of my aunts playing
across my changing face.

Hollow Prayers

Every Saturday he goes to synagogue.
He arrives early, takes his usual seat,
passes the morning chanting psalms,
making small talk with the regulars.
Halfway through he retires with his brother
to the basement for a *L'Chaim*
with the schnapps and herring club.

Every now and then, when the rabbi's sermon
preaches divine goodness and love,
Dad shakes his head and his face sours.
So where was this kind God in Auschwitz?
Silence hangs from the sanctuary dome
like tears blackened with ash.

First Friends

On the third afternoon they come,
three aged boys
dad's pals from the Old Country.
They warm with volleys of banter,
study ceiling lights, turn dreamy.

We were neighbours of your father
in Kielce.
Handsome guys – girls liked us,
let us sneak a kiss.
Winters, we sailed across the ice,
triangles of wood sharp with metal strips
tied to our shoes.
Summers, we played street-soccer,
kicked a ball of suit scraps begged
from your zaidie's tailor shop.

We thought those days would keep growing.
The Nazis cut them into the dirt.

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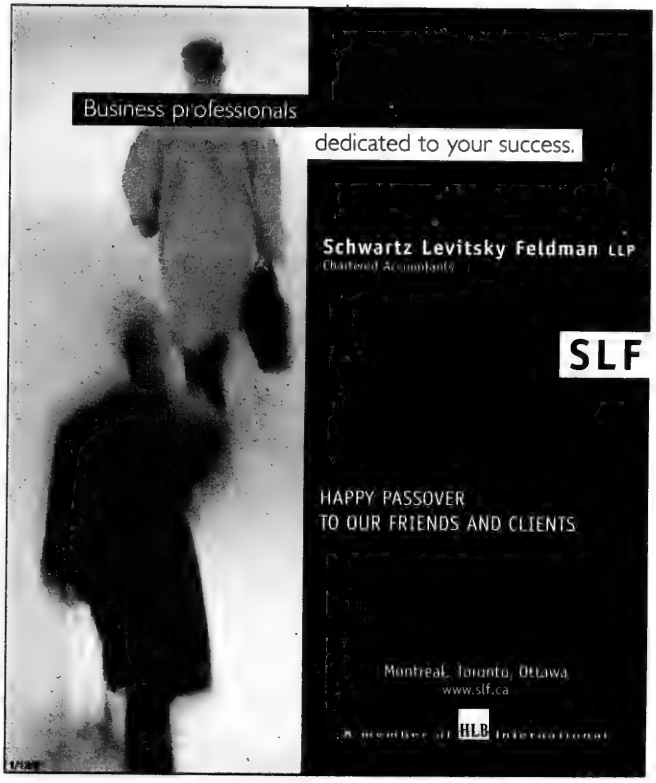

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Isaac the baker

By ANDREW FAINER

Isaac the Baker's van turned the corner and stopped at the first house on the street at 8:05 a.m., just like it did every day Monday to Friday. I waited. I knew the routine. The routine ended with a small cellophane-wrapped chocolate cake. But think of the coldest day you can remember, add a bone-cutting wind and grainy snow stacked up on the streets like bricks, and you'd know, unless you were 10 years old like I was, it could only be routine if you're the one waiting inside a warm house, not if you're the one in the van.

But first let me describe what usually happened. Isaac's first stop on the street was at the family that used to do their own gardening – something unique in the middle-class Jewish neighbourhood. The mother's complexion was porcelain smooth.

The second stop was at the home of the father and son who walked past our house every Saturday morning on their way to shul. The father limped badly but smiled broadly. One of his daughters, who was particularly pretty with delicate features and soft-looking blonde hair that held a natural curl, was usually picked up in a snazzy little sports car.

The third house was where the mother chewed gum almost all the time, and one of their sons attended a special school – the same son who often found his own way to our house to play with our dog, eat cookies and lie himself down for a nap with my father. The van stopped there only every other day, just like at the next door where the children were grown. All of them, even the child who was blind, had scored among the highest on province-wide high school matriculation exams (a list of the top grade-getters appeared in both the *Star* and the *Gazette*).

The last house belonged to an elderly couple whose grandchildren came for supper every Friday night. By 8:20, the van would stop in front of our house and I'd call to my mother, "Isaac the Baker is here."

Isaac, short and middle-aged, with dark eyes and skin made leathery by countless trips from van to house, climbed the steps and rang the doorbell. Mom told me what she needed (either rye, white-sliced or challah) and I told him. He descended the stairs, opened the back door to the van and returned back up the stairs. He handed me the bread and cakes, and told me how much it would cost.

She reached into her bra and withdrew a couple of scrunched-up bills

I went to the kitchen where Mom sat in a bathrobe with coffee, cigarettes and a crossword puzzle in front of her. She reached into her bra and withdrew a couple of scrunched-up bills. I returned to the door. Isaac took the money and then reached deep into his pockets. With thick fingers, he rolled bills off a wad and then fished out coins from a handful of change. Meanwhile Dad was upstairs, showered and shaved, putting on a well-tailored suit purchased from an uncle in the business. My older sister, on the diet-of-the-day, had little interest in bread or pastry, and was upstairs putting on her makeup. A suitor in a powder blue Camaro would pick her up later.

I gave the change to Mom. Then I ate my little cake with due appreciation and method (remove the cake from the cellophane, chip off the chocolate, separate the two layers, eat the cream centre, then the two vanilla-cake layers, and only then the thin layer of chocolate I removed in the beginning).

Anyway, that was the routine. Just let me add that Isaac was polite, but he wasted few words. He had a lot more business to do, even though mine was done.

Isaac was one of only three adults I knew that I could refer to by their first names. The other two were Lina (a French-Canadian maid) and Jack, who repaired bicycles. Jack and Isaac both did roll-up-your-sleeves work and both spoke with eastern European accents.

Isaac was, of course, a "survivor," but 30-odd years ago, it was not something us kids of Canadian-born parents knew about. Tell me Isaac was a "survivor" and I might have thought it had something to do with his work in his van and the winter.

Even so, the "routine" existed because whatever the weather, Isaac always made his appointed rounds. The only change was in the layers of garments he wore. Although a "baker," a deliverer of baked goods, he wore a suit because all men wore suits back then. During the winter he'd

Continued on page B5

'I just couldn't imagine anything sadder'

Continued from page B4

wear layers of suit jackets. On a particularly cold day, he'd wear a sweater vest under the jackets. He'd also wear a cap, one that barely covered the ears. I never saw him wearing gloves. His fingers were red and wet when he'd fish for change or roll bills off the wad. Sometimes he'd guess at what we'd want in order to save himself a trip up and down the stairs, but there was no hint of complaint if he'd still have to make a second trip.

That was it, starting from 8:05 at the top of the street to our front door at 8:20. But on this one winter day from hell, I looked out the door at 8:20 and saw Isaac still halfway down the block. He was hunched over an exposed engine, half-covered in snow. At 8:40 the doorbell rang. The van was still halfway down the block, but Isaac was there with a bread and a snack cake in hand. His eyebrows were covered in ice. It was like the pictures you see of someone climbing Mount Everest, but without the fancy clothing or equipment. He stood there just inside our front door. He was too cold to speak.

I suspected it was this silence that impelled Mom to come to the door, her bathrobe cinched tight. She invited him to come in for a few minutes to get warm. He declined. Mom insisted, pointing out that there was little further he could go without his van working. He sat mute at the kitchen table. Mom got dressed quickly and joined him. I went downstairs with my cake to watch TV.

When I came back up, just a few minutes later, though his jackets were still on, his collar was open, the colour was returning to his face and he was warming his hands around a coffee mug. I left for school.

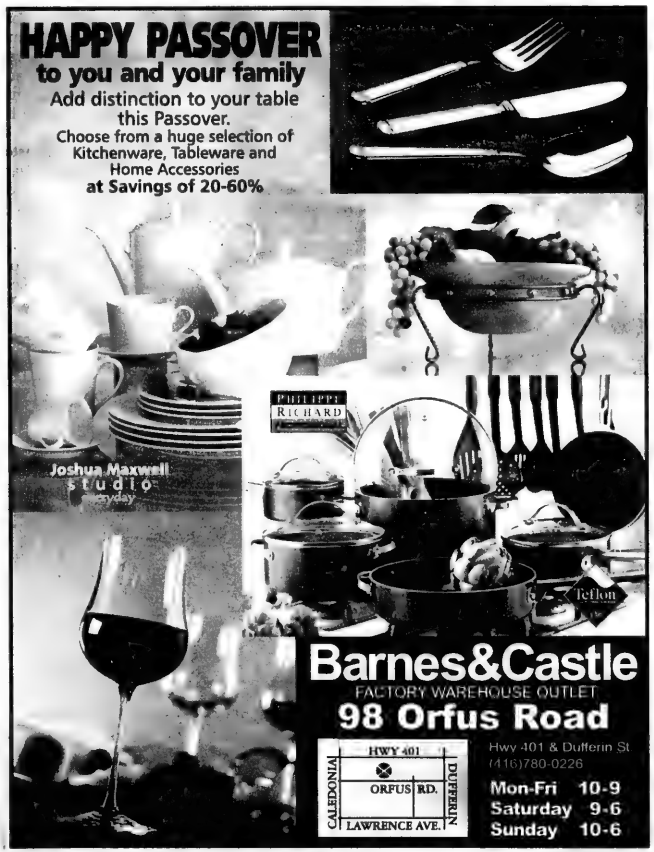
He talked to my mother. There's no simple way for a son to describe his mother, but Mom's understanding way opened up the heart of anyone who talked to her. She was also at the time a beauty of the young-Judy Garland type. At any rate, they had time to talk. The garage couldn't send their tow truck until mid-morning.

That evening around the dinner table Mom told us his story. Isaac came to Canada after the war. A few years later he married a woman who also had been through the war. He worked hard, starting in the early morning hours picking up at the bakery, and peddling his wares until late in the afternoon. His wife worried that he worked too hard for his own good. For years she tried to convince him to find something recreational to participate in. He finally joined a bowling league. He had fun. Then one evening just a few years back he returned home from bowling to find his wife dead from a heart attack. Isaac was left alone to raise their son, who was about my age.

There's no simple way for a son to describe his mother...

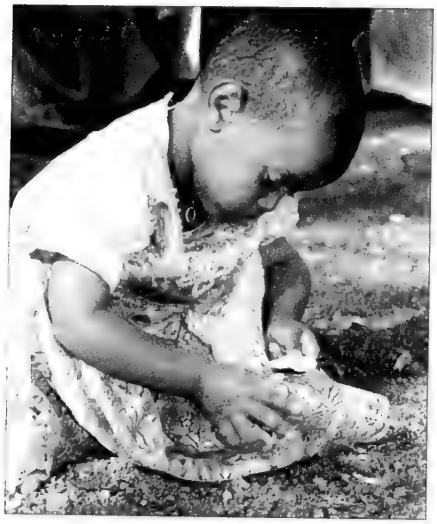
I just couldn't imagine anything sadder than that.

By the next day the streets had been cleared, the van repaired (he was soon to get a new one) and I had my cake by 8:20. But the routine had changed. There were many mornings afterward, until my parents moved more than a decade later, that Mom came to the door herself. Even when she didn't, Isaac's accented voice was warmer. It must make a difference to have a door to knock on in the cold.



Best wishes for a
Happy Passover
to all our friends and customers

DANIER LEATHER *touch*



Prayer Prayer Prayer Prayer

by Susan Petersiel Berg

I. Untitled
In the beginning
(OK, maybe not the very beginning)
there was the sacrifice.
If you are reading chronologically, it is closer to the middle.
But it was the beginning of ritual.
And it was good.
Some would say it was great.
It was spectacle and theatre.
It was physical and spiritual.
With all the senses
it brought humans closer to God.
And when it ended
It left a hole
And we filled that hole with prayer,
with talk of greatness.
Still, there were gaps.
Ever after,
we have struggled to fill them.

II. God Speaks
Shed the blood of my child
and I will curse you
and the children who come after you.

Shed the blood of my animal
and present it to me as though it were your own
and you will shed your sin.

Blood is life and blessing.
Blood is death and curse.
Only I can set the boundary.

III. Sacrifice
Day breaks over Jerusalem.
Sunlight seeps through the cracks in the walls of the Temple.
Soon the slap of sandals on stone
braying of goats
snorting of bulls
fill the air.
One by one
the people approach the priest
deliver the chosen animal
and watch
as blood is drawn,
dashed at the altar.
Human heart soaring as the burnt offering
rises to reach God
in smoke and scent.
Human sin
is washed away.

IV. Destruction, Part 2
The walls come tumbling down.
The Temple is no more,
its stones scattered
the scent of sacrifice dissipating on the wind.
Nothing left but ritual crouching in memory's corners
—
remnants, and words
remnants, and words.
The new heartbeat of a people.

V. Kavannah/Intention
Thin square sliver of soap.
I focus my mind
on each section of my body
cleaning each, then moving on to the next
stopping
to be sure the soap is gone
ears to neck to chest
arms and belly and legs
between the toes.
I run my fingers through my hair
and collect the rough strands that gather there
open my hand to the shower of water
and watch the strands
wash away.

Continued on page B7

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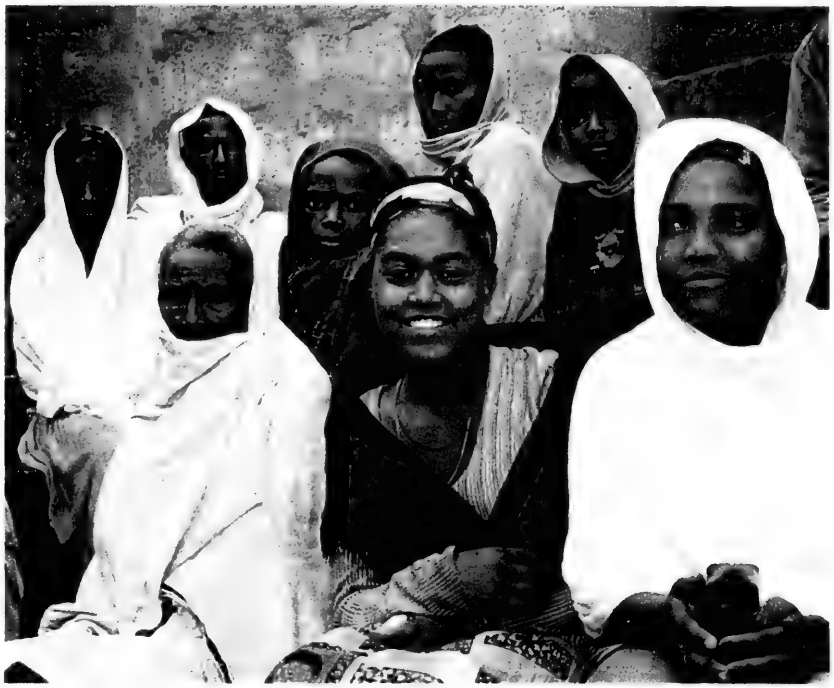
Continued from page B6

VI. Mikvah/Ritual Bath
After the shower
I remove my towel
Step naked and clean down the tiled stairs.
I do not even realize
that the water has risen to meet me
and I am in it.
Unseeing
but hearing
the echo of song
then immersing
so that I float like a baby in its mother's womb
rising
to the rhythm of prayer
to the taste of salt.

VII. Tallit/Prayer Shawl

My prayer shawl
is a tree of life
stretching back
through grandmothers.
Its blues and greens and purples
are the flow
of the life-giving waters, and blood
through which
my daughter/her mother/my mother/her mother
have travelled
to bring me to this place.
God will give strength to all people.
God will bless all people with peace.



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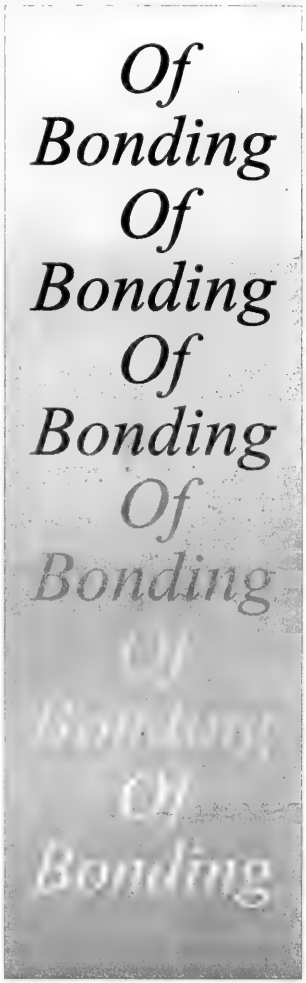

by Stanley Goldstein

I watched.
And I listened.
He spoke softly, clearly, and with little emotion.
I had heard the same words before.
I could repeat them: detail-by-detail.
The surgeon changeth, but the procedure
remains the same, I thought to myself.
He left.
I debated: do I talk? do I keep silent?
I saw her tears.
I remembered my own.
I looked at her fear.
I recalled feeling the same way.
The operation is not painful, I blurted out.
It is the recovery that's the killer.
You never get used to the tubes,
to the constant probing of your body.
You've been there, she asked.
Yes, I replied.
How long?
Five years, I answered.
It came back, she said gently.
Yes.
I am so sorry, she added with warmth.
And with sincerity she inquired,
What will they do?
I don't know, I said.
They will try their best. Who knows?
I am hoping for a long, painless time
in the palliative centre.
We all know that it will come back.
We pray that we live a lifetime before it
returns.
You must get a good night's sleep.
You must be strong.
So dream the most pleasant of dreams.
Dream of hugging your children for the first time.
Of making love with your husband.
Of dancing at your wedding.
Of skipping rope with your whole heart as a little girl.
Dream of beautiful sunrises and sunsets.
Of pristine mountains and lakes.
Of soothing oceans and beaches.
Pleasant dreams.
Be strong.
May the Lord be with you.

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Masha's Bear

By RONALD RUSKIN

When I was a child, I never wanted to sleep.

Sleep stole you from the world. Sleep closed your eyes and shut wonder away. If my eyes were heavy, I fought sleep as if it were the enemy. I struggled to stretch my waking days from morning to afternoon, from twilight to night.

In the Torah, it is written, life's creation began in darkness. It was not darkness, but the void I feared.

Light from the outside world came from a small window. My mother closed the curtains and turned off my light. My bedroom grew dark and silent. She kissed me goodnight.

"Close your eyes, Reuben. Go to the sleepy-time show."

"Please, leave the door open."

"Remember, the sleepy-time show, Reuben. Everything will be fine."

I learned to listen to silence and see the dark.

If I fell asleep for too long I worried that a big dream would trap me and I would never return to the world.

Mornings, after my parents left for work in the drugstore below, Bubba told me to wash and dress.

"*Nu*, Reuben. Hurry up. *Vos macht du* in the bathroom?"

"I'm combing my hair."

"Please, a movie star? Your hair will fall out."

Frightened, I checked my scalp, then ran to the kitchen and sat down with a magazine from the drugstore. While the steaming oatmeal cooled, I looked at pictures.

"You can't read Reuben."

"Pictures, I read fine, Bubba."

After breakfast, Bubba, stooped from arthritis, *schlepped* me from where we lived on top of my father's drugstore to school seven blocks away. In those days, unless you were royalty, you walked. Bubba was a world traveller. She journeyed from Niagara Falls to Richmond Hill, peddling clothes door to door. With her back bent, she out-walked me.

"Be smart, Reuben." Bubba kissed me. "Read."

For the next four hours, we sat in a big room with long windows and blackboards. Kindergarten. Half-day classes.

Drawing, cutting, alphabet, singing, listening – that's what we did. Our teacher, Mrs. Kohl, yelled, "Lean forward. Fold your hands on your desks. Lower your hands. Close your eyes."

I was afraid to fall asleep. What could I do?

I leaned forward, closed my eyes and feigned sleep. Through the spines of my eyelashes, I saw light. I heard bodies shuffle. I smelled paper, glue, waxed oak floors and the familiar scent of my wood desk.

Then, against my will, I fell asleep.

* * *

Later, Mrs. Kohl yelled and slapped her desk with a pointer. What noise! We jumped out of our dreams. How long had we been asleep? Who knew to read a clock?

One student was sleepy all the time.

Her name was Masha. She had rings around her eyes and a frown on her beautiful face. She had come to school in October and had no friends, only a bear that she took to class. I wanted to talk to her but she was too pretty.

When I looked her way, I blushed.

* * *

My mother picked me up from class and we walked home.

"*Nu*, Reuben. How was school?"

"Fine."

"You learned something?"

"Numbers. Letters. Then we slept."

"Good. Soon, you will read."

After lunch, I wanted to play outside but my mother led me to my bedroom. "Time for *shluffy*, Reuben."

"Where's Bubba?"

"Working. Downtown."

Continued on page B11

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Passover Greetings

Masha's Bear

Continued from page B10

"Everybody works. Why do I sleep?"

"To give your *neshume* a rest."

"What is a *neshume*?"

"It is what you were before you had a shadow," my mother said, "before you had a body."

"Show me a *neshume*."

My mother sighed like Bubba. "It is the deepest part of you. One day you'll understand, Reuben."

"If I fall asleep for too long, will I wake up?"

"Of course, Reuben." She tucked me in bed. "I have to work. A long sleep is good for you."

My mother waited a few minutes. I pretended to sleep. I heard footsteps descend the stairs to my father's drugstore.

Then I was alone.

I rose and looked at Masha's small white house across the road. I looked at the farmers' fields that surrounded our drugstore. Snow fell in November and the countryside became endless white. Wind whistled through the apartment. Sleepless, I wondered what Masha did each afternoon. To amuse myself, I found magazines, staring at photos with squiggles. In one magazine, there were burning ships, smoke, black palm trees. A weary-faced man sat in a wheelchair, a blanket over his knees.

Later I asked, "Who's he? What is burning?"

"That's Roosevelt," mother said, "Those ships burned at Pearl Harbor." My mother explained about the attack.

"Will it happen here?"

"It was years ago. It was bad for America," my mother said. "It wasn't good for Jews. At least America joined the war. Don't worry, Reuben. Everything will be fine."

In those days before reading, my world was filled with curiosity and fear. I spent late afternoons in my father's drugstore leafing through *Life, Look, Star Weekly*. I carried magazines to bed. The photos were black and white. My fingertips traced Roosevelt's weary face as if they felt his thoughts.

My bed was an island. My blanket was a sea where imagination played. The shore was my pillow. Not knowing words brought dreams and fears closer. Sleep floated me, but I was afraid to drift far, and never find my way back.

I was a castaway.

* * *

Masha's mother bought medicine in my father's drugstore. Sunday, before my nap, I asked Bubba questions.

"Bubba, what's wrong with Masha's father?"

"Pills, he needs. *Ich vais*?"

"Why?"

"Ask your father."

"Bubba, you know everything."

"*Tattele*, for you, maybe," Bubba smiled. "Your father studied drugs at university."

"Masha's father, is he sick?"

"Yes."

"Will you get sick?"

Bubba frowned. "Don't give me an *ahora*."

"Will I get sick?"

"Reuben. Downstairs your father has a store full of drugs. Feter Herschel and Morris, Cousin Saul and Arnold are all doctors."

I pictured bottles of strong medicine in my father's dispensary; I saw my father, my uncles and cousins shoulder to shoulder in white coats, like soldiers, waiting.

That afternoon, after Bubba tucked me in, I stopped worrying about closing my eyes, drifting and not finding a way back.

I was sure that I would never die.

* * *

Masha's mother had thin blonde hair, blue eyes and always smiled in my father's drugstore. She worked as a nurse and each week bought pills for her husband. She was so pretty and happy that everyone liked her. Since we were neighbours, she invited me to visit Masha.

"Reuben, will you have lunch with us tomorrow?'

"I better ask my mother."

"She agreed, if you want," her mother said. "We are new here. Masha has no friends."

Her mother spoke differently from the others.

Next morning, Masha's mother came to the drugstore and walked us through the December snow to class. On the way, we saw a grey squirrel lying very still on the road. I was too excited to sleep, but Masha, as usual, slept with her bear for half the morning.

Her mother walked us back to their house after school, set peanut butter sandwiches on the kitchen table, poured us milk and excused herself when there was a knock at the door.

"That's the new doctor," Masha whispered. "Be quiet."

We ate lunch in silence.

"Where's your father?"

"Upstairs. Listen."

There was the sound of laboured breathing, coughing.

"Why does he make that noise?"

"The doctor gives him a needle at lunch." Masha's dark eyes brightened. "Come."

Without thinking, I followed her.

The bedroom door was ajar, the doctor bent over her father, jabbing a needle into his chest – or was it his stomach? Who remembers? All I know was that the biggest needle I had ever seen sucked out yellow liquid. His body, his face, his eyes, were yellow.

"Mom says he's better after the needle," Masha's dark eyes sharpened. "Did she tell you I had no friends?"

"Yes."

"But I do have friends."

* * *

The doctor left after that and Masha's mother smiled and introduced me to her husband. He sat very still at the end of his room in a wheelchair with a blanket over his lap. He looked tired like President Roosevelt except he was yellow.

"I'm fine, son," he said. "Don't mind the colour."

I tried to keep from staring. I looked at wrinkles in his bed. Then I looked at him again.

Masha led me down the hall to her room.

On her bed was her family: a bear, two dogs and four child-dolls. We lay down and she talked to them.

"They never sleep at night."

"Why?"

"Listen."

The bear's eyes shook. He made a terrible groan.

"Reuben has a store full of pills." Masha said.

The bear coughed.

"Reuben will get you pills."

We became friends and met her family often after lunch. We told them that the bear would get better, so the rest of the family would be able to sleep.

We told them that everything would be fine.

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by Jay Brodbar

As it were the very heaven for clearness
Exodus 24:10

I.
Looking up,
looking for the road in heaven
that God travels, sapphire-like,
his breeze kissing the face of the waters.
I struggle squinting into the blues
cannot distinguish among
the myriad hues but
for a long time
my people have said:

It is there

so I keep
looking.

II.
And God said: *Come up to me to the mountain, and be there.*

III.
And God showed all things
in one last breath on the last
mountain top from which
he never again came down.
Moses. He had a promise
to be he-who-he-was and pass on
his wise breath.
And Joshua he trusted and touched
so that he, Joshua, could also
be carried by that same sage wind.

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The Passover Dove

By HARRY RAJCHGOT

Passover was coming. It was the first Passover that Froim and his wife Esther would celebrate since before the war, which had ended two years earlier. Observance was now at last permitted. Esther still had no idea where they would find the ritual items needed to celebrate the festival of freedom. They owned only the clothes on their backs. They resided in a refugee camp.

Froim remembered the details of the Passover story he had heard recited so many times when he was a child in prewar Poland. It had told of the escape from Egypt, but for him, his own escape gave it a particular reality. Froim had fled to Russia and there he had spent the war years. What had followed was inconceivable.

The German machine had taken his entire family, his parents, three sisters and two brothers. He had tried to convince them to follow him but they didn't. Running away had seemed to them such a radical and risky move. They had children and property to think of. How could they leave? They stayed and they died. In the end, he was the only one among them to survive. The war rolled after him, but the Germans were unable to defeat Russia, and then, finally, the terrible war was over. The Nazis, who had taken Poland in the first weeks of September 1939, had been defeated by the combined efforts of millions of citizens of a multitude of lands.

Esther, Froim's wife, had by luck, foresight, or the grace of God also escaped to Russia with her older sister. It was in Russia that she and Froim had met, and some months after the war ended, they married. They then returned to Poland, but the world they remembered was gone. No one remained. Their humble properties had been confiscated by the local population or destroyed. There were threats. They had to keep moving, and eventually reached the refugee camp at Pocking in southern Germany, in the American zone of occupation. When they arrived, Esther was already pregnant with their first child.

The couple waited for their chance to move where they could lead a better life. It was almost Passover of 1948. Esther ached to return to her traditions and somehow reclaim them in this altered landscape. Froim was bitter, angry with God for his loss. Ritual repelled him. Their son Hershele had been born in the camp and was now almost 18 months old. The

Continued on page B15

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Passover Greetings

'There was no shochet'

Continued from page B14

birth gave them a desperate feeling of renewal. The trauma of the past, dreadful and powerful, sat brooding on their shoulders like a hungry raven.

Esther could not on her own have found the ritual items needed to prepare this first seder. Her son's needs came first; she could not wander. Some would be provided by the Joint Committee and the American Red Cross. She had received a box of matzahs baked in America and a bottle of kosher wine that they would share with other families. For the Passover plate, she would still need greens, apples and nuts, and bitter herbs for the karpas, charoset and maror. Saltwater was an easy thing to prepare, but even for this, she needed salt. She pleaded with Froim to help her find these. There were other items needed, a shankbone and an egg, but Esther did not expect to have them in these difficult times.

"We will celebrate Passover, Froim. We have lost so much. We must rebuild our lives. We have a son. I want him to learn our traditions."

Froim wanted only to blank out his past. He tried to resist, but he, like his wife, needed the comfort of the familiar. He felt himself tugged in Esther's direction. His love for her brought him around.

Froim scouted the marketplace of the town nearby, where he found most of the basics he needed. He roamed farther, and came across a small farm. The farmer's wife was part-Jewish although she had not been classified as a Jew during the Nazi years. Out of pity, she let him take four eggs and a live dove.

Froim had spent almost the whole day on his quest, and was tired when he got back to the camp. As he brought the bird into the barracks, his son yelled out excitedly, "Feigele! Feigele!" Froim nervously showed the bird to his wife, discomfited at his son's reaction. The boy would soon be eating the bird that now so delighted him.

Esther called to Hershele and gave him a hug, trying to divert his attention. Esther was also pleased. She was happy that her husband had been so successful in his quest. Esther could roast one egg for the Passover plate. There only remained one item, a leg bone, which represented the Paschal lamb offering and also the strong hand of God, who had brought the children of Israel out of Egypt. It would come from the dove.

There was no *shochet* in the camp, though. Foim, although squeamish, told Esther that he would kill the bird. She was torn between one tradition and the other. How could she prepare a bird for the Passover table that had not been slaughtered in a kosher fashion? Froim insisted that they had no choice, and that in such a circumstance, he would be permitted to carry out the act. The meat would be permissible, he said. God had looked away when their families were slaughtered, he added bitterly. Perhaps he could continue to do so for a little while longer. Esther was dismayed but accepted his interpretation. She prayed that God really would look away.

Froim steeled himself and took the dove out to the back of the barracks. He had brought a knife. He had never done this sort of thing before. He was nervous. He gripped the small bird forcefully in one hand, the knife in the other, holding the creature against a stump of wood.

In the frantic eyes of the small, struggling head, he saw those of his brothers and sisters. He remembered the thunderous story from the Torah of the near-sacrifice of Isaac by Abraham. He shuddered but was determined that for the sake of his family, he would continue. Froim placed the knife near the dove's throat, ready, and looked away. He didn't have the stomach to watch the creature die.

"Feigele! Feigele!" yelled Hershele, running around the corner and startling Froim. The man lost his grip on the struggling bird, and, suddenly free, it flew away into the blue sky. Froim's son waved at the bird, singing it goodbye. Froim started down at his son and then up at the dove winging away. He shook his head and then, surprising himself, he smiled.

When the seder started the following night, Froim held up the large tin plate that an American Jewish soldier had managed to borrow for them from the army canteen next to the camp. On it rested the necessary symbolic foods, minus the shankbone.

Froim started: "We remember when we were slaves in Egypt, and how the strong hand of God brought us out to freedom..."

Hershele waved his own little arm in the air and smiled with the joy of a child.

Only months later, Froim and his family would be on their way to a new life in Canada. In themselves, they would find the strength to rebuild their lives. Peace would bring opportunity, and eventually a measure of prosperity. There would follow many Passovers, with full plates and freedoms. Somehow, though, the incomplete plate of their son's first real Passover had provided for them much of what they would need to know and remember.

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beset by graying cloud
is stained
so our joy-felt song
by melancholy strains
is pained
Our nightingale's
sweet melody
can neither surge nor rise
her plaintive cry
can only fly
in tune with saddened theme

Until our Jerusalem
sings out again
until King David's harp
again plays out
his midnight
waking song
our phoenix sleeps
awaiting the
final clarion call
which for centuries
she has longed
and dreamed...

A Woman of Valour

by Daniella English

She is sensual and loving,
Radiating sunshine on all.
A woman of true strength is she,
Sending her children to war.
Both beautiful and strong,
Courageous and brave.
Her days are young,
But her soul; aged.
She is opinionated and persistent,
Soft and romantic.
Petite in size,
Massive in love.

Mothers, fathers, brothers and sister has she lost,
Yet her head remains high.
She lives in an oasis of truth,
Amongst a sea of fallacy.
She hears bombs,
But listens to music.
She feels pain,
But emanates hope.
She smells gunfire,
But is scented with lilies.
She sees war,
But gazes at sunsets.
She is Israel.

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Baba's Tablecloth

by Ricki Lerner

Baba's special holiday tablecloth
covering our Seder table tonight
is a crisp white memory of my grandmother.
It is a family heirloom,
brought all the way from the Old Country
with the burnished candlesticks
and the family recipes
for all of tonight's delicious delights:
mouth watering gefilte fish,
chicken soup with kneidlach,
roast chicken, potato kugel,
and scrumptious desserts.

Tonight we gather together
with our family, our friends,
and even strangers –
for no Jew should be alone tonight –
to tell the story of our escape
from slavery in Egypt
to freedom in the Promised Land;
the story told every year
in the Season of our Freedom.

I recall with fond but fading memories
those who are here now
only in spirit,
but as I raise the first cup of wine
I can almost see Baba
in her Passover dress,
smiling at me,
gazing at the candles,
smelling the food,
and stroking the tablecloth.

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If You Believe

by Carole Glasser Langille

If you believe there are certain things
one human being will not do to another
or that once done, no one could deny them,
go to Terezin. Go to Bergen-Belsen.

Because you were told to line up on the left, in a minute
your wife, children, parents, disappear. If you don't
believe
one person can die again and again. Or that once dead,
that's it, you're dead,
take a walk in Terezin. Take a walk in Bergen-Belsen.

Grown men weighing 80 pounds. Children
thrown likes logs on the fire. Look what goes up in
smoke.
If you think it's bad taste to speak of these things,
breathe the air of Terezin. Breathe the air of Bergen-
Belsen.

Because they took you from your home in the middle of
the night.
Thousands of shoes piled and sorted. The shorn hair
used to stuff mattresses. Can anyone say: *I live in a civilized country?*
See the sights at Terezin. Sight see at Bergen-Belsen.

How the world changes. How it
goes on and on. It never happened.
It could never happen again. It could never happen here.
Spend the night in Terezin. Spend the night in Bergen-
Belsen.

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Oh You of Fleeting Conscience

by Donia B. Clenman

Oh you of fleeting conscience
who long ago chose Mecca and Medina
over Jerusalem,
who crowned Ramla capital
disdaining Urusalim,
who bled white the nourishing soil
growing thistles and thorns in the wind
making all decent men weep
at the sight of this ruined land –
till desert, it became a mirage
a dream of unredeemed longing.

Oh you, faint hearted ones,
expendable victims of your brothers
who encamp and exile you, counting heads –
a trump card in a cynical game.
You who dare not raise a whisper
against slaughterers of moral responsibility
for whom all means justify the end;
who confusing victim with victor
make the world unfit for habitation
from Rome to Tokyo to New York
to the very stars;
admirers of Hitler, Black Munichs, Black Septembers
and all the "Abus" who brandish a dagger
in the night of an unhappy world.

Like the last TV screen
you rehearse the NOW
forgetting everything of before:
five wars, your trumpets, our dead –
and yours, the ones who dared dream of Peace.
I look at the ghostly face of Terry Waite
and fields of Iraq and Iran;
the caves of Bora Bora and mountains of Kandahar –
the poisoned harvest of hate.
Marvel at the braggadocio of your leaders –
all Saints? all Blessed Ones?
All Allah's Beloved?

Continued on page B19

Oh You of Fleeting Conscience

Continued from page B18

How you blacken the heavens with your rages
and the earth with blood of innocents
as if there were no other displaced peoples,
no brothers, by your brothers exiled.
And the Cross strangely mute,
you brandish the sword of the Crescent
to empty the mellahs of Islam
in all your vast Arabian Kingdoms –
survivors, victims, all.

Hamas! Hezbollah! Al Qaeda! Islamic Jihad!
"The dead do not praise the Lord."
Metullah… Machanei Yehuda… Natanya…
Sbarro… Joseph's Tomb… Tel Aviv…
"Karine A"
27 children… a market… a bus junction
a coffee house… a grave… a beach…
A ship?

the muftis' battle hymn
imams' holy call
in our blood unstilled.

The Cross has pitied but one Jew.

Oh transient ones,
between fleeting words and sounds
uncomprehending of a love to endure millennia,
a loyalty to consume all prayers,
a longing beyond, reason, evil –
this East, the never setting sun of our Hope.
You, who content with clichés of "Martyrdom,"
murder and slaughter done
forgive and forget in pious platitudes
of "Quarrels among brothers."

My people, human clay, are divided,
and mindful of prophetic teachings
we stand bowed to lament injustice –
your pain and sorrow too.

Is there no primal doubt,
no "Maybe" no "Perhaps" in your vocabulary
that you will settle for nothing less
but Everything, the whole
the complete absolute
Whole of the Whole?

I could go on and on, except
I, "Forever my brother and sister's keeper,"
do not draw circles around brothers and sisters.
No right or left claims me,
nor Gaza nor 'Territories.'
Among victims mine is the ashen prize.

"And they shall beat their swords
into plowshares…"
Dream Isaiah.
Abraham is weeping for his children.

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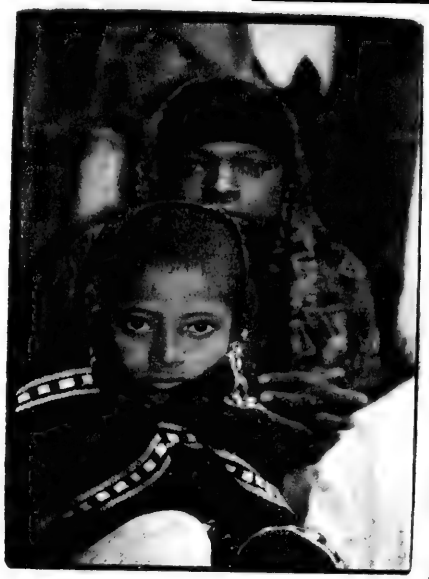

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Three Wise Men...

By RALPH GARBER

As my father said, "Why is a nice Jewish boy like you friends with three Christian clergymen, and one of them a priest?"

It isn't hard to explain, but I still don't find it it easy, either.

I can't start at the beginning because I don't know where that is.

I can tell you who I am. My name is Morty and I am 9½ years old. I live in Lachine, a small town not far from a big city. I live with my parents at one end of St. Joseph Street and it is 1934. I know that because we have been practising to write 1935, which is coming soon.

I'll start when I was walking home from school with Bruce and Nigel on Friday afternoon just before the Christmas holidays. It was getting dark very early and as I passed Holy Angels Roman Catholic Church, Father Bastien waved to me and said I had better hurry because it was almost sundown and I had to be at synagogue. I waved back and remembered that it was every Friday when I passed the church on my way home, because I had no cheder that day.

Just a block away, I came up to St. George's Church, an Anglican one where my friend Bruce's father was the minister. He was a big man with a red face and a very loud voice. He, too, shouted, or it sounded like a shout to me, to hurry home and get ready for synagogue because it was Friday.

I waved back and told Bruce I would see him at school.

Continued on page B21

... and the famous Jewish kid

Continued from page B20

"No, you won't," he said. "We're on holiday."

Nigel saw his father, Rev. Campbell, waiting for him to cross the street and before Nigel could say anything, his father motioned to me to come over to him. Reverend Campbell's church, The River United Church, was alongside Nigel's house and the minister looked at his watch and said nothing.

"I know, I know," I said; and Nigel said, "He knows, he knows."

Nigel's father laughed and told us we had to look after our young Jewish friend to make sure he didn't stray. I wasn't sure what stray meant but guessed that I was expected to go home and not play with my friends.

That was the first time all three men were around to warn me to go home. Usually it is only one, or at most two of them. But maybe because of what happened last week they were out to watch me.

Maybe that is where I am supposed to start, but never mind, I'm getting to it. You see, last week around the same time, I was walking alone and suddenly three French kids started yelling at me and calling me "maudit Juif." I ran from them and because Holy Angels Church was close, I ran up the roadway to the steps of this church and tried to open the huge door. The door swung open and I fell inside at the foot of the priest. He picked me up and saw the three boys stop and stare at me. One said, "C'est un petit Juif." The priest answered, "I know, and so was Jesus." They backed away and I heard the priest tell them to leave me alone or their parents would hear about it. I should mention this was all in French. I should also mention that I speak French too, because I play with French kids who live on my block.

The priest asked me if I was OK and if I could go home alone. I said I was, but didn't really believe it. He said he needed to go for a walk and would go with me part way.

"Do you know where I live?" I asked, and he said everyone along St. Joseph Street knew where I lived.

"You are famous," he said.

I couldn't wait to get home and tell my mom and dad, but I got cold feet when I remembered what my father thought about people who ran away and don't stand up and defend themselves. I didn't tell him then and waited for the right moment, which came exactly one week later.

When I told them, my parents, that is, what had happened with the three clergymen as I was walking home, my mom was very happy they were looking after me to make sure I was behaving. My dad looked at me strangely and said there was more to this than meets the eye. I then told him what the priest of Holy Angels had done the week before, walking me part way home.

"Why would he do that?" my dad asked.

Because he said I was famous, everybody on St. Joseph Street knew me.

"And why are you famous?" he asked.

I sure didn't know the answer to that question. I guessed that maybe it was because I was Jewish and there weren't any others on St. Joseph Street for blocks and blocks.

"That is a very good guess, and I think there is more to the story you're not telling me," my father said.

I then told them about being chased by some French kids that I didn't know, and that I had run into the church and the priest warned the kids to leave me alone. When my dad heard that Bruce and Nigel walked home with me, he asked if they usually did that.

"Not usually; maybe one of them would walk home with me or nobody would," I said.

He then wondered out loud how many times the two ministers met me and told me to get home and to synagogue.

"Not very often, I guess," I said, "but when I play in their houses they tell me."

My dad then told me I was lucky to have "three wise men" to look after me. I had just heard the Christmas story in school where they sing Christmas carols and tell stories about Jesus and the wise men who came to see Jesus.

My mom thought it was alright for them to do that, because it was a Protestant school and there were two kinds of schools in town, one Roman Catholic and the other Protestant. Oh, Mom would say, one French and one English.

My dad left me and went to the telephone and called Father Bastien. In French, he thanked him for looking after me and wondered about the other clergymen. Father Bastien told him that he had called them to let them know what happened to their sons' friend. My dad hung up and started to call Bruce's father, when my mother asked what the priest said. My dad asked her to wait until he had made the other two calls. He then told her what had happened and how the three clergymen planned to keep an eye on me and protect "their famous Jewish kid on St. Joseph Street."

My dad then asked: "Shouldn't you be famous for what you are and not who you are?"

I still can't tell the difference between the two, but my dad said I would when I grew older.

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Passover Greetings

It Starts in Ephesus and Ends at

Treblinka: Ruminations on Paul

by Henry Srebrnik

If Saul
A Jew from Tarsus
Had seen the ashes in the ovens
He would have torn out his tongue
And cut off his hands
For he knew not what he did
Until it was too late

The Legend of Now

by Ruth Bernard

The Pesach of my youth in sweet chant
Papa, my first rabbi, my teacher
Offers the *Ho Lachmo Anyo*
In love-filled voice
Manna from my father's lips
Me of then, girl with saucer eyes
Drinks in the intrinsic kernel of the tale.
Rendered from bitter herbs and
Haroseth, the mortar worked by slave
Rituals imprint and seeds take root
Awakening conscience of growing child.

No mere tale droned in ancient strains
But a spring fed by Mother's smile and
Seder guests welcomed by opening prayer
Yom-Tov candles light the way
Exposing hidden corners of the heart
Where chometz lurks and lies in wait
To leaven and take over the endangered soul.
The legend sweeps me into its voice
Free yourself of every Pharaoh
Especially the one within

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Living in a sealed room

By LAILA LIPETZ

How could I ever imagine that cello tape, not tuna fish, would be my favourite care package from Canada? With daily pronouncements of the imminent chemical Armageddon Israel will soon experience, my faraway family can do little more than send shipments of tape and chocolate, batteries and books, to keep us company in the rural isolation of my border kibbutz.

I wait for my children to be in bed. The news is bad enough, they don't need to watch me as well. A roll of cello tape in each hand, I walk reluctantly, heavily to my bedroom. I close the shutters, then the window, on the star-suffused country sky, not knowing when I will be able to open them again. Glancing at the book lying open on my bed, I scan for words to remind me of the tasks I have waited all day to do: sterile clothes in Mason jars… emergency food supply… prevent glass shards… cello tape windows… sealed room. The cello tape clicks and snaps as I stretch it across the window pane. I see reflected in the tape-on-glass checkerboard the bizarre pantry of clothing-filled jars, the grotesque gallery of gas masks, my drawn, determined face.

Wafting down from the end of the hall is the children's giggling, that laughter that bubbles up from the security of their beds, their dolls, their nighttime toys. My preparations complete, I rest my head against the hard, glass surface, and beyond the ever-watchful eyes of my children, I let my tears flow.

* * *

Morning brings sunshine and light, the white, warming light of the Mediterranean. Radio in hand, ready for news of war, I lounge in the shade of my door and observe my children, radiant in the freedom of play, their faces shining from the Israeli winter sun. My daughter's blonde frizz is a golden halo, a bobbing, swirling target for the baby's chubby grasp. In their path, their brothers tumble on the grass, more puppy-like than human, oblivious as the baby to my sudden interest in radio. Only my daughter, my nine-year-old, my eldest, knows enough to study my face.

I want her to observe my calm exterior. I step out into the sunshine and search back into my safe, middle-class Canadian upbringing, hoping to find some insight from its cool serenity and northern greyness that will guide me in this threatening, sun-drenched reality. I remember the secure, loving world of my

Continued on page B25

A Song
by Lorne Katz

Yaron knew me well;
In the date trees we worked,
Tying eshkoliot for the harvest,
Where he, in a song of David Hamelech,
Showed me what I could be.

And there my eyes were adjusted,
To the sun-scorched, Beit She'an valley at noon,
When we stood proud on the high bended branch
Of a blooming etz tamar.

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from John Colombo & Staff

Exhaustion, despair have drained me

Continued from page B24

childhood that blessed me with an inner strength and joy, yet surely did not raise me for this.

I listen to the radio and wait for news of an American invasion of Kuwait, a sure trigger for the promised launch of bombs towards Israel. My children's trusting faces look at me, believing in my powers.

* * *

The anticipated siren wakes us from our sleep, its blare a transgression of the sanctity of the kibbutz night's silence. The children's terror propels them into my bedroom. I seal the door with the tape and spread the wet towel along the space near the floor. The baby is hurriedly closed into her "gas mask," a plastic box hardly large enough to contain her. Her accusing, uncomprehending eyes, distorted through the plastic barrier, wound me even more than her unending shrieking. The other children scramble into their masks, and sit shivering from fear and cold beneath the passive, plastic facades.

I take one last, careful look at the room, remove my glasses, don my mask and enter a disorienting world of fuzzy blurs. Stifled, struggling to draw air through the filters, our nerves tortured by the baby's endless cries of terror and berayal, we feel more trapped than protected.

The radio is our contact with the world outside the room. Between reports on the damage and the continuing danger, popular music and dance tunes are broadcast in an effort to distract a nation sealed in isolated cells. By the time the radio releases us, we have learned, painfully, of the inadequacy of our preparations.

Thirsty, shaking with cold, our bladders aching, we burst out of the room three hours later.

* * *

The sunlight pouring in through the living room windows has no healing powers today. Exhaustion and despair have drained me of my usual resilence. The children are despondent from sleeplessness, yet even the baby is aware enough to find my unfamiliar containment distressing. They play quietly, yesterday's energy gone, while I devour the news.

Soon, there are phone calls from Canada, my family's voices full of love and concern. They buoy my spirits as surely as my ragged voice distresses them. Strengthened by their love, I hug the baby on my lap, and continue my obsession with the news, watching the war, watching ourselves.

* * *

The siren hurls us from our beds once again. Already battle-smart, we quickly run to the washroom before racing to my bedroom. Last one in the door, I look with satisfaction on the improvements – the thermos of hot tea, the colourful mugs, the cookie jar of homemade brownies, the emergency pail in the corner, the pile of extra blankets beside the bed. Uneasily, I choose calm over terror, though perhaps danger over safety, and decide that we are not wearing the masks tonight. I seal the door.

Drowsy baby in arms, I nestle in amongst my children, the extra blankets now covering us, creating a makeshift, woollen cave. We drink tea and talk and enjoy the newest jokes. My children giggle, their beautiful rolling giggles, at the silly stories I tell. We surrender to the warmth and coziness of our sealed room, our family shelter, while we share these stolen, wakeful moments in the dead of night.

The hot tea, the fresh brownies, the lazy waste of time, the camaraderie, and especially the children's laughter, throw me back to another time. I remember how I used to laugh, uncontrolled, unbridled, and at the slightest provocation. It was a glorious expression of the lightness of spirits and profound security I felt, a creation of the love so freely given me.

That laughter is gone, replaced by the weight of my love for my children. I hear their laughter, my lost laughter, that laughter that lives even in a sealed room, and know that the gift of my love has passed on what I enjoyed, when it was my time.

Trapped under the pile of blankets, the children's weight resting on me, I savour their delicious warmth.

Did He Survive Peace?

by Hania Mercer

The war
he survived
I know
I met him
a year later

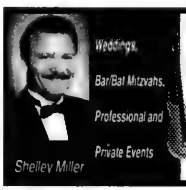
It was not
a language
they could
easily
understand

One evening
a group
of teenagers were
standing in a circle
old and young

His words
revealed
the scars
that his
heart bore

When the boy
next to me
tall dark
and handsome
started to talk

I was in Auschwitz
shovelling the dead
into the ovens
he told them
waiting for understanding



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On the Death of an Anti-Semite

by Joseph Fromstein

I heard that you had left this realm,
just like some huge, decaying elm,
and it is hard to mourn,
for ever since the time we met,
I've had a feeling of regret
that you were ever born.

I ventured to the funeral home,
from which few patrons seem to roam,
to visit for a minute,
to view the casket on display,
before the onset of decay,
and make sure you were in it.

So now that I am satisfied
you did the proper thing, you died,
may Fate no more abuse you,
so long as, when you reach the gate,
you'll have along your store of hate,
and Hell will not refuse you.

The Doll

by Pearl Saban

In memory of
Marjem Adler, 1927-1942

Her body,
tattered and torn,
discoloured dress
unravelling at the seams,
face smudged with dirt.

But her eyes,
lifelike in their ocean blue,
stare unceasingly at the world –
as if taking in all the fine details,
as if memorizing them
for some future time.

The little girl
clutches her prized possession.

Her dress, too, is tattered and torn,
its yellow star fading, but not fast enough.
Her face, too, is smudged with dirt.
Her ocean-blue eyes,
so like the doll's
as they stare unceasingly at the world –
as if documenting the fine details,
as if memorizing them
for some future time.

The child looks
at the man
who offer her pieces of chocolate.
"*Czekolada, czekolada.*"
He holds out the treat to her.

She shakes her head no.

"*Matka, Matka.*"
Mother, Mother,
she replies.

"*Nie zyje.*"
Dead, he says matter-of-factly.

And as the little girl holds her doll
to her chest, she points to it.
"*Lalka.*" Doll.
And then she points to herself.
"*Matka.*"

Illusion

by Miriam Yosowich

Safety,
Illusion of a dismayed mind,
Hiding in my conscience.
Safety
Is just a black hollow bubble,
Once filled with a confident substance,
Now drained empty,
As it bursts on the streets of Jerusalem,
Bathing the holy city
In the blood of its natives,
Drowning the sounds of habitual life,
Of children laughing and playing,
People walking on the cobbled sidewalks,
Or lounging during a hectic afternoon
Along God's shore,
In a café or restaurant,
Having a cigarette, drinking a coke,
Until the peaceful bubble gushes open,
And splatters blood and dreams
Along the violent path
Of disillusioned freedom.
Safety,
A strange word
In the streets of Israel,
Is the illusion of many
Who watch the news
In a movie-like trance
While others fight for the
Impossible hallucination of peace.
We surround ourselves in a cocoon
Of disbelief
But our brittle silk shell
Won't save us from reality.
Safety is just another word
In the dictionary
That has become
Meaningless.

Terror in the Land

by Miriam Weiner Preszow

Shalom! she called
as they parted ways
It was the last time
A blaze of fire
flashed in front of her
She was gone

He stood paralyzed
As he turned to see
what had happened

Tears dripped slowly
from his eyes
No! he shouted

Cries of horror were heard
Others were gone as well
Blood
was everywhere

Innocence, love, and peace
will triumph
For her, for others who lay lifeless next to her
Their spirits will help to bring the peace we all seek
Shalom

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How to make kreplach...

By APRIL SHOUR LAUFER

My husband's parents, Bubie Annie and Zaidie Sam, were celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary and they had stopped by to see the kids. I was just in the midst of preparing dinner for the family and recipe books were lying open on the countertop next to the sink. Sam popped his head into the kitchen with a smile.

"You're making supper," he grinned.

"Yes," I said and walked over to kiss his cheek and say happy anniversary.

Annie came into the kitchen a minute later all smiles. "He's taking me to that fancy restaurant you told us about."

"Which one?" I asked.

"You know, the one on Wilson with that fancy chef."

"Oh, I hope you enjoy," I said, stirring the sauce boiling on the stove.

"Well," Sam said, wandering into the kitchen, "it won't be as good as Annie's cooking."

Then he added, "You use cookbooks." He said it as a kind of exclamation. I didn't know if he was impressed or surprised.

I said to Annie, "I should come over and get your recipes."

She looked at me smiling and said, "Really, you should come."

I thought for a second and asked, "Would you write them down for me?"

She looked uncertain. "Which one?"

"Well," I said. "How about the broccoli kugel, and maybe the Passover chocolate cake, and the children love your potato kugel, and the kreplach."

"And, and, and," interrupted Sam. "You'll have to come over and watch. Come Annie, we're going to be late," he said. "I made reservations," he announced proudly.

Turning to Annie, I said, "I'm going to come over."

"Good. Thursday, I'll make you some kreplach. You'll come and watch," Annie said.

I thought for a moment about what I had to do on Thursday, a whole week away, but still…

"Come," Sam called to Annie as he headed to the front door.

As they walked out the door, I thought of all the times I had promised to come and see how Annie made her famous *meichels* and had never done it. As they walked to their car in the driveway, I shouted after them, "Okay, I'll come."

"You're coming?" asked Sam.

"No, no. I mean to see Annie make the kreplach. What time?"

As Sam opened the car door for Annie, she thought for a moment biting her lower lip, then said, "Come around 11."

"Great," I shouted after them. "Thanks. Happy anniversary!"

The week passed quickly and on Wednesday night, I called to tell them I'd be there at 11 o'clock as promised.

"That's good," said Annie. "Everything will be ready."

When I arrived at the house, Annie and Sam were in the kitchen. There was a big pot already boiling on top of the stove. Sam was drying some cutlery. Annie gave me a hug.

"So," said Sam giving me a peck on the cheek. "You're ready?" He asked in his singsong voice.

"I forgot a piece of paper," I announced.

"A piece of paper," he repeated. "I suppose you want a pen, too."

I smiled.

Annie was busy at the counter rolling out some dough. I found a corner of the counter that wasn't being used and put the paper down so I could write down what to do. There was a container of meat sitting on the counter next to where Annie was rolling the dough.

"So," I said. "What do I do?"

"You roll out the dough like this," she answered.

Continued on page B29

Pesach: Feast of Unleaven

by Archie Rottenberg

Master of the universe, God,
We beg you once again to cause
That awful messenger of death,
The angel of terror, to pass
Over us, our homes and houses
Smeared with risen blood of innocents
Here and abroad everywhere
Throughout this supposed world
Created in your image, after your own
Likeness, ex nihilo, coming out
Of nothing, and more nihilistic
Now than good, religio ad
Absurdum in Your name.

Holy, holy holy,
War, not peace,
Land, not earth,
Space, not heaven,
Me, not you,
Mine all mine
From the beginning
Until forever.

Lord, bring us once again, now,
To observe, at least for seven days,
The Feast of Unleaven, sitting all
Together even from darkest night
Till brightest morning in unfettered
Harmony, easing each our own
Pesach, sufficiency safe in
Exalted exodus from foreign gods,
Rising up, then, at last to a new
And better world that will be truly
Very good.

... Or confessions of a failed kreplach maker

Continued from page B28

I watched as Annie moved the dough around on a butcher-block board, pulling here and there and working the rolling pin back and forth for several minutes.

With pen in hand I asked, "How thick should it be?"

Annie looked at me. She seemed a little puzzled by the question. She moved her hand across the dough. "Like this," she said.

My recipe books provided instructions like well-kneaded, or knead by hand for one to two minutes, or roll dough to 1/4-inch thickness. I looked at the dough. I bent down to see how thick it seemed. "A quarter of an inch?" I suggested.

Annie smiled a little.

"You make the meat first," Annie explained.

I looked at the bowl containing the ground meat.

"What do you use?" I asked.

"Well, you start with chicken thighs, maybe legs if they don't have thighs. And you add a piece of chuck."

I nodded. I had no idea how to do this. Maybe it was my seven years of being a vegetarian. I didn't even know what chuck looked like.

"So the meat cooks inside the dough," I asked uncertainly.

Annie paused as she was rolling out the dough.

"No," she looked at me, lifting up the bowl of meat. "It's cooked."

At that moment, a grinning Sam happened by and said in a whispered voice, "What do you think? She's been cooking since six this morning. She's already made 150 kreplach. These are just for you."

I looked at Annie and thought of the five hours she had already put into making the kreplach. A little hesitantly I asked what she did with the meat.

She was still rolling out the dough and answered absentmindedly. "You grind it up, cook it. Pepper, paprika, garlic."

"Okay," I said.

"Don't forget the oil," she said.

I had no clue.

"In the meat?" I asked, now feeling that I should be taking a first-year cooking course rather than skipping to the advanced level.

Sweat started on Annie's brow. "You sauté the meat till it's cooked."

By now, Annie had cut the dough into perfect little rectangles. She took a teaspoonful of the meat and placed it on one piece of the dough and showed me how to fold it. "Don't forget the onions."

I was lost.

I reminded myself that I was there to learn, so as bravely as I could I asked, "When do I add the onions?"

Annie kept making the kreplach. Without looking up, she said, "You put the onions in with the meat and cook it together."

As I was writing down the information, Annie added, "Don't forget to boil the chuck and the chicken first."

There were arrows and scribbles all over my piece of paper.

Annie wiped her brow with the back of her hand.

I was starting to feel that it was not going well, but I kept reminding myself that I was there to learn.

"How do I make the dough?" I asked in a voice that sounded timid even to me.

"Flour, an egg, salt," Annie answered as she took some more dough and was rolling it out.

I knew I was in trouble but I asked anyway, "How much?" I tried not to look at Annie.

"You take some flour. Maybe 2½, maybe three glasses full. It depends."

I took a peek at Annie, who was looking pretty stressed.

"I use a measuring cup," I said in an almost whisper.

Annie stopped making her kreplach. "Do I have a measuring cup?" she said quite loudly. I wasn't sure if she was asking Sam to come look for it, but then she started to rummage noisily through her pots and pans. After several minutes, she finally found it. She poured some water in the glass she used for measuring and then filled the measuring cup.

"It looks like it's an even cup," I said brightly.

"Like I said." Annie sighed.

I felt like I was sinking. With the faintest of conviction, I told myself one more time that I was there to learn.

"How much water?" I pretended to be busy writing something down and didn't look at Annie.

"A glass of water," she said.

I didn't dare ask if she used the same glass to measure the water.

"Anyways," she said, "You need to add a bit at a time until the dough feels right."

I was sunk.

The rest of the hour I spent watching Annie put her kreplach into the pot of boiling water. Each one floated to the surface in a synchronized dance of perfectly shaped and identical kreplach.

I left Annie's an hour later. She looked a bit tired. She didn't see me to the door but sat at the kitchen table and asked Sam to make her a tea.

As I left, a grinning Sam asked, "When are you going to have me over for your kreplach?"

I looked down at my scribbles, I looked up at Sam and said, "I'll let you know."

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Rachatz

by Lisa Lidor

Cool water
hand over hand
falling in splashes
to the silver bowl
our great-grandmother
brought from a shtetl in Eastern Europe.

Burning water
tears upon tears
of the dark secrets
and forgotten dreams
our mother never told us
to save us the pain of knowing.

Salt water
year after year
as cloudy water fills ancient vessels
while we sit wondering in awe
at the distance our sisters traveled
hoping to one day be freed from our own slavery.

Fresh water
miracle following miracle
hidden within our lives
like Miriam's Well
quietly bubbling within our souls
while we await our own exodus.

Recipe Box

by Deborah Sheppard

Her rounded writing stands upright
in faded ink: date bars, lemon squares,
flower garden cake,
genteel food for bringing over
to the Anglicans' church bazaar
or the Catholics' piano recital.
The cards nod discreetly to an indebtedness:
Sponge Cake (Bessie),
Dessert Cake — Bernice Engel,
Ann's Banana Bread.
My grandmother went to England in the Great War,
nursing in the St. John's Ambulance Brigade.
Back home,
at the canasta games,
women's auxiliary lunches,
she sat at the head of long tables,
pouring tea and water into translucent china,
a pot in each hand,
revealing her to be a true member
of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.

What I want are the muscular immigrant foods,
the military-perfect squares of dough
that only my grandfather was privileged to cut,
in victory over his swollen, locked joints.
From his command post at the flour-strewn table,
he'd criticize the seasoning,
oversee how the filling was placed
precisely in each centre,
the dumplings crimped,
fried, boiled, devoured.
My tongue longs for the soft cylinders
that slide from marrow bones,
fished from the cauldron of thick beans and barley
and spread on challah bread that my mother gave me.
I want to breathe sweet onions,
seared golden in schmaltz
to anoint the fat-veined, purple-red brisket,
cushioned by lima beans, carrots,
potatoes, garlic, ginger, paprika, pepper,
sealed in its black pot on Friday,
ready for the village baker's oven,
and carried home for Shabbos dinner after shul.
The cholent surrenders its secrets
through the shtetl streets,
fragrance of diaspora floats to me,
mother tongue I have only begun to learn.

My Mother's Cousin

by Deborah Sheppard

They turned gray
without my noticing,
faces grew lines and soft folds
of ancestral photos.
Edward turns seventy-five tomorrow.
I still see him as a boy of eight, says my mother,
the readiness for adventure,
he'll try anything once.
Meyer is the oldest, the one who remembers
the old country,
the *bandit* always in trouble,
his good heart now beyond the doctors.

I did not agree to this.
I want the pull of a different gravity:
cousins all gathered lakeside,
Adirondack chairs under poplar rustle,
crunch of mandelbroit,
powdered rainbow of Turkish delight.
With them I will always be Ruthie's child,
free to play until dinner time on the flagstone patio,
write messages on birchbark,
to stuff into a bottle, float down the lake to the river
and away.

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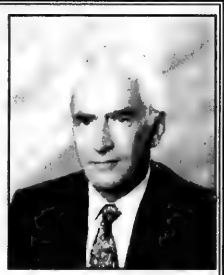

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2002 Literary Supplement
Passover Greetings

Don't live at home without it!

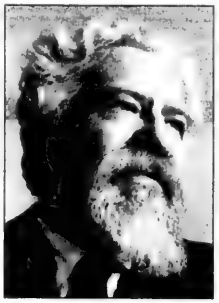
By ALLAN GOULD

There was a TV and magazine commercial several years ago—was it for American Express?—that went, "Don't leave home without it!" As this author and journalist recalls, it referred to not daring to venture out into the street without a credit card, or you'd be in Big Trouble. (As if the Jews don't have enough troubles already.)

Which explains, I hope, the title of this essay, in honour of the Passover holiday season: What books should every Jew *not* "live at home" without? What Jewish books should we always have around, that, like a good credit card, we can reach for when we truly need them?

The question of a good Jewish home library probably became slightly less important with the rise of quality Jewish public libraries in our great cities.

So, if we've got decent public libraries, then why have a home library? Certainly, every traditional Jew has a library overflowing with *sfarim* – copies of the Five Books of Moses, Mishnah, tractates of Talmud, and other holy tomes; this is as logical and necessary to religious Jews as a tallit or yarmulke.



Abraham Joshua Heschel

But what about secular Jewish books that are not in Hebrew or Aramaic? Are there many that we really should *not* "live at home" without? Books that allow us to sleep better, knowing that they will always be within reach, whether for a smile or an inspirational thought; a good cry or a consoling insight?

I think so. The *Encyclopedia Judaica* is certainly wonderful to have at home, and, in spite of its rapid "dating" – has it been three decades since it was published? – one finds it welcome on many occasions. (I recall looking up "Murray Perahia" recently, after my wife Merle and I heard the fine pianist perform with the Toronto Symphony, wondering if he were Jewish. And there he was: born in New York, of Sephardi heritage (Of course! Perahia, from *perach* – flower! Why hadn't we thought of that?)

Let me share a list with you – a highly-personal list, of course – of books which I have often found even more precious to have in our home than any credit card.

Judaism:

This is a toughie (but then, all the categories are). As a committed, serious, but non-halachic Jew, I struggle over which "bible" is best to own and use regularly. The recent Everett Fox translation of The Five Books of Moses is extraordinary, and enormously helpful for both study and insight; his scholarly looks at the meanings and puns behind every Hebrew word are powerful. The new United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism has a new, if terribly costly, commentary, Etz Hayim, which many literalists will find troubling, but which has stunning, invaluable Midrashic sections. Probably the most satisfying, relatively new, translation of our Torah is the Jewish Publication Society's five-volume set: archaeological yet "frum," it is a must for most Jewish homes.

How about *Basic Judaism* – the title of Milton Steinberg's 1947 classic, now terribly out-of-date? Prof. Emil Fackenheim's *What is Judaism?* is highly recommended as a brilliant, intelligent, solid, beautifully-written and loving study of what our great faith and people are all about.

I also urge you to create an Abraham Joshua Heschel mini-library: his *Israel: An Echo of Eternity*, written in the rush of pride and spiritual joy that followed the Six Day War of 1967, is a poetic and deeply-moving declaration of the centrality of the Jewish State – and Jerusalem – to our people, history and faith. And, while his *Man's Quest for God* and *God in Search of Man* are both essential reading, the one, single, must-own book of this giant has to be *The Sabbath*. If there is *any* one book that captures the glory of this most specific of Jewish concepts, as well as its spiritual and moral underpinnings, it would be this thin paperback. It may well be the most impor-

Continued on page B33

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What makes a good personal Jewish library?

Continued from page B32

tant single book that I shall refer to in this too-brief essay.

As for actual day-to-day living as a traditional Jew, one cannot do better than *The Jewish Holidays: A Guide & Commentary* by Michael Strassfeld. Or maybe you can: an Orthodox Jewish couple in New York have affected tens of thousands with their exquisite prose and loving explanations of being an active, "frumme yid": Blu Greenberg's *How to Run a Traditional Jewish Household* may be out-of-print, but beg, borrow or steal a copy. And, arguably, the most meaningful, moving, often enthralling study of each and every Jewish yomtov is her husband Yitz Greenberg's *The Jewish Way: Living the Holidays*. There may not be any book in my own Jewish library that I refer to more frequently: when Pesach, Shavuot and Sukkot roll around each year – come to think of it, when Purim, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur and the rest do, as well – Rabbi Yitz's is the book I grab eagerly from the shelf. What love, what understanding, what glorious passionate commentary!

Jewish History:

Many of the best histories, such as those by Salo Baron, Simon Dubnow, Solomon Grayzel and Max Margolis/ Alexander Marx, are either miserably out-of-date or dreadfully dry. Others, by Cecil Roth and Max Dimont, are a bit "too popular" and filled with error – especially the latter.

Martin Gilbert

Arguably one of the better Jewish historians writing today is Martin Gilbert, who frequently turns out books of well-written and very reliable scholarship: *The Jews in the Twentieth Century*, only recently published, is handsomely illustrated and very satisfying; his *Israel: A History*, *Jerusalem in the Twentieth Century*, *The Atlas of Jewish History* and *The Holocaust: A History of the Jews of Europe during the Second World War* are all excellent, with the latter being especially noteworthy in its reliance upon hundreds of diaries and personal recollections of both the murdered and the survivors.

Canada has its own experts on the Holocaust, of course. University of Toronto's Michael Marrus's works are extremely scholarly and worthwhile, if occasionally hard on the non-student, and, of course, Irving Abella and Harold Tropper's *None Is Too Many* remains the single most important study of the outrageous way Canadian officials kept our fellow Jews out of this golden land when their decision was, most literally, life or death. (The American equivalent, Arthur D. Morse's *While Six Million Died*, also remains a classic, and should be owned and read as well.)

Jewish Literature:

Regarding "Holocaust literature," we all have read Holocaust books that have shaken us to our very core. There is no question that Elie Wiesel's *Night* should be in every Jewish home. And as far as anthologies of writings from that agonizing period – both fictional and historical – I have never, ever discovered a single one that could match the brilliance of Arthur H. Friedlander's *Out of the Whirlwind: A Reader of Holocaust Literature*. It is now, thankfully, back in print, just over three decades after it was first published, and in a reasonably priced paperback. I used this text when I taught the Holocaust at various synagogues in Toronto in the 1970s and 1980s, and it is probably the one volume I would give to anyone – Jew or Gentile.

Why do I cherish this volume so much? Because it is so cautious, so sensitive, so respectful, as well as so historically and literarily valuable. For example, a selection from Anne Frank's diary is followed by an outlandish Bruno Bettelheim attack on her family for not getting out of Europe, (!) but rather trying to live their lives normally in wartime. His essay also includes a legitimate rage against the wishy-washy 1950s (Pulitzer-prize-winning!) play, based on that precious diary,

Continued on page B34

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Best wishes for a happy and healthy Passover

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Amichai's love poems among best

Continued from page B33

which lets the audience off the hook: "If all men are basically good," Bettleheim quotes the last line of the mediocre drama, "then there never was an Auschwitz." And the book does *not* merely pile on the horrors, which certainly took place, but also is wise enough to describe what was lost: the amazingly rich culture of eastern Europe. *Out of the Whirlwind* is a truly glorious book.

Two more thoughts on Holocaust literature: one is to urge everyone to own – and read – the best book ever written on that era, at least in this critic's mind: Andre Schwartz-Bart's *The Last of the Just*. It is sheer perfection, and if the last few pages do not break your heart, you do not have one. The other thought is even more important: the Holocaust, like any historical event, can be corrupted, diminished, violated, vulgarized. The hero of the fight against this dangerous tendency is an astoundingly wise professor, Lawrence Langer. Not all of his books are still in print, but several are, and in low-priced paperbacks: *The Holocaust and the Literary Imagination*, *Preempting the Holocaust*, *Holocaust Testimonies: The Ruins of Memory* and *Admitting the Holocaust* are among the most vital books of the past quarter-century, and at least one of them should be in every Jewish library.

As for poetry, one cannot ignore the greatness of Canada's own A.M. Klein, Irving Layton and Leonard Cohen, but much of their writing is uneven, or terribly difficult to understand and appreciate. If I had to choose *one* Jewish poet of the past half-century, it would have to be the recently-deceased Yehuda Amichai of Israel. There are several decent volumes of his work in excellent translation – some of them, happily, with the original Hebrew on one side of the page and English on the other – and I urge you to read them. His love poems are among the best in centuries – but his poems about Jerusalem, about war, about survival, about the Holocaust, are simply astonishing. When I taught my students Amichai – as I recently did in a lecture series on Jewish literature – they were gasping; sometimes fighting back tears. To quote a great literary critic, "When Amichai is at his best, he *is* the best." I agree. What a poet!

You probably don't need me to tell you every good home library should have a good translation of the stories of S.J. Agnon, Mendel Mocher Seforim, I.L. Peretz and, of course, the giant of the giants, Shalom Aleichem. As for the latter, all I can do is to quote an English professor of mine from my university days, who grew up in a Yiddish home. He once cornered me in a hallway and said to me, "Mr. Gould, do you read Shalom Aleichem in Yiddish?" "Alas, no," I told him; "my Yiddish is very weak." "What a shame," he smiled. "Much of his style is superior to Shakespeare." I remember being awe-struck by his words, and vowing to read the great humorist and author. And although I continue to read Shalom Aleichem in translation, I never fail to be impressed by his grandeur.

As for Canadian and American Jewish fiction, one cannot ignore Mordecai Richler, whom we lost only last year to a too-early death. Many Jews rail against his purported "anti-Semitism," because he was so critical, often mocking, of our people and faith. (*The Apprenticeship of Duddy Kravitz* is a fine novel, but hardly one I would use to introduce Jewishness to the outside world.) But I urge you to go back to some of his essays or short stories (in the latter case, *The Street*, a delightful collection about growing-up Jewish in postwar Montreal), and what I think was his most successful, funniest, yet most touching novel, *St. Urbain's Horseman*. This man could write.

American Jewish fiction? Well, I would certainly include Joseph Heller's *Catch-22*, arguably the most hilarious and most daring satire of war ever written. (And profoundly Jewish in its world-view as well, once you recognize, as Heller admitted, that the protagonist Yossarian was, of course, a Jewish character; the author chose an Armenian name – maybe because they had their own "holocaust" before and during World War I? – to make the book slightly more universal.) The book is fabulous, and, since my son Judah and I had a tradition of reading long novels aloud to each other when he was in his teens, I have had the pleasure of hearing it as well as reading it. Sheer joy, laughter, horrors and tears, from the first page to the last.

A. M. Klein

Among American Jewish short-story writers, I have my own two favourites: Grace Paley and Bernard Malamud. Both of them have collections still in print which are low-priced and spectacular in their style, wit, and sheer haimishe nature. And how can one talk about Jewish literature without discussing Philip Roth? Too many Jews gave up on him after *Goodbye, Columbus*. But Roth, more than any other writer of the past few decades, has grown and matured and become one of the most amazing stylists of our era. My favourites: *The Counterlife* (which is about Israel, as well as about being a Jew in the 20th century; not an easy read, but sheer genius), and *American Pastoral*, about a Jewish man who discovers that his daughter is involved with violent, radical political activism. It is nothing less than amazing.

(We all have our own quirks, and here, I confess, is mine: when I read a book that has me shaking my head in awe and excitement, I tend to "flag" – you know, use those sticky, yellow notes – the pages that I can hardly wait to read to Merle, my wife of 33 years. After I had put stickers into about four-dozen of the first 75 pages, I stopped. Philip Roth has gone far, far beyond his early, skilled, promising, but terribly-over-praised short stories and novels. *American Pastoral*, now in a fair-priced paperback, will burn a hole in your memory and your soul.)

Final thoughts on Jewish writing? Well, few recent writers have impressed me more than Allegra Goodman, and I sense that she could well become the Orthodox Jewish female (really! all three!) equivalent of a Paley or Malamud, or at least in the same ballpark of talent. I am mortified to admit that I have not yet read her earlier novels, *Paradise Park* and *The Family Markowitz*, but I was simply "wowed" by Kaaterskill Falls, a finely-crafted, Jane-Austen-like study of an Orthodox Jewish community in the Catskills. I have never seen "modern Orthodoxy" described with such skill, such love, such talent – and the story is a solid one, about the transference

Continued on page B35

'Singer could write like an angel'

Continued from page B34

of leadership from a rabbi to one of his sons. The name of the novel might not be particularly memorable (*Kaaterskill Falls?*), but it is one that will bring you great satisfaction, knowledge and pleasure.

And a more personal note: when I was working on my master's degree in New York City, many hundreds of years ago, I befriended, through sheer chutzpah, Isaac Bashevis Singer. (He was in the Manhattan phone book; I phoned him up; we had a dozen dairy lunches over the years). Although "Bashevis" moved to New York just before the Holocaust (of which he once told me, "I regret that I did not have the honour of being with my fellow eastern European Jews at that time"), he wrote mainly on the shtetls of Poland until his death several years ago.

Isaac Bashevis Singer

So where to place him in this essay: Holocaust literature? (Look at *Enemies, A Love Story*, surely one of his best). Jewish history? (*In My Father's Court*, and the inferior but still quite delightful *More Stories of My Father's Court*, the latter only recently translated from his old columns in *The Forward*, are among the best descriptions of life in the early 20th century in eastern Europe that have ever been captured.) American Jewish literature? (*Shadows on the Hudson*, published just after his death, is all about Holocaust survivors living in New York, and often reaches the peaks of greatness achieved in his much-earlier historical novels, *The Manor* and *The Estate.*) And how can I not mention his early novels, *Satan in Goray* and *The Slave*, and his early (and best, I feel) short story collections, *Gimpel the Fool* and *Short Friday*?

We Jews did not need the Nobel Prize awarded to I.B. Singer to tell us what a fantastic writer he was (and in all senses of that word; who else could make dybbuks, demons and devils seem more real than our next-door neighbour, who probably suffers from all three, anyway?) Of course, we Jews have had several other Nobel Prize winners for literature, including the great American writer Saul Bellow, now in his mid-80s and still producing superior books, though his literary complexity made me choose to leave him off this list.

Singer was a cantankerous, vain, often difficult man, but he could write like an angel, and I believe that we must turn to him when we truly need to know what it was like to be a Jew three centuries ago (as in *The Slave*), or in the early 20th century (as in his *Father's Court* books), or during and after the Holocaust (*Enemies*). But are Singer's books important enough, entertaining enough, precious enough, to be included in the company of the others listed throughout this essay? I think so, without any hesitation.

How to conclude? Why not with a brief quote from one of the greatest works ever produced by a Jew – and one that should undoubtedly be in every Jewish library as the ones listed above: Kohelet, alias Ecclesiastes: "Of making many books there is no end."

Indeed. And of *reading* many books, there *should* be no end. If running off to your local Jewish public library is sufficient for you, then fine; I urge you to visit our country's handful of JPLs whenever possible.

In the meantime, I think the above list may be a nice start for anyone's "Jewish home library." Of course, it's highly personal, and, for length reasons alone, it's very truncated. Still, it's a beginning. And as we all know from the opening word of our Holy Torah, "in the beginning," is when everything happened, yes?

Allan Gould is, most important, the proud father of Judah Jonathan and Elisheva Sarit. He has written 30 books, including two in the field of Judaica (which he reluctantly left off this list): the humourous Unorthodox Book of Jewish Records and Lists *and the scholarly anthology,* What Did They Think of the Jews? *And he never misses an issue of the* Canadian Jewish News.

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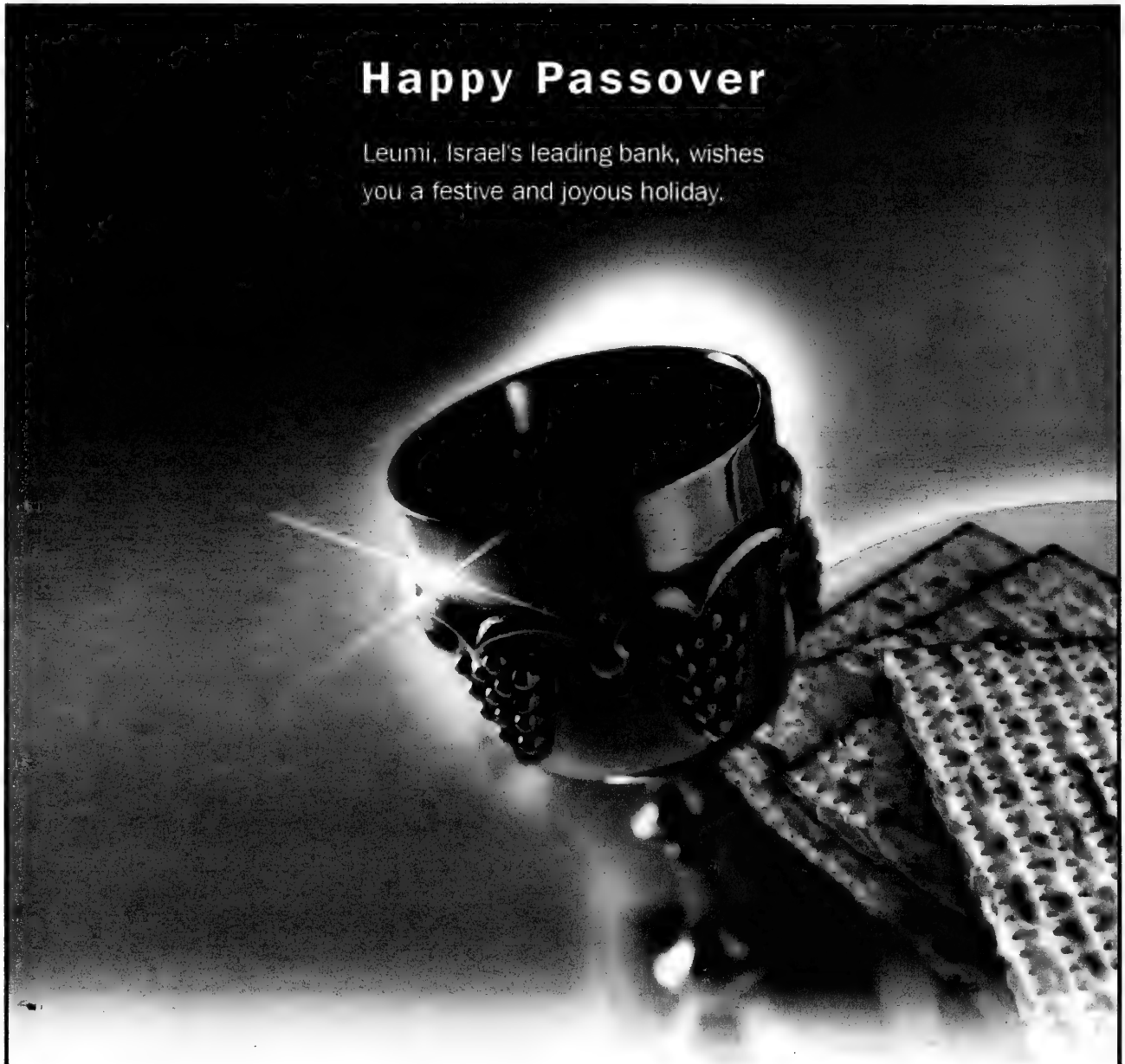

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Yiskor

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"May the words of our mouths become the deeds of our hands."

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This Week

National

Restoration fund set up for fire-damaged Anshei Minsk Synagogue. *Page 5*

Recalling the legacy of Rabbi Schneerson. *Page 12*

Arts & Travel

Toronto Jewish Film Festival courts laughter and controversy. *Page 36*

Business Profile

Holocaust survivor rises to the top of bakery business. *Pages 40*

Health & Lifestyles

Feeding 1,000: Baycrest serves up its Passover seders. *Page 41*

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A more repulsive obscenity

Just as people were sitting down to mark the beginning of Passover last week in Netanya, a suicide bomber struck, killing 21 people and wounding more than 100. Amid the debris of the dining room is a painfully poignant reminder of what the seder might have been. *[Israel photo]*

Editorial

The obscenity of mass murder was made even more horribly repulsive and more obscene last week. When Hamas chose the start of the Passover holiday as its signal to wantonly slaughter more defenceless, helpless Jews, men, women and children, it crossed into new psychological terrain.

And no Jew on earth could fail to recognize its vile and ghoulish markers: pogrom. The Netanya attack had about it the unmistakably foul and putrid air of a pogrom. Jewish life was deliberately taken on a quintessentially, overtly Jewish moment of the calendar.

It was therefore, alas, somehow even more obscene than the massacres that have preceded it.

Can there be any doubt that the Hamas campaign of suicide bombing is less an instrument of national liberation than it is of religiously motivated genocide?

As of this writing, there have been four more suicide attacks and numerous other attacks against Jews in Israel since that first attack at the start of Passover. Forty-eight civilians have been killed in these latest attacks.

Since September 2000, when Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat rejected making peace in favour of his campaign of blood and murder, more than 400 people have been killed in Israel by his terrorism. A comparable figure in Canada would be some 2,000 Canadians killed over the same period of time.

How would we expect our own government to react in similar circumstances?

A comparable figure in the United States would be some 20,000 Americans murdered.

How would we expect the American government to react in the circumstances? How has the American government responded to the murder of some 3,000 Americans on Sept. 11?

Both governments would react exactly as the government of Israel has – by mobilizing its armed forces to seek out and destroy the infrastructure within Palestinian society that has decreed that Israel and its Jews must die. No other response is acceptable or moral under the circumstances.

Continued page 8

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Shemini
Candlelighting: 6:30
Havdallah: 7:35

Bomb found in Red Crescent ambulance — please see page 32

The News in Brief

CANADA

Infiltrators Killed

JERUSALEM — Israel last week killed four infiltrators who entered the Golan Heights area from across the Jordanian border, near the Sea of Galilee. Three were shot dead immediately and another was caught and killed after a chase across the Golan Heights. Two other members of the squad were killed on the other side of the border by Jordanian forces.

WORLD

Trip Cancelled

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum has cancelled a trip for its staff to attend a survivors' conference in Israel. Security concerns for staff were paramount, according to a spokesperson. The conference is scheduled to take place at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem from April 8-11.

Porn Film Canned

PRAGUE — Czech officials have quashed plans to shoot scenes for an adult film at the former wartime transit camp of Terezin. Officials banned the use of video cameras at Terezin after reports that a pornographic movie would be shot there. The move came after a Czech tabloid reported that the film would recount the rape of women by Nazis.

Holocaust Centre

BUDAPEST — Hungary has approved the establishment of a public foundation for a Holocaust centre to commemorate the 600,000 Hungarian Jews who died during World War II. The centre will include a museum housed in a former synagogue. The government will pay $530,000 to renovate the run-down building.

Swiss Criticized

BERNE — Switzerland avoided its responsibilities to victims of the Nazis, says an international panel of historians. In a final report after a five-year study of Switzerland's wartime role, the nine-member panel said the country's neutrality was abused to justify business dealings with the Axis powers. The panel criticized Switzerland's refugee policy that turned away thousands to near-certain death. The report also criticizes the nation's excessive co-operation with Nazi Germany and bad restitution policies.

Body Parts Buried

VIENNA — The body parts of executed opponents of the Nazis were buried in Vienna's central cemetery last month, after being used for research by scientists and medical students until only a few years ago. The burial of the bones and tissue in a communal grave marks the end of a grisly chapter in the University of Vienna's history. The university started investigating the origins of body parts used at its anatomy institute after Yad Vashem alleged it had used the corpses of death camp victims for its celebrated anatomy handbook, the *Pernkopf Atlas*.

Editor Apologizes

RIYADH — A Saudi editor has apologized for an article in a government-run daily that said Jews use human blood to make Purim hamantaschen. "What has been mentioned by this writer is wrong. It neither reflects the opinion of the *al-Riyadh* newspaper nor the Saudi government," the editor stated last month.

Graham Defends Mideast Speech

QUEBEC CITY — Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham said some listeners overreacted to his speech last month before the Canada-Israel Committee when he criticized both the Israeli military and Palestinian suicide bombers and called for an end to Mideast bloodshed.

"I felt that it (the response) was somewhat exaggerated," Canadian Press quoted Graham as saying last week.

"Some people were concerned about the reference but the vast majority of Canadians have supported, basically, what I was saying," Graham said

Some who attended his March 6 speech to the CIC's annual policy meeting jeered him when he said, in response to a question, he had no knowledge that Canada has funded Palestinian education materials with anti-Semitic themes.

Graham defended his remarks.

"When you read the speech in its totality, there was a balance there," he said last week. "I wasn't seeking to criticize anyone. What I was trying to do is say, 'Look, we all have to create a situation where peace will prevail.' That's what I was trying to do in that speech."

He said he understands Israeli concerns, but repeated that peace is the only solution for the region.

"I think some people [are] concerned that a criticism of Israel would be perceived badly at this time, when they need support. And I quite understand that; they're being attacked.

"But what we urge is that that defence be exercised in a way that doesn't destroy the possibility of a negotiated, peaceful settlement in the end. Because that's the only way we'll get out of this mess."

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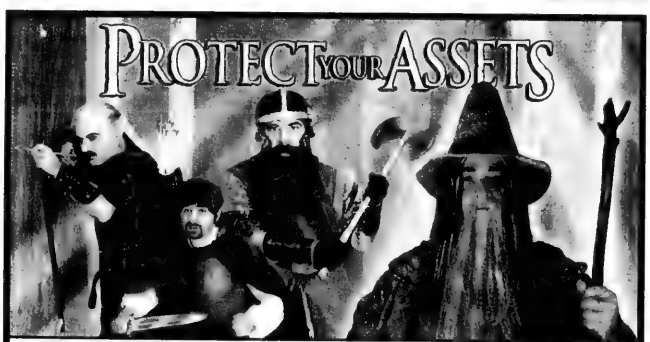

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Christian coalition backs Palestinians

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Re porter

TORONTO — A leading Canadian Christian social justice coalition has urged the federal government to abandon its traditional even-handedness in the Middle East and help impose an end to Israel's "illegal" occupation of "Palestinian territories."

In a March 13 letter to Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, KAIROS, the Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiative, criticizes Israel's military incursions into Palestinian areas, portraying Palestinian suicide bombings as reprisals for Israeli aggression.

"The last 18 months have been filled with horrifying violence and a steady increase in injury and deaths, but this past week has witnessed new heights in the wanton disregard for life and property," the coalition's letter to Graham states. "Israeli military incursions into densely populated areas, such as the refugee camps in Bethlehem and most recently, the total occupation of Ramallah, and Palestinian reprisals in the form of suicide bombings and rifle attacks, have resulted in dozens of civilian deaths."

KAIROS, which promotes human rights, justice and peace around the world, seeks "an immediate cease-fire [that] must be implemented to avoid massive further casualties." As well, the letter states, "UN monitors are desperately needed to make such a cease-fire hold. Israel has long resisted the presence of UN monitors and we ask that you stress to the Israelis their utility for ensuring the security of both peoples."

Founded last July, the Toronto-based coalition brings together social justice and peace groups from Canada's Catholic, Anglican, Reformed, Mennonite, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Quaker and United churches.

The churches fund the coalition, which, in turn, is said to function at arm's length from the churches.

The churches, states the letter to Graham, "have consistently stated that addressing the illegal occupation of Palestinian territories by Israel is fundamental. Canada's official position holds the occupation to be illegal and in contravention of UN Security [Council] Resolutions 242 and 338."

(Canada's long-held official position, according to background notes from the Department of Foreign Affairs, is that Ottawa "does not recognize" Israel's occupation, but considers settlements as "contrary to international law.")

While acknowledging the importance of negotiations between the parties, KAIROS says "there are also times when international law must simply be implemented. We think this is a direction that ultimately may avoid many more years of bloodshed and misery in the Middle East and ask [Graham] to consider support for such an initiative."

Eric Vernon, director of government relations for Canadian Jewish Congress, said KAIROS' view is based on erroneous interpretations of Canadian policy and the two UN resolutions.

Vernon pointed out that Resolution 242, passed in 1967 after the Six Day War, recognizes the right of all states to exist within secure borders and recognized boundaries, and the need for Israeli withdrawal "from territories occupied in the recent conflict."

Resolution 338 of 1973 calls for the implementation of Resolution 242 and negotiations between the parties.

Vernon said Canada has endorsed both measures, and a cornerstone of its Mideast policy is that a just and lasting peace can only be reached as a result of direct negotiations between the parties.

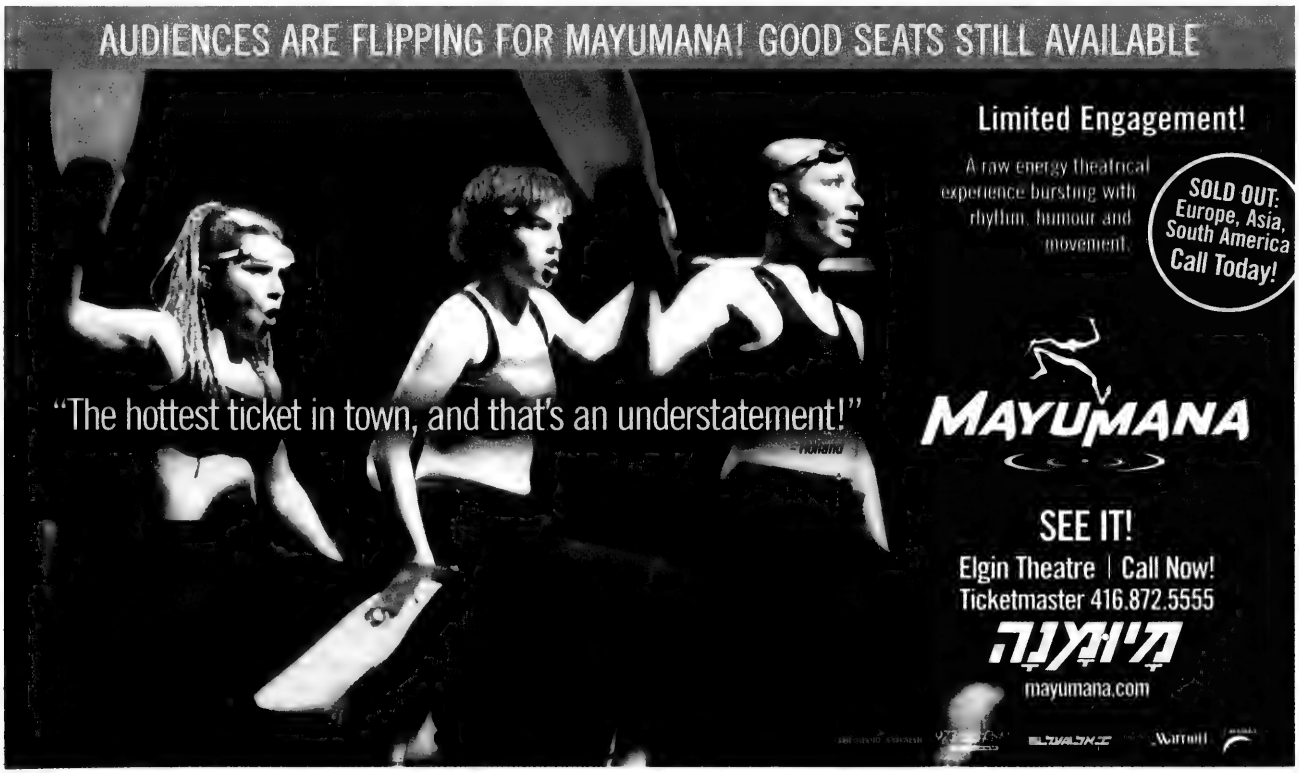
"[The UN resolutions] clearly state that [Israel's occupation] is not in contravention of international law. And they, like Canada, also call for direct negotiations between the parties," Vernon told *The CJN.*

Any attempt by Canada or other countries to impose a settlement on Israel would be untenable anyway, he said.

And he wondered to what extent KAIROS represents the views of Canada's Christian churches.

"Is this a convenient way for the churches to slam Israel?" Vernon asked. "If not, where are the mainstream voices?"

Continued on page 20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Remembering the Rim

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Prior to the sinking of the Struma, before the departure of the Exodus, at a time when the cry of "Dirty Jews, go to Palestine" was commonly heard in Europe, a barely seaworthy fishing boat set sail for the promised land with hundreds of Jewish refugees on board.

Foreshadowing the voyages of other vessels attempting to bring European Jews to safety, the Rim left Constanza, Romania in the summer of 1939 bound for Palestine, where it hoped to disembark its passengers in a clandestine nighttime aliyah.

David Samuel, 82, was one of almost 800 passengers on board the Rim. Memories of his youthful adventure came streaming back when he recently viewed a screening of *The Struma*, the Simcha Jacobivici film about the doomed freighter of the same name, sunk in 1942 in the Black Sea by a Russian torpedo. Only one of the Struma's 778 passengers survived.

The fate of the Rim's passengers was more fortunate. Like the Struma, the Rim was filled with Jews fleeing the Nazis, or others, like Samuel, hoping to fulfill a Zionist dream.

From the onset, their voyage was fraught with danger and adventure.

Departing Constanza with hundreds of Romanian, Austrian and Czech Jews on board, the Rim steamed through the Black Sea towards the Promised Land. As Samuel tells it, the Rim was not much more than a rickety old barge, made of wood, held together with wire and spit.

David Samuel

After passing through the Bosporus and Dardanelles, the Rim steamed into the Aegean Sea. That's where things began to go terribly wrong. On a blazing hot summer day, "all of a sudden, we saw fire at the back of the boat. The crew brought water in buckets, because the fire was in the main engine room."

With the fire appearing to rage out of control, the crew aimed the ship towards a small island. As it neared shore, several of the more athletic passengers, including Samuel, jumped into the water and swam. The crew, meanwhile, managed to run the boat aground on the island. The passengers were saved but the fire gutted almost the entire ship, destroying much of the passengers' food and possessions.

Samuel, who had joined Mizrachi Zionist groups as a youth in his hometown of Cluj, was the only member of his family on board. He had left behind his parents and two sisters for a new life in Palestine. But on that summer day, it appeared he would get no further than that Aegean island.

Fate, in the form of the Italian navy, intervened. An Italian warship that had been sent to investigate was ordered by Mussolini to ferry the passengers to Rhodes, then under Italian control.

Well-treated by the Italians, the passengers were allowed to leave when the Jewish Agency arranged to send a boat, the Aghios Nicholaus, tugged by three smaller boats, to bring the refugees to Palestine.

As they neared the region's Western coastline for a surreptitious night time landing, British planes fired flares and strafed the water. Samuel, who was 18 at the time, was on a small boat that avoided the shooting and made its way to shore. Many were captured but Samuel jumped into the water and swam the last 100 metres to shore, reaching ground around Netanya.

"All of a sudden, I felt under my feet solid ground. I was so happy."

Looking the worse for wear and wearing only underpants, he walked into town. A Hebrew building sign announcing, "Kol Noa Esther," a movie theatre, made him feel at home.

Luckily, he was taken in by a Jewish couple who recognized he was a refugee. They fed him and put him in touch with the Jewish underground, which was able to get him proper papers and arrange work for him in an orchard.

It looked like his life was calming down, but only a short time later, war erupted in Europe. Samuel volunteered for the British armed forces. He entered the Royal Engineers and in 1942 saw action in the Middle East and Italy.

War's end saw Samuel stationed in Venice. A chance encounter brought him together with an old classmate from Cluj, who told him he had seen his father a few months before, in Dachau, and suggested he might still be alive.

Obtaining leave from his commanding officer, Samuel travelled to Germany, hoping to be reunited with his father, Yehiel.

In July, he introduced himself to an American officer at Dachau, asking for a list of prisoners. There on the list, was his father's name.

A few minutes later he was in a prisoners' barracks "and I immediately recognized my father even though I hadn't seen him for six years."

"There were people lying in bunks, like skin and bones. Everybody looked and didn't say a word.

"My father was at a sink and I embraced him and kissed him and said, 'daddy, don't you recognize me?' He said, 'no, my son is in Palestine and he's not a soldier.'"

"So I took out a family picture and showed it to him and he fainted.

"Everybody in the bunks started crying."

Afterwards, his father told him about a dream he'd had in the concentration camp. In it "his only son arrived by plane and liberated the camp. He told him he can choose 10 people, and take them with him," Samuel recalled.

Samuel spent seven days in Dachau before his leave was up and he had to return to duty. In the meantime he made arrangements to bring his father to Palestine. His father immigrated there in November 1945.

Like other Jewish soldiers in Europe, Samuel helped smuggle Holocaust survivors to Palestine. While in Salzburg, he met some Hungarian girls and struck up a conversation. A year later, he met the same girl on a beach in Tel Aviv, and ended up marrying her. Elizabeth had been imprisoned in Auschwitz, where most of her family was killed.

In December 1945, Samuel returned to Cluj to search for family members. He learned that his mother, Chana, and one of his sisters, Sarah, along with her six-year-old son, Efraim, had been gassed in Auschwitz. A survivor told him the story. The child was with his grandmother when Sarah was sent to another line. When the boy began to cry for his mother, Mengele asked her if he was her son. Yes, she replied, at which Mengele told her she had better join him. As a result, all three were killed. His other sister, Rachel, survived by immigrating to Palestine in 1941.

From May 1944 on, his father kept a diary describing his experiences. The book, titled *Crematorium of Lice*, concludes with the story of his liberation by his son.

The original of the diary has been in Yad Vashem since 1964. A Hebrew language translation was published last year.

Memories of his wartime experiences came flooding back when he saw the film about the Struma. He recalled a second cousin, "a beautiful 18-year-old girl on board who died with the rest of the passengers."

When he saw the movie, "I felt like I was there too."

Fate was more fortunate for the passengers on the Rim. As far as he knows, all eventually made it to Israel. "None were killed by the Nazis."

From the editor's desk
Will return

Greater Toronto Area

Restoration fund set up for Anshei Minsk

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A fund has been established to help restore the fire-damaged Anshei Minsk Synagogue.

The Anshei Minsk Restoration Fund was created to help repair the damage from an arson attack last month, said Rabbi Shmuel Spero, the shul's spiritual leader. More than $100,000 in damage was caused when an unknown arsonist entered the shul's upper balcony and set fire to wooden pews and boxes of holy books.

In the weeks since the fire, the shul has been inundated by calls from well-wishers (including a letter of support from outgoing Premier Mike Harris), offers of help, and expressions of solidarity from other faith groups. Some have also offered donations, Rabbi Spero said.

Money raised through the restoration fund will help improve the downtown building beyond the repairs covered by the shul's insurance coverage, Rabbi Spero said. It will also allow the synagogue to beef up its security measures to make future incidents less likely.

Despite the extensive damage to the balcony level, regular synagogue activities barely skipped a beat. A previously planned Shabbaton went ahead with 100 people enjoying a Friday-evening meal on tables set up in the shul's vestibule and sanctuary. Daily minyans also continued and the shul announced it would not change its plans to offer two free Passover seders.

Expressions of support came from a variety of sources. A group of 50 young people from St. Frances Xavier Catholic Secondary School in Mississauga visited the shul to offer both moral support and a $600 donation. They contributed the sum, raised from their lunch money, to help restore and replace the shul's religious books.

High school students from the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto also volunteered to help clean the shul prior to Passover.

In addition, Canadian Jewish Congress has helped arrange for a grant from Heritage Canada to fund the restoration of the shul's smoke- and water-damaged books. It took a crew four days to carefully pack the books and individual sheets in rice paper before shipping them to Montreal, where they will undergo a process to remove mould and moisture. The restoration process could take up to a year to complete.

Entertainers from the Kensington Market area have announced they will hold a benefit concert on April 7 at Holy Joe's (651 Queen St. West) to help raise funds to repair the synagogue.

"There is very good support that has come from all of this," Rabbi Spero said. "A lot of people want to help out. It's nice. Various synagogues have called, sent letters, support, cheques. People are really trying."

For more information, or to contribute to the restoration fund, call the synagogue at 416-595-5723.

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Hebrew U conference to explore current issues

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A postal code is a better predictor than Jewish education of intermarriage, says an American-born, Israel-based sociologist who co-authored a book on Jewish identity in the United States.

Steven Cohen, a faculty member of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem's Melton Centre for Jewish Education in the Diaspora, will open the Best of Hebrew U, a weekend conference being held here on April 13 and 14. He will speak on Changing Contours of Jewish Identity in North America at Holy Blossom Temple on the evening of April 13.

The following day will offer a smorgasbord of three consecutive concurrent sessions at the Inn on the Park Hotel, by Cohen and a half dozen of his colleagues: history professor Menahem Ben-Sasson; Tova Hartman Halbertal of the Melton Centre, whose areas of expertise include feminism and Jewish tradition; Marilyn Koolik, director of the Steven Spielberg Jewish Film Archive; Meron Medzini, visiting senior lecturer in political science; history professor and Islamic expert Emanuel Sivan; and genetic researcher Maya Schuldiner.

The day will conclude with a panel discussion entitled After September 11 – Three Views from Israel. Other topics will include Raising Feminist Children in Jewish Tradition, the History of Yiddish Film, the Cairo Geniza, the Stem Cell Dilemma, and Israel's Options following a year and a half of terror.

On the Sunday, Cohen, the keynote speaker, will discuss the Rise of Personalism and Building Meaningful Jewish Communities for Personalist Jews.

Although his expertise is focused on American Jewry, there's been a more widespread trend toward religious individualism and Jewish personalism, Cohen said last week in a phone interview from Israel.

"[Jews today] are not as responsive as their parents were 20 or 30 years ago to external forces and ideas like Jewish law, the Holocaust and the State of Israel. All these things they see as being outside themselves and are powerful only if they attribute personal meaning to them, which many people do."

Although Birthright Israel – the free Israel trip for Jews between the ages of 18 and 26 – is "a great example of how to address these trends," the cultural forces are too big to be reversed by anything, he said.

Generally speaking, Canadian Jews are more Jewishly involved, more "engaged," and less feminist than their American counterparts, Cohen noted.

Among the findings in *The Jew Within: Self, Family and Community in America* – the 2000 book he co-authored with Arnold Eisen of Stanford University – are the emergence of "volunteerism" (picking and choosing what aspects of Judaism to observe), anti-judgmentalism, a search for meaning, and the irrelevance of Jewish organizations to more than 40 per cent of those interviewed for the book.

Intermarriage is both a cause and result of assimilation, said Cohen. People most likely intermarry when they have weaker social ties to other Jews, he added. Although Jewish education has been a prime focus for community leaders concerned about intermarriage, "we also have to recognize that we can do well trying to build strong connections among Jews." Those include focusing on places where young people are likely to meet Jewish friends and marriage partners, such as universities with large Jewish student populations, he said.

Cohen and his co-author were accused of hostility toward intermarriage by Ed Case, publisher of InterfaithFamily.com, but Cohen denies he is hostile to intermarried families, some of whom are among his best friends, he said.

"We are deeply pessimistic about the impact of intermarriage on the Jewishness of the families," he clarified. "I think intermarriage is bad for Jewish continuity and for the Jewish community. That's not hostile."

Registration for the Sunday session is $75, $50 for students. The keynote lecture on Saturday night is free. Further information can be found online at www.cfhu.org or by calling 416-485-8000.

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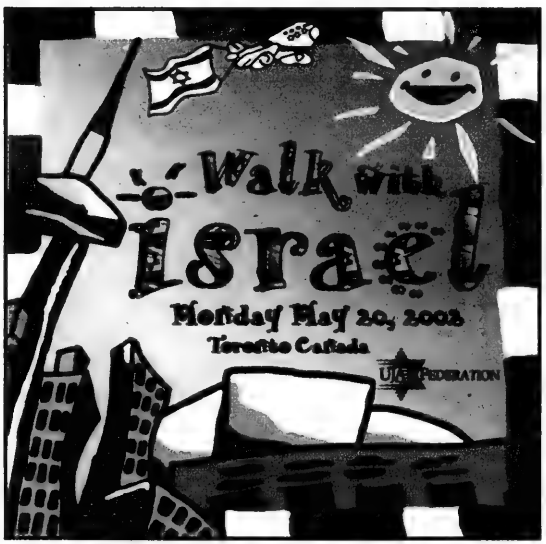

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Remember ... *the many who gave their lives to make Israel the strong nation that it is today.*

Join the Consulate General of Israel in **a Yom Hazikaron assembly on Monday, April 15 @ 7:30 p.m.** at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Road (2 blocks west of Bathurst, south of Sheppard).

Reflect ... *on the transition from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut.*

The Mizrachi Organization of Canada invites you to **a combined Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut commemoration, Tuesday, April 16 @ 7:00 p.m.** at BAYT, 613 Clark Ave. West, Thornhill. When Yom Ha'atzmaut arrives, join an unbounded celebration — complete with refreshments and a top-notch band.

PHOTO: STEPHEN EPSTEIN / BIG DIPPER COMMUNICATIONS

Revel ... *at IsraelFest 2002!*

UJA Federation picks up the beat **Wednesday, April 17 @ 6:15 p.m. with IsraelFest 2002.** Join our IsraelFest March from the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St., to Earl Bales Park. Under the big tent at Earl Bales Park, enjoy live music by the Moshav Band — direct from Los Angeles — as well as great Israeli food, children's entertainment, clowns and more. Festivities will end at 8:30 p.m.

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A greater obscenity

Continued from page 1

Israel has repeatedly tried to find an accommodation with its Palestinian neighbours. It no more wishes to rule over three million Palestinians than those Palestinians wish to have Israel rule over them. But the high imperative to protect its citizens outweighs any other at the moment. Moreover, the ever disquieting question still remains: with whom can it reach such an accommodation?

Can it do so with Hamas, Islamic Jihad or Hezbollah, whose unashamedly and publicly proclaimed raison d'être is the elimination of Israel and the killing of Jews? Would Canada negotiate with Hamas in similar circumstances?

Can Israel, then, find accommodation with Yasser Arafat? By his own actions, he shows it cannot and it must not.

It is incontrovertibly true, as Israel's Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told the world on the weekend, that Arafat is the head of the terror infrastructure operating against Israel. He orders, incites, abets and shelters terrorists. His own Fatah militia members take part in the terrorism.

Yasser Arafat is the designer of the double strategy: kill the Jews and cry to the cameras.

In his address to the nation on Sunday, Sharon correctly asserted that Israel "is at war" with the forces that seek to destroy it. Those forces, he aptly noted, will also seek, eventually, to destroy the West as well.

It was a point poignantly confirmed by *New York Times* columnist Thomas Friedman. "The outcome of the war now under way between the Israelis and Palestinians is vital to the security of every American, and indeed... to all of civilization... because if suicide bombing is allowed to work in Israel, then, like hijacking and airplane bombing, it will be copied and will eventually lead to a bomber strapped with a nuclear device threatening entire nations...The whole world," Friedman concludes, "must see this Palestinian suicide strategy defeated."

Canada and the other democracies have a special role to play in standing at Israel's side to defeat this suicide strategy. It is delusional and dangerous folly to think otherwise. It is sheer hypocrisy to act otherwise.

That is why the sight of the so-called peace activists and the CNN reporter rushing to join Yasser Arafat inside his besieged Ramallah enclave last Sunday was also obscene. It was an example of breathtakingly inverted morality, of surrealistic, sinister theatre. They were being either wilfully blind, recklessly helpful or actively complicit in raising the tide of bloodlust washing the organizations bent on striking at the Jewish state.

In a few days, Jews around the world will be marking perhaps the most perverse of all obscenities in human history: Yom Hashoah.

But along with Shoah, we will also be marking Gvurah.

Only Gvurah – strength, commitment, bravery and determination, in words, thoughts and deeds from all peace-loving, democratic peoples around the world, will staunch and ultimately defeat that rising red tide of bloodlust and hatred.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

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Saudi plan is a ploy

The proposal by Crown Prince Abdullah is not a plan but a ploy. It is aimed at turning the focus from Saudi Arabia so that it is not confronted for its funding of terrorist groups carrying out their murderous attacks on Israeli civilians. Clearly, Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat is incapable of reining in the suicide bombers who, for years, have been indoctrinated with a visceral hate for all Israelis and Jews. When and if enlightened leadership within the PA takes control and eradicates Hamas, Hezbollah and Islamic Jihad, meaningful discussions towards peace can be initiated.

Eventually, with the end of Palestinian terrorism, Israel will concede east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. But Israel will never retreat to the pre-1967 borders on the West Bank, leaving it with only 10 miles of land to the Mediterranean Sea. With the hatred toward Jews instilled in Palestinians in schoolrooms and in speeches, it would be suicidal for Israel to withdraw entirely from the West Bank.

Meanwhile, as soon as there is talk of territorial concessions, the Palestinian side raises the issue of the return of Palestinians to Israel proper. Not once has an Arab leader ever suggested compensation for the Jews driven from Arab lands upon the creation of the State of Israel. I do not think compensation for Jews was on the agenda when the Arab League met in Lebanon.

Bert Raphael
Toronto

* * *

Gov't. should not support propaganda

On a recent trip to Ottawa, I saw a Museum of Civilization exhibit that depicted art of Canadians of Arab descent. The show was spread over various rooms, with some very interesting displays.

Just beyond the exhibit was a room set up with several TV monitors playing different programs with anti-Israel and anti-Zionist propaganda. Adults and children sat and watched this disinformation. I found the distortion and deception most painful to see and hear.

This Museum of Civilization is supported by Canadians and should not be a forum for any political propaganda. I urge you to write your local member of Parliament with the request that this type of tax-supported exhibition be removed. There is enough anti-Israel slant in the media without the government of Canada adding to this deception.

Harry Wolle
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Court order not a compromise

I was disappointed by Rabbi Gunther Plaut's characterization of the Israeli Supreme Court's decision requiring the registration of Reform and Conservative converts as a "compromise" ("An Important Decision," *CJN*, March 21). It is nothing of the sort. It only inflames passions on either side of an unnecessary debate, at a time when Israel is fighting for its survival.

A real compromise was worked out by the Ne'eman Commission and it has been implemented with the establishment of the new Joint Conversion Institute (Orthodox, Conservative and Reform). Thousands of people are currently studying to convert, over 100 have already been converted and many more are about to be. This decision undermines the institute, which despite being criticized and denounced by members of all denominations, is growing.

I agree with Rabbi Plaut that "one is either Jewish or one is not." How can a decision (or future decisions) of a largely self-appointed, liberal, secular activist court ever persuade or force all Jews to recognize Reform or Conservative converts? No legal order by that court will ever change the minds and practices of halachic Jews. Rather, graduates/converts of the Joint Conversion Institute are being recognized as Jews without fanfare. I believe that for the sake of the unity of the Jewish people, Rabbi Plaut should promote true compromise, not court orders.

Jeffrey Roberts
Toronto

* * *

Looking for dream men, too

I empathize with Darcie Richler in her search for nice, single Jewish men in Toronto ("Where are the nice, single, Jewish men?" *CJN*, March 14). I find myself in the company of a group of wonderful, intelligent women in their 40s and 50s who are asking the same question. Keep looking, Darcie, and when you find your "dream men," will you please ask them, for us, whether any of their fathers are available?

Judith Weinroth
Toronto

* * *

Cancellation deplorable

The cancellation of the Israel portion of the March of the Living trip is deplorable. While most Jewish organizations are promoting and encouraging family vacations and solidarity missions to Israel, the March of the Living is making a damaging statement by discouraging travel to the Jewish State. An organization whose main purpose is to connect Jewish youth with their Judaism is sending these young participants the message that in times of trouble, it is acceptable to abandon Israel and our Jewish brethren who live there. This message negates the organization's intended goals.

As a past participant, I know that the contrast between Poland and Israel, despair and hope and past and future is a lasting message of the trip. By attempting to conduct the trip without the Israel element, the organizers are depriving participants of the opportunity to witness Judaism thrive in Israel after they've seen the remnants of its demise in Poland.

Devra Beth Jackson
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

To the soldiers and officers of the IDF:

Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz

For over a year and a half, the State of Israel has been subjected to a terrorist offensive, initiated by the Palestinian Authority. This terrorist offensive aims at killing innocent civilians indiscriminately in order to achieve political goals.

We cannot accept terror and violence. We have no choice but to fulfil the basic obligation which every state must fulfil for its citizens: to ensure their right to live in peace and security.

Therefore, in the very midst of the holiday of Passover, the Israel Defence Forces, acting upon the decision of the government of Israel, has undertaken Operation Defensive Shield, whose objective is to strike at the terrorist infrastructure in order to protect the citizens of Israel.

You, the enlisted personnel and officers of the Israel Defence Forces, together with the Israel Police, Border Police and General Security Service, are operating to arrest wanted terrorists, strike at the perpetrators of terrorist attacks and those who dispatch them, and to uncover terrorist weapons and the workshops that produce them.

Our war is not directed against the Palestinian people. We are fighting against terror and its perpetrators. We shall wage this war with determination and wisdom, while respecting the values of the Israel Defence Forces and its moral code. We shall respect human dignity adamantly.We shall not harm civilians and the innocent, because this is the IDF's unique quality and the source of its strength in the protracted struggle that awaits us.

Reserve officers and enlisted personnel of the Israel Defence Forces, the nature of this type of warfare is complex and demanding. The mission at hand has placed a heavy burden upon the units, officers and enlisted personnel of the regular component of the IDF. It was therefore decided to call up reserve units for this mission.

The spirit of volunteerism and the number of those who have reported for duty are praiseworthy and bring us all honour and security. This response bears unequivocal testimony to the strength and unity of Israeli society.

Since its inception, the State of Israel has had to fight a continuous war for its existence, struggling for the right of its citizens to live in peace and security.

The Israeli people and their armed forces stood firm in the face of years of difficult trials and tribulations. We have known wars, painful attacks and crises, but we always stood fast and overcame them.

Suicide bombing in Matza restaurant in Neve Sha'anan Haifa. [Israel Sun photo]

So will it be in this struggle, which will be long, difficult and fateful: a struggle against a relentless enemy who does not shrink from using any and all means at its disposal to harm the innocent.

Regular and reserve officers and enlisted personnel of the Israel Defence Forces, the people of Israel entrust their security into your hands; and into the hands of your comrades in the other security forces of our nation.

Know that we are undertaking this operation in order to protect our homes, to protect our rights and those of our parents, brothers, sisters and children to live in our land in peace and security.

Lt.-Gen. Shaul Mofaz
Chief of the IDF General Staff

18 Nissan 5762
March 31, 2002

Arafat pursues the Lebanon scenario

By ZE'EV SCHIFF
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Have we reached the peak of Palestinian terrorism against Israeli civilians?

The answer is a resounding no.

The Palestine Liberation Organization showed the extreme levels it can reach during the civil war in Lebanon when its terror actions included massacres that destroyed Beirut and Lebanon.

Some of the Palestinian players at that time – Yasser Arafat first and foremost among them – are playing a key role in the attacks being waged against Israel today. Arafat and his aides have a tendency to forget that the bloodletting and destruction in Lebanon ended only after he and his army were expelled from Lebanon by Israel and the Syrians.

The assessment in Israel is that Arafat hopes to repeat the Lebanon scenario, and not only in terms of a repetition in the territories of the relatively recent Israeli withdrawal in the face of Hezbollah terrorism. He also wants to repeat earlier stages, when he and his people made daily life in Lebanon intolerable. At that time, too, Arafat was adept at declaring endless "ceasefires" and making it appear he was trying to calm the situation.

Arafat is trying a repeat performance now, and it is one the Israeli government and the military have been unable to prevent. It is clear that Israeli deterrence against Palestinian suicide attackers is deteriorating and that Israel is unable to extract a minimum "price" for the murder of its citizens.

Many experts are pondering whether or not to expel Arafat, and it has not yet been decided whether this would be better than imprisoning him in the territories. But it should be noted that Hamas leaders, from Sheikh Ahmed Yassin down, act freely and take responsibility for attacks.

After the suicide attack at the Park Hotel in Netanya on the first night of Passover, the issue is not a ceasefire or U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni's mission, which has been rendered irrelevant, at least for the time being.

The issue now is what shape and form the Israeli military reaction will take. It can be expected that the Israeli response will be raised a notch, if not more. The issue, expressed in government discussions, is whether the next Israeli action will be similar to the Israel Defence Forces' attack two weeks ago, or whether there will be something different about it. Intensifying the response by a notch can express itself in several ways.

The IDF could seize Palestinian targets for a longer period of time – a move that would certainly impose greater suffering on Palestinian civilians. However, decision-makers must also take into consideration the increasing evidence that there is a majority among the Palestinian population today who support suicide terror attacks.

There is a tremendous sense of failure following the attack at the Park Hotel, which in addition to its symbolism on Passover eve, also underscores that despite many promises, nothing has actually been done to seal the border. Terrorists on their way to carrying out attacks in Jerusalem, Netanya and elsewhere do so virtually undeterred.

The question to which Israeli decision-makers have no answer is what is left for Israel to do that it has not already done to prevent terror actions. In addition to military action, which reached its peak with the IDF's entry into seven refugee camps and movement into Palestinian towns such as Ramallah and Qalqilya, Israel has also accepted the Tenet plan, the Israeli-Palestinian ceasefire and security plan proposed by CIA director George Tenet that took effect on June 13, 2001; and the mediation suggestions in the plan proposed by the fact-finding committee headed by George Mitchell, April 30, 2001. Israel has also expressed a willingness to negotiate the more recent Saudi peace initiative.

The sense of deep frustration felt by Israelis was expressed by Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer, who said during one meeting with army officers: "A war has been declared on Israel and one has to respond to it as such."

Although he did not say who had made the declaration, he clearly meant the Palestinian leader. This constitutes a change in Ben-Eliezer's stance. He has previously been a main proponent of restraint. But this time, he was one of the main sabre rattlers.

Sometimes the facts are dismal

It is not surprising that these days I am asked, time and time again, what I think of the situation in Israel. When will the intifadah stop, if ever? Will the news from the Middle East always tell us of suicide bombings and other abominations, followed by Israel retaliating (and, of course, being criticized heavily for it). Where in all of this are the signs of the possibilities for peace? They seem to arise from time to time, but, essentially, they have been absent for a long while.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

There is a fundamental difference in the views that the two sides bring to the basic issue. Israel has one major objective: it wants to be left alone and live its life like most other nations on earth. But all too many Arabs do not want to leave it alone. The majority opinion among the Arabs seems to be that permanent peace can come only when Israel disappears.

It has been my unpleasant opportunity to read what Arab children are being taught about Israel, and about Jews in general. Hitler would be proud to read this garbage, which is as strong and unmitigated in its anti-Semitism as the Nazis ever were. This hatred is taught to children from their earliest days, and has gone far beyond anti-Israel propaganda. Imams in some of the mosques have preached that when one meets a Jew, one should kill him. As I said, Hitler would have stood up in the audience and applauded loudly.

I do not believe that there will be peace between Israel and the Arabs until Arab children are no longer being brought up to hate Jews in general, and Israel in particular. How can we even begin to imagine a mother who is proud when her child blows himself or herself up in order to kill Jews? One woman was quoted as saying that she wished she had more children to offer on the altar of martyrdom.

My readers will rightfully ask whether I am implying that peace negotiations are useless in view of the basic unwillingness of so many Palestinians and their allies to acknowledge Israel's right to its land. This is where my optimism creeps in: I will always give peace a chance, even though my mind does not support the rationale of the effort. But miracles do happen, even though I do not believe that I will live to see any sign of lasting peace – I just hope that when it finally comes to pass, my children and grandchildren may be around to rejoice.

Meanwhile, however, I believe that Israel will have to defend its right to exist for many decades to come.

These we remember

I learned about the Holocaust in 1945. I was five. My parents didn't necessarily want me to learn about it this way, but when they went to a nearby church to see film footage brought home by a returning soldier, they took me along. There on screen were flickering images of piles of bodies, of tattooed arms, of survivors whose shaven heads and sunken cheeks made their eyes look huge. I didn't get an explanation from my parents of what I had seen.

But I remembered.

In 1961, as an undergraduate, I was a research intern in the Penn State history department. I was assigned the task of reading the entire English transcripts of the Nuremberg trials. I spent my summer in the dusty library stacks reading descriptions of things that cannot be described.

And I remembered.

In 1975, I began working with a unique group of people dedicated to teaching the Holocaust to high school students in the public school system. The Standing Committee on the Holocaust has reached thousands of high school students in British Columbia and is a model many other Canadian communities have followed. In the past year, two of its wonderful members have died and I want to remember them.

Jean M. Gerber in Vancouver

Klara was born in Gonc, a small town in Hungary near the Czech border, in 1928. She was a precocious child who entered school at four and planned to be a pediatrician. She started high school in Budapest but returned home when the war began. Her parents, brother and sister were killed and Klara was taken as a young teen to Auschwitz-Birkenau. She would have died with her family, but she was chosen for slave labour in a munitions factory because, as she often recounted to high school students, "I had such small hands."

She was liberated in Bergen-Belsen in April 1945, sick with fever and starving. "I woke up in a field," she told me " and all around me were dead bodies." Desperate to see if any fragments of her family and her former life had survived, she returned to Hungary rather than leave on a children's transport to America. Trapped after Hungary fell to the Communists, she took whatever work she found, her dream of becoming a doctor gone.

Then Klara met and married a young Jewish lawyer, Ernie. They had one daughter, Cathy, who was a baby when they fled in 1956 and came to Vancouver, where Klara taught herself English and Ernie became a high school Latin teacher ("the benefits of a classical education," he would joke.)

Klara was one of the survivors who began to tell her story for students. Girls especially would gravitate to her, always fascinated by those small hands that saved her life. Klara was a gentle woman who taught thousands to remember.

Another life to cherish: Sophie was born in 1928 in eastern Poland. She attended school in Lvov and became a pharmacist. Sophie survived by posing as a Catholic, sheltered by Polish friends. One day she arrived at the house where her husband was hiding and discovered he had been shot. Unable to reveal her grief, she walked back to the car that had brought her and resumed her charade. After the war, she married Isaac Waldman and moved to Canada. Unable to resume her former career, she retrained as a medical technician, eventually becoming head of her department.

Sophie too had a story, but she taught her message differently. She was instrumental in founding the Warsaw Ghetto Memorial Committee, one of the first in Canada. She contributed to the arts and music in her new city and founded and supported the Isaac Waldman Jewish Library in Isaac's memory. And she did more.

In the Jewish community, she created a committee that rescued and resettled Vietnamese boat people. "After all," she said more than once, "we were the original boat people. Nobody wanted us. We have to make sure that doesn't happen again."

Sophie was also a vital member of the Holocaust Committee, although she never told her own story in public. Yet, through her establishment of a chair of Holocaust studies at the University of British Columbia, she will teach thousands to remember.

It has been a long time since I saw that silent film in 1945. And with all the others whose lives have been touched by Klara and Sophie, I won't forget.

Shul shopping

The small, humble Conservative shul where I grew up, will be joining two other north end Winnipeg shuls in a merger necessitated by demographics.

If all goes according to plan, Beth Israel, Rosh Pina Congregation and Bnay Abraham Synagogue will join together in time for the High Holy Days in the building that currently houses Rosh Pina. The merged shul will function under a new name and a new board that will initially represent the three existing shuls equally.

Stuart Shaven in Winnipeg

The amalgamation talks seem to be proceeding smoothly and the process appears to be very transparent. I confess I haven't been that interested in getting involved politically, nor have I attended the information meetings. Maybe it's because I just accept the merger as inevitable and trust the leadership; or it's maybe because I don't want to face the fact that my shul is going to disappear.

While there is still a substantial Jewish population in Winnipeg's north end, the trend of families moving to the south end continues. Among other reasons, people move to be closer to the outstanding Asper Jewish Community Campus and, presumably, to the equator. (Hey, in a prairie climate, every inch closer to warmth counts!)

The north end population can no longer sustain five small Orthodox congregations and three larger Conservative synagogues. (Technically, Bnay Abraham is not affiliated with the Conservative movement, but microphones are used and there is mixed seating.)

My wife and I are originally north enders, but we settled south when we got married. Still, we cross town to attend Beth Israel, mostly because of me. My parents were very active around the time of the shul's launch. My mother became president of the sisterhood; my father served as president of the affiliated seniors home and attended shul regularly.

My bar mitzvah was at Beth Israel. So were my dad's funeral, my *oif ruf* and my daughter's baby naming. Last Yom Kippur, my infant son slept in my arms for the entire *Kol Nidrei* service there. My daughter participates weekly in the Tots Shabbat program and helps to lead the congregation in *Adon Olam* (technically that's not true; the older kids lead the congregation while my daughter runs around on the bimah and then announces that she has to pee).

It's hard to break a bond with a shul when so much of your personal Jewish history is contained within its walls. So, while I know the merger is right and am confident that it will proceed as smoothly as possible, my wife and I find ourselves on the threshold of an opportunity. The lead proponents of the merger have made it abundantly clear that the new shul will be a new shul. While the heritage of the three partners will be honoured, the new shul will be a new entity.

For us, that means we don't need to automatically sign on to the membership list. It won't be Beth Israel; it won't pretend to be. I don't feel obligated or pressured (yet). So, my wife and I are planning to shul shop.

Now, eastern readers should note that shul shopping in Winnipeg, as opposed to Toronto, is like buying your groceries from a vending machine instead of at Loblaws. That means we likely won't find an exact ideological and social match.

Last Shabbat, we went to the city's main Orthodox shul (which also hosts the local Aish HaTorah office). It was fine, despite our dislike of the mechitzah. We'll probably go again, though. We are not particularly observant, but I like a traditional service and an environment where everyone sings. We also want to try the city's largest Conservative shul. I'm curious about the Reform temple in town and we'll certainly give the new shul a close look, too.

For us, a shul's affiliation and facility are less important than the environment and the energy. We're looking for a shul that feels like a community. We want a place where people sing; where there are Shabbat morning programs for kids; where we can socialize easily; where there's a sense of joy, ease, spirituality and commonality.

I guess we want Beth Israel. And soon we won't have it. Let the shopping begin.

The Kirshner File

The legacy of the legendary Rothschilds lives on

The Rothschilds are synonymous with unsurpassed wealth and influence. Rising from the depths of Frankfurt's ghetto and prospering mightily during the 18th and 19th centuries, they amassed a fortune that made them into the richest family of modern times.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Financiers to kings and countries, the interests of the legendary Rothschild clan included a pan-European railway network, a Russian lake of oil and an international mining empire turning on African gold and diamonds, Burmese rubies and Spanish mercury.

Wars, insurrections, revolutions and political and financial crises threatened the stability of their holdings, but by World War I theirs was the biggest bank in the world.

Niall Ferguson, an Oxford University scholar, deftly tells the intriguing story of this accomplished Jewish family in *The House of Rothschild: The World's Banker 1849-1999* (Penguin Books Canada). Like volume one, *The House of Rothschild: Money's Prophets 1798-1848*, it is based on a motherlode of rich archival material culled from many sources.

In volume 2, Ferguson concentrates on the nitty-gritty of their formidable acquisitive powers, examining the particular circumstances that catapulted them to fame. Such details, while important in charting their evolution and trajectory as bankers, are not exactly the compelling stuff of drama. But fortunately, *The House of Rothschild* is more than a treatise on the dismal science of economics, and readers will recognize this as they delve into its juicier parts.

Make no mistake. The French Revolution, which demolished the walls of ghettos throughout Europe, enabled the Rothschilds to begin their phenomenal ascent. Prior to 1789, the patriarch of the family, Mayer Amschel, was hobbled by a web of discriminatory legislation. No matter how hard he worked, first as a coin dealer and then as a bill broker and merchant banker, there were strict limits as to what he could achieve.

Once the transcendent ideals of liberty and equality washed over southern Germany and Frankfurt's Judengasse was opened, Mayer Amschel was free at last to exercise his unusual talents.

With Europe torn by revolutionary wars instigated by Napoleon, and with the borrowing needs of the combatant states escalating, the Rothschilds stepped into the breach. Not intimidated by the breakdown of traditional patterns of trade and banking, risk takers like Mayer Amschel and his son, Nathan, flourished.

As Ferguson tells it, they gambled everything for the sake of government commissions, interest payments and speculative gains from exchange rates and bond yield fluctuations.

During the 1820s, the Rothschilds hitched their wagon to status quo conservative forces resisting revolutionary impulses. This enabled Austria, Prussia, Russia and the restored Bourbon dynasty in France to issue bonds at rates of interest only Britain and Holland had previously been able to enjoy, and thus "police" Europe.

In Ferguson's estimation, the Rothschilds' most lasting contribution to Europe's economy was the creation of a truly international bond market. But bonds were just a small segment of their business. Great believers in diversification, they discounted commercial bills, acted as bullion brokers, dealt in foreign exchange and commodity trade, dabbled in insurance, and even offered private banking services to an elite corps of clients.

Being multinationalists from the outset, the Rothschilds – Nathan, Amschel, James, Salomon and Carl – expanded beyond Frankfurt and founded branches in England, France, Austria and Italy. The five houses formed a unique partnership that gave them certain advantages, Ferguson explains at length.

By the mid-1820s, the Rothschilds stood head and shoulders above their nearest rival, Baring Brothers of London. Strangely enough, they underestimated the value of the emerging market in the United States. It was, in Ferguson's estimation, their biggest strategic mistake.

Unlike some other Jewish families of their rank, the Rothschilds remained firmly attached to Judaism and resisted, at least for a while, the temptations of assimilation and conversion. When Nathan's daughter, Hannah Mayer, converted to Christianity to marry the English aristocrat Henry Fitzroy in 1839, she was ostracized. But with the passage of time, interfaith marriages became increasingly common among the Rothschilds.

In 1878, Hannah Rothschild wed Archibald Primrose, a future British foreign minister, and in 1882 Bertha Clara Rothschild married Alexandre Berthier, a descendant of Napoleon's chief of staff. The pattern continues to this day.

Fidelity to their religion was integral to the interest they took in the fate of their "poorer co-religionists." The Rothschilds established charitable institutions and defended the civil and political rights of Jews from Poland and Russia to Italy and Syria.

Lionel de Rothschild, 1858

They also sought to improve the status of Jews in England. In 1856, Lionel de Rothschild was the first professing Jew to sit in the House of Commons, a landmark event that foreshadowed greater acceptance of the Jewish community.

Early converts to Zionism, the Rothschilds began their activities in the Middle East by donating funds to Jewish schools in Jerusalem. Only later, in the 1880s, did they consider the possibility of establishing Jewish colonies in Palestine. The Rothschilds, however, were not helpful to Theodor Herzl, the founder of political Zionism. Walter de Rothschild, though, fought hard for the 1917 Balfour Declaration, which committed England to a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. Nevertheless, some of his assimilationist relatives were less than pleased by his endorsement of Zionism.

According to Ferguson, the Rothschilds' commanding position in the international capital market declined after 1880. Compared with rival banks, they were less profitable and grew less rapidly. Yet N.M. Rothschild & Sons was still the largest private bank in Britain when World War I broke out.

He ascribes their decline to several factors. The war, which wrecked the world in which they had thrived, severed what was left of the co-operation between the various branches of the Rothschilds, and shattered their ties to German banks. The overseas trade they depended on was suddenly disrupted, and the monetary system around which their enterprises revolved ceased to exist. Finally, the staggering costs of the war accelerated the process whereby the European tax systems became more progressive.

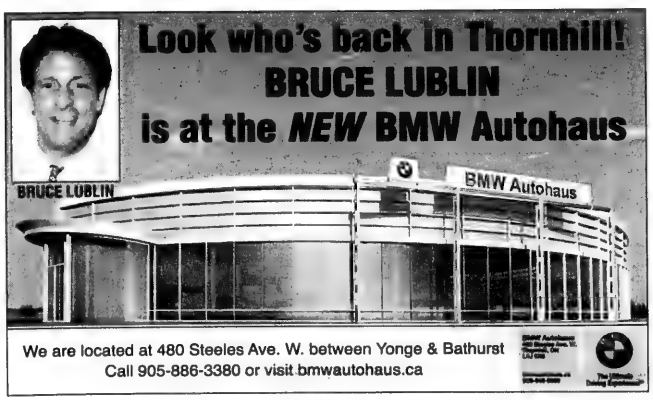
The Nazi takeover of Germany and Austria in 1933 and 1938 were further setbacks for the Rothschilds, two of whose members were murdered during the Holocaust.

Today, N.M. Rothschild & Sons, based in England, occupies what Ferguson describes as "a relatively small niche" in the financial services business, dwarfed by giants like Lloyds and Citigroup.

Yet the Rothschilds, with offices in such countries as Canada, Argentina, Japan, Brazil, Russia, South Africa and Poland, remain players of no small importance.

Interestingly enough, their most ambitious project after World War II was in Newfoundland, where they helped develop its tremendous natural resources.

The Rothschilds are no longer behemoths, but their legacy lives on.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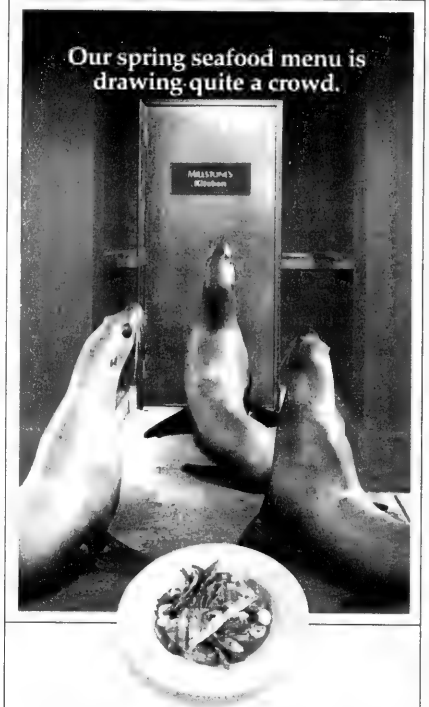

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Greater Toronto Area

Recalling the Rebbe's achievements...

By J. IMMANUEL SCHOCHET

Feature

The pre-eminent Jewish religious leader of the second half of the 20th century was undoubtedly Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the late Lubavitcher Rebbe. Indeed, it is not presumptuous to argue that few personalities in the history of the Diaspora match the impact he had upon the Jewish people and the world. Certainly, then, it is appropriate to reflect upon his contribution as we mark the centenary of his birth.

Our people, from the very beginning, have been blessed with numerous great and extraordinary individuals, each of whom excelled in some special way. The genius of some was in unusual scholarship, with others making immortal literary contributions. Some were inspiring saints and mentors, others exemplified remarkable leadership and guidance, communally and nationally, preserving Jewish identity and continuity. The Lubavitcher Rebbe was unique in that he possessed all these qualities like few others before him.

Close to 300 texts of the Rebbe's literary legacy have been published to date. These include, in an ongoing project called Igrot Kodesh, 25 volumes that contain more than 9,500 selected letters of public interest. So far, only those up to 1968 have been published. The letters include profound scholarly exchanges in all areas of Torah-scholarship with many of the greatest scholars of his time; notes on hundreds of books sent to him by their authors; exchanges with political and communal leaders in Israel and throughout the world; letters of guidance; and comments and insights on every conceivable subject (ranging from theological issues, synthesis of Torah, philosophy and science, education, outreach work and perennial problems of general and individual nature especially pertaining to modern life).

Dozens of other volumes offer original and insightful commentaries on Bible, Talmud, Maimonides, the Shulchan Aruch, Halachic responsa, kabbalistic and Chassidic texts, as well as many treatises on a number of philosophical and mystical issues. There is not a single area of Jewish scholarship or interest that is not covered and enlightened by the Rebbe's phenomenal knowledge. The literary output alone suffices to establish the Rebbe's place in the glorious chain of immortal luminaries. It is without equal not only in the 20th century, but in centuries before.

Rabbi Schneerson

To the public at large, however, the Rebbe is better known as a revolutionary activist. He literally changed the face of the Jewish world. He did not stop at rebuilding the Chassidic community from the ashes of the Holocaust and providing them with the leadership they needed. His concern was for all Jews, wherever they may be, and he implanted that concern and sense of responsibility in his followers. Thus he founded an outreach-program that spans the whole world. His emissaries were sent to places near and far, from Alaska to Argentina, from Turkey to China and Japan, from Australia to North and South Africa.

Chabad centres have been established in locations of which only the Rebbe seemed to know that Jews existed there and were in dire need to be brought back to their roots. India, Nepal, Singapore, Thailand, post-stamp nations in the Americas or outlying towns in nearly all 50 U.S. states, are just some of the exotic places in which nearly 3,000 young married couples have settled to disseminate the light of Judaism, disregarding distance from family and material and religious hardships that are difficult to imagine – the least of which is the need to import all kosher products.

Perhaps the Rebbe's most extraordinary quality was his prophetic vision. With every project he undertook he was ahead of his times. His efforts were often greeted with condescension or skepticism, frequently dismissed as unrealistic dreams, and even criticized by those who argued that it is more important to concentrate on self-defence by building fortified ghettos of our own.

The Rebbe, however, was singular in his uncanny perception of future developments. His wider and deeper wisdom found the potential for good even in phenomena that would seem to stand in his way. For example, he recognized hidden potential in the fervour of the hippie movement of the '60s, and he tapped and harnessed this energy with the founding of Chabad Houses on dozens of campuses, resulting in unimaginable numbers of baalei tshuvah who themselves became activists for yiddishkeit.

Especially noteworthy in this context are the Rebbe's efforts in the former Soviet Union. Ever since the Bolshevik Revolution in 1917, Lubavitch was at the forefront, mostly alone, of keeping the embers of Judaism alive in those dark days. Underground religious schools, synagogues, mikvahs, shechitah, circumcisions – all forbidden, with the most dire consequences for breaking the law – were maintained by a corps of dedicated Chassidim for whom orders of the Rebbe meant more than the threats of the Kremlin and the NKVD. Many chassidim, unfortunately, paid the ultimate price, but were quickly replaced by others.

It is an understatement to say that the Jewish consciousness surviving among Soviet Jewry once the walls of the gulags came tumbling down, was due

Continued on page 13

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...on the centenary of his birth

Continued from page 12

largely to the self-sacrificing efforts of the Rebbe and his chassidim.

Little wonder that in the post-Soviet era, it is again Chabad Lubavitch, guided by the Rebbe's instructions and inspiration, that remains at the forefront of the religious rehabilitation of Russian Jewry. Chabad centres, schools, clubs and camps dot the republics of the former empire.

Just as close to the Rebbe's heart were the Jews of Israel. There are more Chabad centres there than anywhere else in the world. The Rebbe's concern with the people in Israel was not limited to the religious sphere. He worried day and night about their security and welfare. Few people on earth, including local political and social leadership, had so uncanny a grasp of the local needs and problems. Little wonder that members of the Knesset of all political parties, several presidents and prime ministers, military and security chiefs of the State of Israel, were in frequent contact with the Rebbe.

Unforgettable moments include the critical weeks preceding the Six Day War, when the Rebbe was the only one forbidding any of his followers, including foreign students studying in Israel, to leave the country. In word and writing he encouraged the population, promising a speedy and unequivocal victory.

The Rebbe's views were often regarded as controversial, especially his uncompromising position on Israel's security and religious identity crises. As with everything else, his vision was not limited to "here and now" quick solutions but he foresaw future consequences. Many of his former critics, on the right and on the left, now concede their profound regret for not appreciating and following his advice.

Eight years have passed since the Rebbe's passing, during which time Chabad institutions have nearly doubled. The centenary of his birth is certainly a time to reflect on the extraordinary life and contributions of the Rebbe.

There is not a single Jewish movement and individual today who, in some way or another, conscious or unconscious, has not been impacted by the Rebbe's work and legacy. Unlike others, he did not seek followers, but to mould self-sufficient leaders imbued with an awareness of their own potential, a sense of their communal responsibilities and the will to act upon them.

No doubt, though, the Rebbe's message – even now, in these difficult times – is to repeat what he continuously demanded and practised throughout his lifetime: "The most important thing is action! Every action is better than a thousand sighs, and no action for a good purpose has ever been done in vain.

"We ourselves do not count. It is our task, our sacred mission, that matters. And if we but want to carry it on, our goal will not remain unachieved. We have to will to do what God demands of us, and in that will all our weaknesses and insufficiencies wane and become insignificant."

J. Immanuel Schochet is a professor of philosophy and rabbi of Congegration Beth Joseph in Toronto.

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Oberlander case expected to drag on

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) adjudicator has set May 16 as the date to hear arguments about whether to deport one-time Nazi killing squad member Helmut Oberlander, but there's a good chance Oberlander's legal battle with immigration authorities will continue for years to come.

Shortly after IRB adjudicator Carmen De Carlo set the mid-May date, Oberlander's lawyer, Barbara Jackman, told reporters she will likely seek a court-ordered stay of proceedings of the May appearance date.

Jackman – who was two months late filing legal documents, prompting the adjournment to mid-May – said she has already applied for a judicial review of the cabinet decision to remove her client's citizenship and said that issue should be decided before the deportation hearing commences.

Those hearings and related reviews and appeals could see the case drag on for years, said Ed Morgan, chair of the Ontario region of Canadian Jewish Congress.

Before the courts since 1995

Oberlander has been before the courts since 1995, when federal authorities alleged he entered Canada and acquired Canadian citizenship by lying to immigration officials. Two years ago, a Federal Court judge ruled Oberlander had indeed entered Canada by misrepresenting his wartime service with Einsatzkommando 10a, a Nazi killing unit that swept across the southern Soviet Union in the wake of German army forces, murdering Jews and political opponents. Oberlander served as an interpreter with the unit.

Based on the judges' findings, the federal cabinet stripped Oberlander of his citizenship last summer.

Jackman said she planned to argue that federal authorities are engaged in an "abuse of process" against her client, delaying denaturalization proceedings against him for 25 years. Federal officials knew of allegations against Oberlander in 1970 but did not take steps to strip him of citizenship until 1995, when "he became an old man," Jackman said.

She said she plans to argue that despite losing his citizenship, Oberlander is domiciled in Canada and, therefore, cannot be deported.

What's more, she said after the hearing was recessed, "the Jewish community should be horrified" that legal proceedings were launched against her client, who she maintained was a 17-year-old conscript against whom there was no specific evidence of war crimes.

"To deport him after 50 years is politics." Her client was merely caught up in the government's need to show results in its efforts against Nazi war criminals, Jackman said.

Oberlander is one of 17 alleged Nazi war criminals the government is attempting to remove from Canada. The Justice Department's war crimes unit, which prosecutes the cases, alleges the men (some of whom have died) collaborated with, or were members of, Nazi units and they would never have been allowed into the country if they had honestly described their wartime service records.

In a decision released two years ago, Federal Court Judge Andrew MacKay found that Oberlander would not have been admitted to Canada had he been truthful in describing to immigration authorities his service as an interpreter with Einsatzkommando 10a.

In addition to murdering Jews and political opponents, the units participated in vicious anti-partisan warfare, in which captured guerrillas were interrogated and tortured.

MacKay found that important parts of Oberlander's testimony during his trial in Kitchener were not believable and that "his recollections, as revealed in his testimony, are selective."

The judge also found Oberlander's claim that he did not even learn until 1970 the name of the unit in which he served for 1½ years "is not worthy of belief."

He questioned Oberlander's statement denying knowledge of a standing order that every member of a Kommando had to participate in an execution and he doubted Oberlander's claim he did not take part in interrogations.

During anti-partisan activities, MacKay noted, Oberlander was armed with a machine pistol and "the interpreter's role then was to question persons detained, and those without valid explanation for their presence or their activities were in trouble."

Following adjournment of the hearing last week, Morgan, a law professor, speculated Oberlander's case could take a long time to resolve.

"As a law professor, we are getting into complex legal issues. From a Jewish community point of view, it is a frustrating process. It's frustrating because his very complaint was lack of due process."

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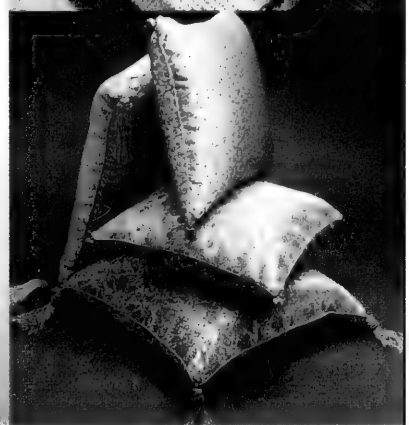

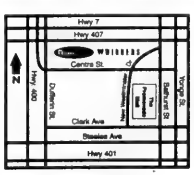

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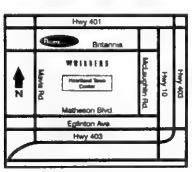

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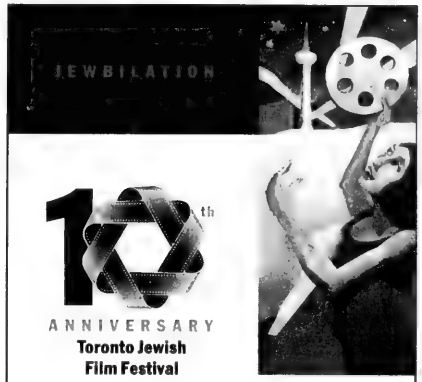

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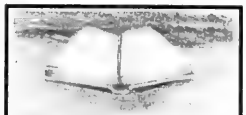
Jewish Life

After 9/11: an inspirational story

By RABBI AVRAHAM E. PLOTKIN

In the gloomy world since Sept. 11 and the recent intifadah in Israel, we can all use a little inspiration.

A few weeks ago, while visiting my hometown New York with my wife and children, I believe we were tapped on the shoulder from above with a small miracle. I'll let you be the judge.



I must preface my story by telling you about an amazing children's video produced by Chabad called *I Am A Chasid*. It's a collection of small skits teaching Jewish values and ethics as taught by the Rebbe, of blessed memory. It was produced after the Rebbe's death to let children familiarize themselves and bond with the Rebbe posthumously. My children watch it all the time.

One of the skits is a fictional story about the belief in *hashgocho protis* – divine providence, a general Jewish belief that is one of the principle doctrines of Chassidism.

In the skit, a young boy, after missing his school bus, runs into his teacher who comforts him and asks the boy to deliver a letter to his friend on the way to school. The young boy has difficulty locating the address. A black New York police officer who happens by notices the lost boy and helps him find the address.

The man who opens the door notices the officer and says, "Now, isn't that *hashgocho protis*? Aren't you the officer who helped me fix my car yesterday? Wow, I really meant to thank you yesterday and now you come in person to my doorstep. Isn't that incredible?"

The officer asks, "Excuse my ignorance, but what does that Hebrew word *hashgocho protis* mean?"

The man explains that *hashgocho protis* is divine providence. It means all that happens in the world is not accidental and that there is a divine plan for everything.

As soon as the officer walks away, he bumps into the director of a nearby day school. "Officer you're just the man I was looking for," says the director. "Our school needs a permit for our upcoming outdoor event." The police officer says with a smile on his face: "Wow isn't that *hashgocho protis*!" to the surprise of the school director, who nearly faints when he hears him utter the Hebrew words.

Now back to my New York story. It was erev Shabbat and my children insisted we go to Ground Zero in Manhattan to pay our respects and to say a few chapters of Tehillim in memory of those who died. It was getting late, but children have persuasive abilities, so off we went.

Arriving at Ground Zero, we quickly made our way to the observation deck overlooking the site. To our great disappointment we were stopped by a police officer who told us there was a four-hour wait and that we had to get a ticket and line up like everyone else. We tried to explain that we had come especially from Toronto and it was erev Shabbat, but to no avail.

"You see that long line," he said. "They're all coming to Ground Zero from all over the world. I'm very sorry, but we can't make any exceptions."

I knew my children were devastated. We were so close to being there, but there was no way we could wait in line without being late for Shabbat. Then just as the officer finished talking, one of my children asked: "Aren't you the *hashgocho protis* policeman?" My child had recognized him from the video. There was absolute silence. We were all stunned. We had just experienced a moment of destiny.

The officer broke the silence. He looked at my children and smiled, "Yeah, you saw the video? That's me *hashgocho protis*," he chuckled. "Hey, you guys are my friends. Come on with me. Let me take you right in!"

Without another word, he whisked us past the line. "Now tell me kids, isn't this *hashgocho protis*?" he said, winking as he disappeared into the crowd.

I guess HaShem was telling us: "Hang in there children. I am with you. Shabbat is coming and I won't let you down. What may seem to you a long wait might not be so long after all. Even at Ground Zero where such unexplainable tragedy struck, don't lose your faith. Be strong. There is a plan. There is *hashgocho protis*."

Rabbi Plotkin is spiritual leader and executive director of Chabad Lubavitch of Markham.

'God bless the people of Israel'

By MICHAEL COREN

Guest Voice

It wasn't always that easy. Growing up as a product of a mixed marriage, that is. My dad is Jewish, my mum has a Jewish father but a Gentile mother.

I suppose I should be a natural candidate for therapy, but actually, I have a strong sense of self and strong beliefs. I am also happy and proud to be a Christian with Jewish ancestry who puts his support quite firmly behind the only democratic and progressive nation in the Middle East – namely, Israel.

In fact, I've always supported the Jewish State, but in the past, I've been less outspoken, more critical. Not now. As a journalist and broadcaster – as a person – I've become tired and angered by the hypocrisy and the double standards.

Take recent events. A terrorist attack on a church in Pakistan leaves innocent people dead, broken and disabled. The newspapers rightly headline the story with words such as "terrorist" and "Islamic extremists."

At almost the same time, a crazed Palestinian runs to a school in Israel and opens fire on any children he can see. One beautiful young girl is shot dead. Her crime? Being a Jew living in Israel. At her funeral, her boyfriend says through his tears that he will visit his love in a dream so that he can hug her one last time.

Yet this time, the newspapers refer not terrorism but to "war," not to Islamic extremists but to "gunmen." The same slaughter of the innocents, but a radically different use of language.

A peace group holds a demonstration in Israel. Many consider the organization to be pro-Palestinian, and one passerby tries to break up the protest. He is stopped by the police. The cops might not be comfortable with the event, but in Israel freedom of speech is a given, as it is in Canada.

Just a few miles away, in Bethlehem, Islamic terror gangs have reduced the Christian population of the city to a fraction of what it was while under Israeli control. They find two men they claim are collaborators, friends of Israel. The men are beaten, tortured and murdered. Their bodies are dragged through the streets, one of them hung up in front of the spot many Christians claim to be the birthplace of Jesus.

There was very little media coverage of either event, and no comparison of the way the two peoples treat their opponents.

Let me make one thing abundantly clear. It is not because I have a Jewish father that I support Israel. It is because I have a father who taught me the difference between right and wrong, good and bad. God bless him for that, and God bless the land and people of Israel.

Broadcaster and columnist Michael Coren is the host of Michael Coren Live *on CTS (Channel 36, Cable 9, Toronto) and of CFRB radio's* Michael Coren Show. *He also writes a syndicated weekly column for the* Toronto Sun. *His Web site is www.michaelcoren.com.*

Jewish Life

Into the heart of Mussar philosophy

***Climbing Jacob's Ladder: One Man's Journey to Rediscover a Jewish Spiritual Tradition* by Alan Morinis: Random House, 2002.**

Books
Bernard Baskin

Born and reared in Toronto, in a secular, left-wing Jewish environment, Alan Morinis completed his doctorate at Oxford University, which he attended on a Rhodes Scholarship.

His dissertation focused on Hindu pilgrimage. In search of further enlightenment he practised Yoga in India and sought out the Dalai Lama for serious study. But after a series of business failures and nagging ethical concerns, he turned to his Jewish roots.

He writes, "As a young seeker, I had been drawn to the light of Eastern religions, but even in those years there was always something in me that didn't quite fit, some hidden threshold I couldn't quite cross. Many of my friends took swami names or shaved their heads or donned robes, but I never did, I think because really deep down, I knew that just wasn't me. Despite those years at Oxford and all those months of Buddhist meditation and Hindu pilgrimages, when life whipped me around and stripped me bare and make me look myself right in the eye, I was still the little Jewish kid from the suburbs of Toronto."

Searching Judaism for answers to his growing need for a new pattern of life and observance, he happened upon the teachings of Mussar. He was captivated by a religious movement that stressed proper ethical behaviour as a path to spiritual fulfilment. The Mussar movement was founded in the mid-19th century by a Lithuanian rabbi named Israel Salanter. It is both a call to ethical behaviour as well as a program of personal introspective and transformative practices that lead, step by step, along the path of purification and change.

Rabbi Salanter was a powerful and courageous personality. Once, during a cholera epidemic in Kovno, he insisted that the community synagogue be temporarily used as a hospital and a place for the poor and needy. Some objected. During a sermon he pointed at the president of the congregation and cried out, "You'll live to answer to the Lord for the suffering of the poor."

On another occasion, because of the severity of the cholera epidemic, he become convinced, on the advice of physicians, to dispense with fasting on Yom Kippur. When other rabbis were reluctant to follow his lead, he solemnly produced wine and cake in the synagogue and ate and drank.

Louis Ginsberg has written, "One can hardly imagine what moral courage that action required for a man whose obedience to the Torah was his highest duty."

After diligent search, Morinis found a wise and understanding Mussar teacher, the head of a yeshiva, with whom he studied, on and off, for three years.

Climbing Jacob's Ladder is the story of the author's journey into the heart of Mussar philosophy. He attempts to distil its lessons in 10 chapters, each followed by a simple exercise to help the reader explore its teachings in daily life.

Clearly written and thought provoking, this book is both an engaging memoir and an introduction to the little-known heritage of Mussar, which teaches that by changing one's self, one can change the world.

Yom Hashoah & the Internet

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

This year on April 9, people will pause to remember the heroism of the millions of Jews who perished in the Holocaust. The Internet is an excellent source of thought-provoking materials that can help you with your observance of Yom Hashoah.

The decision to commemorate Yom Hashoah on the 27th day of Nissan was the result of a lot of negotiation soon after the State of Israel was established. According to about.com, this time of year was selected in order to coincide with the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. But since the uprising began on the first night of Passover in 1943, it was decided that Yom Hashoah would fall in late Nissan, after Passover but within the time span of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. "On April 12, 1951, the Knesset proclaimed Yom Hashoah U'Mered HaGetaot [Holocaust and Ghetto Revolt Remembrance Day] to be the 27th of Nissan. The name later became known as Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah (Devastation and Heroism Day), and even later, was simplified to Yom Hashoah." **[http://history1900s.about.com/library/holocaust/aa042398.htm]**

Yad Vashem, the Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Authority in Jerusalem, has prepared some activities for Yom Hashoah. This year's theme is Their Last Voice: Letters and Testimonials from Jews in the Holocaust. You can read the last testament of people who perished in the Shoah. You can also commemorate Yom Hashoah by downloading and filling out pages of testimony to document the people who were murdered during the war. While on the site, you can also visit a fascinating page that surveys which countries and cities around the world have proclaimed official Holocaust memorial days **[http://www.yad-vashem.org.il/remembrance/rememberance_day/home_remembrance_day.html]**.

Virtual Jerusalem looks at how to observe the day and includes English translations of the powerful Yizkor and *K'El Maleh Rachamim* prayers that were prepared to commemorate those who perished **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/yomhashoa/prayer.htm]**. And the United States Holocaust Memorial offers background about the Shoah, and several suggestions for people who would like to organize remembrance ceremonies **[http://www.ushmm.org/remembrance/organizeaday/]**.

You can find many other superb resources about the Shoah on the Internet. I recommend the award-winning Nizkor Project which was created by Canada's Ken McVay **[http://www.bonder.com/march.html]**, Amcha, Israel's Centre for Holocaust Survivors and the Second Generation **[http://www.amcha.org/]** and Remember.org, a "cybrary" of the Holocaust **[http://www.remember.org/]**.

Many Yom Hashoah sites focus on how new generations are coming to terms with the horrors of the Holocaust. At the Teen-to-Teen Web site, you can read some teenagers' thoughts after they visited Holocaust museums and met survivors of the Shoah. Here is how Nathan Lyons described meeting Auschwitz survivor Noah Klieger. "It was amazing, but he was just a person. Except that when I went over his story and realised that this same body, same eyes had stumbled across corpses of dead Jews and seen shootings and hangings; for him they were not photos in a book or plain words or our naive approximations of events... they were his life." **[http://www.ttt.org.il/may99/index1.htm]**

Every year, thousands of young people travel to Poland to visit the death camps. Even if you will never be part of a March of the Living, it is worth a look at their Web site to see how teenagers prepare for the emotions and the horrors that await them. The Web site is part history lesson and part explanation of the unexplainable **[http://www.motl.org/]**.

Many sites not only ask different questions about past, they also ask challenging questions about the future of Holocaust observances. Prof. David Roskies and Chancellor Ismar Schorsch of the Jewish Theological Seminary debate the need for ritual commemoration and ask "How Much Holocaust is too Much?" **[http://learn.jtsa.edu/yomhashoah/]**.

And half a century after the end of the Shoah, Rabbi Eliezer Shore asks: "How long the burden of hatred?" He remembers that "in our home, German was synonymous with Nazi. We did not buy German products, we had no German acquaintances. Nor were we alone in our feelings. All our Jewish neighbours felt this way...." **[http://www.ou.org/pardes/pdf/shoah.pdf]** Those lines are taken from *When Should we Stop Hating?* a thought-provoking Yom Hashoah booklet created by the Orthodox Union's Pardes Institute.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a Toronto-based television producer who writes, lectures and teaches about the Jewish Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

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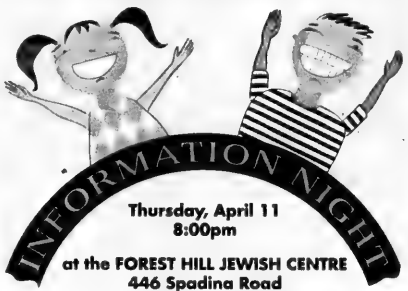

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Wishes to thank all those in our community who selflessly gave of their time, money and food towards the success of the 2002 Passover Food Drive.

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We wish you and your families a Happy Passover.

The 19th ANNUAL PASSOVER FOOD DRIVE was sponsored in part by:

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Dr. Morinis holds a Ph.D. from Oxford University in Anthropology, and is the author of numerous publications. He has produced also a number of feature films, documentaries and television programs. His passion is the Jewish spiritual discipline of the Mussar movement.

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Shaarei Shomayim Congregation, 470 Glencairn Avenue

This is another in the continuing series being sponsored by the Latner Jewish Public Library aimed at bringing to the Toronto Jewish community authors and subjects of popular interest.

Join us for what promises to be an enlightening and rewarding evening Admission free! Come and bring your friends!

Rabbi Kirshenblatt taught thousands

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Rabbi Jacob Mendel Kirshenblatt, a spiritual leader and longtime teacher who taught thousands of bar and bat mitzvah students, died in Toronto on March 6. He was 98.

Obituary

Rabbi Kirshenblatt was honoured in February by Beth Sholom Synagogue and Congregation Beth Haminyan at a tribute dinner attended by many of his former students.

Rabbi Kirshenblatt

Leslie Train, who studied for his bar mitzvah with Rabbi Kirshenblatt and continued his studies and friendship with his mentor, said the rabbi "was an institution unto himself. He was extremely versatile and flexible in the way he handled Judaism."

Train said Rabbi Kirshenblatt was comfortable whether he was with the ultra-Orthodox or in a small community where people didn't have much of a Jewish background.

"He brought people closer to Torah, and that is what he did all of his life. And he always received everyone with a friendly face."

Rabbi Kirshenblatt was born in Driltsh, Poland and arrived in Canada in 1929 from Palestine.

He studied with the world renowned Chofetz Chaim at the Radun Yeshiva in Poland and traveled to Palestine in 1927. He continued his studies in Petach Tikvah and received smichah in 1929 at age 26.

In Canada, he served as a pulpit rabbi, teacher, mohel and shochet in Glace Bay, N.S., and also served as spiritual leader in Ontario in Welland, Peterborough and Toronto.

While volunteering as a chaplain with Allied troops stationed in Nova Scotia during World War II, he met Rabbi David Monson, with whom he later founded Beth Sholom Synagogue.

He taught in Beth Sholom's school and served as the synagogue's assistant rabbi and Torah reader. He retired in 1972 and was given an honorary appointment as assistant rabbi emeritus.

He continued teaching bar and bat mitzvah students and provided chaplaincy services at Queen Elizabeth Hospital (now part of the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute).

He also had the distinction of blowing the shofar on the High Holy Days from the time he was 13 years old.

A humble man with a keen sense of humour, Rabbi Kirshenblatt agreed to the tribute event in February, provided the evening would raise funds for the Israel Center for the Treatment of Psychotrauma, part of the Albert and Temmy Latner Institute at Herzog Hospital in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Kirshenblatt is survived by his daughter Sheila. His wife Annie and daughters Shoshana Philipp and Renee Kirshenblatt predeceased him.

A Public Lecture launching the
JRCC's Institute of Torah Study Spring Semester

"Prayer--Is Anyone Listening?"

with
Rabbi Dr. J. I. Schochet

Sunday, April 14 at 8PM
at the
JRCC, 18 Rockford Rd.

There is no charge for this lecture or any of our Institute's courses. Advance registration appreciated. Donations welcome to help cover our costs.

For more information, or to receive a brochure with a full list of our semester's courses and to register, please call Chana Weisberg, Dean of the JRCC's Institute of Torah Study at 416-222-7105 x 30

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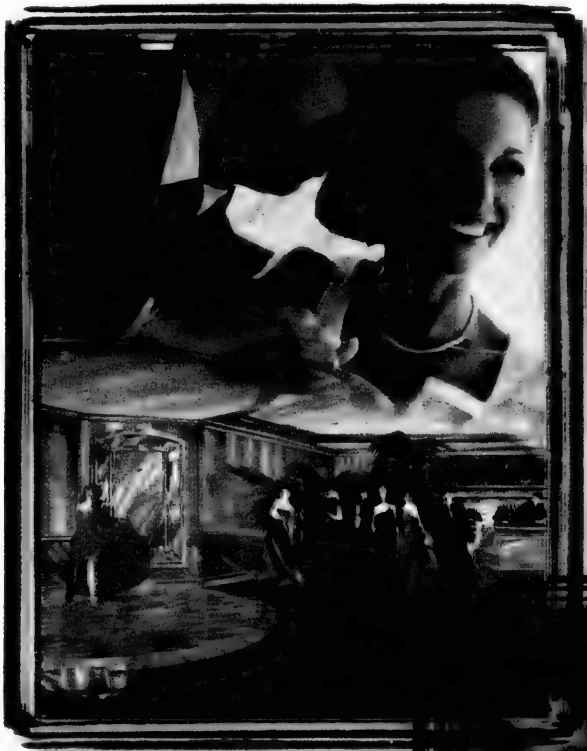

Like the best five-star hotels, Alvear Palace combines a cosmopolitan setting with refined luxury, lavish finishes, old-fashioned high quality and up-to-date convenience. It's a world in its own right, where your every need has been attended to. It won't just meet your highest expectations: it will surpass them.

Alvear Palace was envisioned as a statement in architectural elegance, lavishly finished in precast concrete and double-glazed tinted glass, with careful attention to every detail. And this eight-storey residence, inspired by traditional manor architecture, contains only 44 suites.

Moreover, Alvear Palace is stunningly sited amidst a mix of town lands and parklands. Public parks, golf clubs and country clubs in the area, besides being easily accessible for your pleasure, make for green, pastoral surroundings.

When you enter through the lofty doors, the concierge greets you by name, beckons you to enter, and ushers you into a rare setting where every detail enhances your lifestyle, where nothing has been overlooked or compromised. Welcome to Thornhill's most gracious new condominium residence: Alvear Palace.

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At Alvear Palace, your privacy is sacrosanct; and security, like every other feature of the building, is of the highest quality. There's a watchful concierge on duty and the 24-hour video security system is state-of-the-art.

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But these are only a few colours in a whole palette of amenities. For example, a bevy of special services, including the finest kosher dining, is available through the nearby synagogue.

Although sheltered from the hectic pace of city life, Alvear Palace is superbly situated, connected to everything that's important to you. A few moments to the north is Highway 407, while other major highways, Yonge Street, TTC buses and the subway are close at hand.

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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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Greater Toronto Area

Coalition backs Palestinians

Continued from page 3

He said the KAIROS letter is striking because it "does not hold Palestinians accountable for anything," and because it states that negotiations have failed.

"Israel has been willing to negotiate, but they have to have someone as their partner," Vernon said.

Dale Hildebrand, KAIROS' spokesperson on Mideast matters, says talks between Israel and the Palestinians "haven't been very fruitful, and it doesn't seem possible the two parties will agree without outside intervention."

Hildebrand said his group's letter calls for "a new direction. What's been tried clearly hasn't worked. We need to work toward a solution."

He conceded that, in effect, the letter calls for Canada to help "impose" that solution. However, he added, "we would never endorse a violent approach."

Asked whether his group's view reflects that of its constituent churches, Hildebrand said, "this is a very sensitive area for the churches. We speak for KAIROS and its board of directors, and not for individual churches. We wouldn't want to undermine the views of the churches."

Retired bishop slams Israel

TORONTO — The retired bishop of the Anglican diocese of Ottawa made scathing remarks about Israel last month at a screening in the capital of a video produced by the Canadian Friends of Sabeel, a Palestinian Christian centre based in Jerusalem.

"What we see happening in the Holy Land is official oppression – evil being done," Bishop John Baycroft is quoted as saying in a recent issue of the *Catholic Register.*

He also compared the Mideast conflict to apartheid-era South Africa, and predicted there will one day be "a triumph for freedom and human dignity even in this evil situation."

Canadian Jewish Congress has been working with Anglican representatives through the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation, a group set up to facilitate dialogue.

Congress and other Jewish groups are still stinging from a front-page story last summer in the *Anglican Journal* that placed the blame for the Arab-Israeli conflict squarely on Israel, and repeated Palestinian allegations that Israel was sanctioning a "second holocaust."

– *Ron Csillag*

Charness is JWI's Woman of the Year

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — In a perfect world, Susan Charness says she would put herself out of business.

As owner and founder of Susan Charness Talent, an agency for people with disabilities, she says "people are not handicapped by disabilities; they are handicapped by social attitudes."

Charness, who has walked with crutches since she was diagnosed with polio at age five, shortly after arriving in Halifax with her family from Germany in 1951, is Jewish Women International of Toronto's 2002 Woman of the Year. She will be honoured at the organization's 45th annual Woman of the Year luncheon on April 7.

Susan Charness

She learned from an early age, she says, that "life is not what happens to you; it is all attitude. Attitude determines altitude."

As a child of immigrant parents, says Charness, she was "over-protected. The more protective they were, the more I over-compensated. If you over-compensate enough, you begin to believe it."

She never stopped being ashamed about her disability, however, until she met her husband Monty, a documentary filmmaker. "He taught me that I was a person, not a disability."

It was Monty, she says, who about 12 years ago, conceived the idea for her business. He was on the set of a television show, "and he noticed that no one on the set had a disability. He told me I should start an agency.

"I got a list from the actor's union and I began calling. I called advertising agencies and then I started going straight to the CEOs. I just kept at it; I was relentless. I learned that 'no' was just another word for 'yes'."

Eventually, she says, she built up a client list and started getting work. "One of my clients modelled in the [recent] Toronto Fashion Week sponsored by such companies as L'Oreal, Holt Renfrew and Mercedes Benz, and the Bay and Sears have used clients in many print ads.

Charness received the Order of Ontario in November 2000 after being nominated by her client, CityTV reporter Wendy Murphy.

What she is working towards, Charness says, is for her clients to audition as people, not as people with disabilities.

"Things have improved a lot [since I went into business]. People are accepting and places have become accessible, but a lot more has to happen."

Attitudes must change, she says. "When people look at people with disabilities, they see the fragility of life. It hits home, and it is frightening for them. They don't understand that it is not a disability that makes a person, it is character.

"True character is shown when you treat someone who can't do a lot of good for you, as well as you treat someone who can."

She says she is "honoured" to have been chosen Woman of the Year. "I was happy and excited to get the phone call, but I know that I am no good without my clients. If they did not believe in themselves, I would not be doing anything. It is a true partnership."

For information on the Woman of the Year luncheon, call JWI at 416-630-9313.

Yom Hashoah V'Hagvurah

Monday, April 8 – 7:00 pm

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, April 8, is deadline for April 18 issue and Monday, April 15, is deadline for April 25. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Friday, April 5

CARLEBACH MINYAN

Lively, musical Kabalat Shabbat service, 6:25 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue, downstairs. 416-789-3213.

Sunday, April 7

A HEALING SERVICE

Toronto Jewish Healing Project offers a Healing Service 3-4 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 4th floor. Leaders are **Rabbi Howard Morrison** (Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda) and music therapist **Mary Rykov**. Experience hope, comfort, faith and support in face of whatever difficulties you are experiencing. **Etta**, 416-944-3359.

HABONIM BREAKFAST

Congregation Habonim hosts **Lisa Catherine Cohen**, writer and personal historian, talking about A Priceless Legacy, 10 a.m. at Beth Habonim, 5 Glen Park Ave. Breakfast and lecture.

WOMAN OF THE YEAR

Jewish Women International of Toronto honours its 2002 Woman of the Year, **Susan Charness**, founder of a talent agency for people with disabilities, at a luncheon at 10 a.m. at Richmond Hill Country Club, 8905 Bathurst St. For tickets, 416-630-9313.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Significant Sisters by **Margaret Forster** is discussed by the Feminist Book Discussion Group, Older Women's Network. 1:45 p.m. at Barbara Frum Library, Bathurst and Lawrence. **Ruth Goldsmith** 416-782-6414.

MAYUMANA

Canada-Israel Cultural Foundation's entertaining afternoon is full of rhythm, humour, raw energy. 2:30 p.m., Elgin Theatre, 189 Yonge St. Call for tickets: 416-932-2260.

YIDDISHLAND CAFÉ

Workmen's Circle Yiddishland Café evening, Roots and Wings: Yiddish Song Then and Now. **David Wall** and **Marilyn Lerner** present new compositions and old favourites, 7:30 p.m., 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Reservations, 416-787-2081.

YOM HASHOAH MEMORIAL

Beit Rayim Synagogue Yom Hashoah memorial evening service for those who perished in the Holocaust. Speaker **Ann Szedlecki**. Recommended for children 10 years and up. 8 p.m. at Beit Rayim, 9711 Bayview Ave., Richmond Hill. 905-770-7639, ext. 31.

Monday, April 8

THE MOVIE *KORCZAK*

To commemorate Yom Hashoah v'Hagvurah – Holocaust Remembrance Day, Beth Tikvah Synagogue is screening the 1995 Academy Award winning film *Korczak* at 7:30 p.m. The film tells the story of Polish Jewish educator, writer and doctor **Janusz Korczak** and his 200 orphans in the Warsaw Ghetto. Commentary by **Gerald Ziedenberg**. 416-221-3433.

Tuesday, April 9

ASK ELLA

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood presents "Ask Ella" (**Ella Burakowski**) of *The Canadian Jewish News*, talking about her column and following up with a question and answer period. 8 p.m. 416-633-5500.

BOOK DISCUSSION

Prof. Henry Auster of the University of Toronto facilitates a discussion on the novel *Memoirs of an Anti-Semite* by **Gregor von Rezzori** at Holy Blossom Temple Book Club, 2 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 235.

Continued on page 23

The Consulate General of Israel, Toronto

The community is invited to attend a

YOM HAZIKARON ASSEMBLY

in memory of Israel's fallen

Monday, April 15, 2002,
3 Iyar 5762,
7:30 p.m.

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue
55 Yeomans Rd. *(2 blocks w. of Bathurst, s. of Sheppard)*

Dr. Abraham Shore She'arim *Hebrew Day School*
Sara and Sam Hennick Education Centre

UPCOMING EVENTS

Annual Tribute Brunch
honouring
Sandy Brown & Gerry Goldberg
Sunday, June 16 at 10:30 a.m.
Sephardic Kehila Centre

Parents League Annual Tea
Monday, May 6 at 7:15 p.m.
At the home of Resa Sitzer

Max Guttmann Memorial Golf Tournament
Tuesday, July 9 at noon
Pheasant Run Golf Club

We look forward to having you join us at these exciting upcoming events.
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, CALL:
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What's New

Continued from page 22

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Shearim Hebrew Day School/Dr. Abraham Shore Academy workshop for parents is on Staying Connected Through Life's Challenges, with psychotherapist **David Rubenstein** and **Louise Dorfman** of Couple Enrichment Inc., 7:30 p.m. RSVP to **Doris Wexler**, 416-636-9568.

CHUG HATANACH

Meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapter 12, led by **Abe Richmon**.

Wednesday, April 10

BUILDING SYNAGOGUES

Congregation Darchei Noam hosts a symposium on Building Synagogues: Architecture and Jewish Experience, with panelists **Jack Diamond**, architect; **Dr. Vivian Rakoff**, psychiatrist; **Sheldon Levitt**, architect; **Rabbi Larry Pinsker**. Moderated by architect **Les Klein**. 8 p.m., 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building), lower level.

BUSINESS WITH ISRAEL

Benny Tal, senior economist with the CIBC who specializes in Middle East economies, discusses The Mutual Benefit of a Strange Business Alliance with Israel, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. Of special interest to business people, MBA students and people who want to encourage commerce with Israel. 416-781-3511.

RUSSIA BY RIVER

Adath Israel Sisterhood presents **Corey Keeble**, curator of western art and culture at the Royal Ontario Museum, speaking on Russia by River, 8 p.m. at the synagogue. **Bev Salsberg** 416-499-6920 or **Bess Starr** 416-447-6723.

TEXTILE DESIGN

Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles meets 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Topic is A Delicate Rhythm – Sewn and Printed, exploring textile design with **Valerie Knapp**, educator and textile designer. 416-402-7189.

SPRING FASHION SHOW

Featuring fashions from Zacks, boutiques, prizes, raffles, sponsored by Shaar Shalom Sisterhood, 7:30 p.m.at the synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. For information, 905-881-9056.

And What Else Is New

WHY SHOULD I BE JEWISH?

A 2-part lecture series with **Rabbi Sol Tananzapf** of Beth Rayim Congregation, Why Should I Be Jewish: Two Philosophies of Judaism, featuring **Rabbi Eliezer Berkovits** and **Rabbi Abraham Heschel**, Wednesdays 8 p.m., April 10 and 24, at Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Synagogue. 416-633-3153.

WHY PRAY?

Jewish Russian Community Centre's Institute of Torah Study spring semester of public lectures and courses for men and women kicks off with with **Rabbi Immanuel Schochet**, author and professor, lecturing on Why Pray? – Is Anyone Listening? at 8 p.m., 18 Rockford Rd. For information or to register, **Chana Weisberg**, dean of Women's Institute for Torah Study, 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

STALIN'S ZION

Growing Up in "Stalin's Zion," Birbidzhan, an illustrated lecture in Yiddish by **Nikolai Borodulin** of the YIVO Institute for Jewish Research in New York, Saturday, April 13, 8 p.m., Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. RSVP to **Sandy**, 416-736-8073 by April 10.

A CHASSIDIC SHABBATON

At Beth Tzedec Congregation with musician and scholar-in-residence **Moshe Shur**, Friday and Saturday, April 12 and 13.

Friday, 6:30 p.m., kabalat Shabbat services, Friday Night Live, singing and dancing. Shabbat dinner, music, magic and mysticism. Reserve.

Saturday, 9:30 a.m. Shabbat services held with the Little Minyan. Shabbat Lunch-n-Learn following The Challenge of Spirituality – The Carpool Tunnel Syndrome. Reserve.

Saturday evening, 9 p.m., Moshe Shur in concert, held in conjunction with Beth Tzedec Young Members.

Call 416-781-3514, ext. 34, for information. Deadline for meal reservations is Monday, April 8.

BASIC JUDAISM

A 7-part program, Doing Jewish (Basic Judaism), runs April 11, 18, 25, May 2, 23, June 6, 13. 7:30-9 p.m. at Solel Congregation, 2399 Folkway Dr., Mississauga. Introduction to Holidays, Life Cycle, Shabbat, Passover and Home Observances. Register. 905-820-5915.

SISTERHOOD SHABBAT

Beth Emeth Bais Yehuda Sisterhood marks Rosh Chodeh Iyar, April 13, with **Lynn Heller**, guest scholar-in-residence. Shabbat morning, Vision Takes a Stand, Part 1; Shabbat Lunch & Learn, Vision Takes a Stand, Part 11; Seudah Shlishit Seeing is Believing – The Colour Blue. RSVP 416-633-3838. Tickets sold in advance only.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

SINGLE AT SINAI

Single at Sinai (55-70) and Inter-Synagogue Singles Sushi and Wine Party featuring guest speaker **Susan Jackson**, Saturday, April 13, 8:30 p.m., Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. Register: 416-487-4161.

KABBALAH AND HASIDUT

A course in Kabbalah and Hasidut, The Tao (Way) of Judaism, with **Rabbi Aubrey Glaser**, continues Wednesdays, April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 7:30-9 p.m. at Beth Tzedec Congregation. No previous knowledge necessary. All texts studied in English with reference to Hebrew. Required texts. Call **Marlene** 416-781-3514, ext. 34.

ATLANTIC CITY

Join Adath Sholom Sisterhood for a fun-filled holiday April 15-18. at Tropicana Casino & Resort in Atlantic City. **Bunnie** 416-633-9691.

JF&CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups starting Thursday, April 11. **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

Living With Teens, 6 sessions at The Promenade Mall, Suite 313 7:30-9 p.m.; Parenting the "Difficult" Teen, 8 sessions, Promenade Mall 7:30-9 p.m.; Developing a Successful Parenting Plan, a one-evening workshop, Thursday, April 11, Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St., 7-9 p.m.; Adolescent Social Skills for kids ages 12-16, for 8 sessions 7-8:30 p.m.

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch and Learn in Retirement Wednesday, April 10, at noon, focuses on Treat Yourself to a Healthy Life with speaker chiropractor **Dr. Paul Goldbach**. Bring your own dairy lunch. Coffee, tea, cookies served.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 11, out for dinner at Mandarin Restaurant; April 18, bingo; April 20, Yom Ha'atzmaut party, music and supper; April 25, political lecture **Gide Anavi**. For information, **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748, or **Malka Colla**, 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Sunday dance with live band April 7, 21; Lecture on Electrical Safety in the Home April 10; Saturday dance April 13, 27, 7:30 p.m.; Casino Rama April 17; Dancersize class with **Kitty Cohen**, Thursdays at 10 a.m. 416-395-7881.

LZA Senior's theatre outing includes Stage West Dinner Theatre on June 26 to see *Joseph*. For information, call **Libby** 416-782-2059 or the office 416-630-9444. Seniors' Cultural Club meets Tuesdays at 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Going Down Memory Lane: Canada in the '30s with **Sidney Soban**, Tuesday, April 9, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

A lecture on Sun Sense – Prevention and Early Detection of Skin Cancer, presented by Toronto Sunnybrook Regional Cancer Centre, Thursday, April 11, 1:15-2:15.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets Tuesdays at 7 p.m. April 9, lecture. **Anna**, ext. 110.

UAHC BOARD OF TRUSTEES: Elliott Jacobson of Holy Blossom Temple was installed as a member of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations board of trustees at the Union's recent board meeting in Boston, Mass. He is congratulated by UAHC president Rabbi Eric Yoffie (left) and Russel Silverman, chairman of the board (right).

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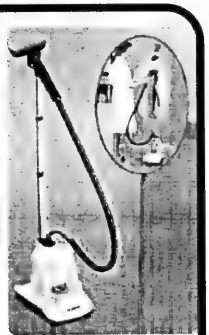

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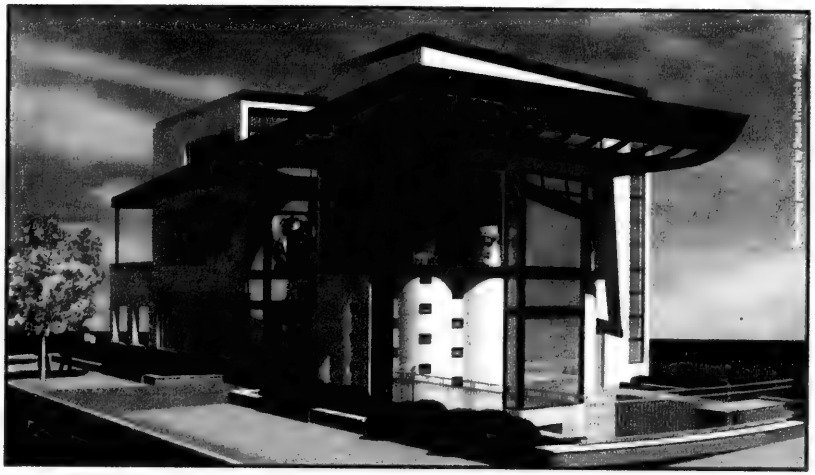
The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life:
A Place to Call Their Own

One of the most vibrant Jewish campus communities in North America is about to get a new permanent home.



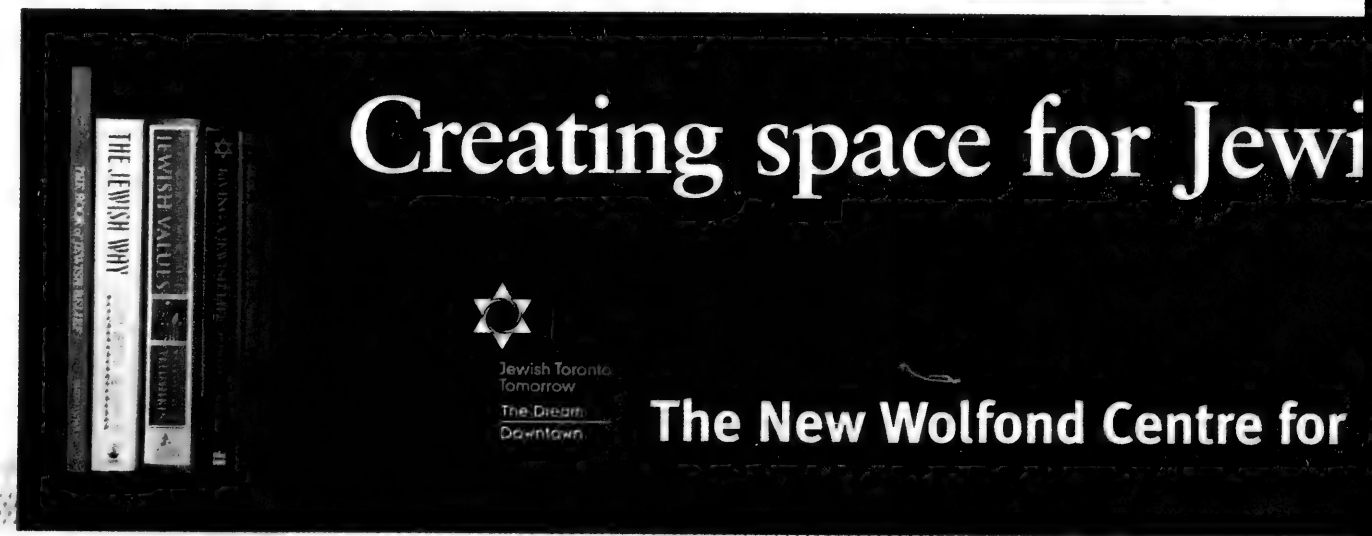
The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life will provide 4,500 Jewish U of T students and other downtown campuses such as Ryerson and George Brown, with a place of their own to explore their cultural heritage in an open and comfortable setting.

The new spacious, multifunctional facility, which is scheduled for completion in Fall 2003, will house the headquarters of Jewish Campus Services, the primary agency, funded by UJA Federation, for Jewish students at colleges and universities across the GTA. The center will offer a wide range of innovative educational, cultural and social programs designed to attract city-wide participation.

"The Centre meets a growing critical need among Jewish students to be engaged in Jewish life through a wide array of campus based activities," explains **Zac Kaye**, Executive Director of Jewish Campus Services. "By offering students a secure and nurturing environment in which to grow we are in essence strengthening their ties to the community."

Above: **The Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life at the University of Toronto.**

Right: **Students, seen here in the current cramped quarters of the Jewish Student Union at U of T, look forward to the imminent move to the new Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.**



With the campus being a traditional hotbed of political activity, the Wolfond Centre will provide information-thirsty students with the tools and resources they need to accurately inform students about the situation in Israel. "The very existence of the Wolfond Centre will empower young people to confront the uniquely diverse challenges they face, especially those peculiar to the campus setting", adds Kaye.

Front and Centre

Situated in the heart of the U of T campus at the historic corner of Harbord and Huron, the Wolfond Centre's ideal location will make it the natural hub of downtown Jewish student life.

"The location is excellent," enthuses Ottawa native Becca Siggner, who, as a newcomer, was grateful for the friendly welcome and practical help she received from U of T's Jewish Students Union. "I see it becoming a favourite place to hang out", she says.

Spacious, modern meeting rooms, a cozy fireside lounge and a pleasant indoor/outdoor courtyard will accommodate a full complement of student activity. "The Centre will be a place where students of all backgrounds can feel comfortable and welcome," says **Rose Wolfe**, Chair of the Wolfond Centre Tribute Committee. "By providing them with this Centre, the community is showing how much we care about their future."

"...the Centre will provide students with a comfortable environment through which they can explore their roots, enrich their identities and deepen their connection to the Toronto Jewish Community." adds Henry Wolfond, lead gift contributor.

The Wolfond Family from left: Lisa, Mel, Chad, Pedie, Gregory, Henry, Estee

Highly visible and easily accessible to students studying and living in the downtown area, the Centre will serve to strengthen and enhance the historically prominent Jewish presence at U of T. **For more information call Jewish campus services at 416-785-1465.**

We're On the Way...

September 1998
University offers to lease 336 Huron.

The Koschitzky family confirms its commitment to the centre by reaffirming the family's donation to the project.

January 2000
The Wolfond family lead gift is announced - the building is designated as the Wolfond Centre for Jewish Campus Life.

The Lease on 336 Huron is formally signed with the University.

March 2000
Susan Friedrich Architect Inc. is awarded the contract to design the building.

May 2000
Official groundbreaking of the Wolfond Centre.

Project is expanded to include adjacent property.

June 2002
Construction commences on the Wolfond Centre.

September 2003
Students are welcomed at the commencement of the new semester to the new facility.

ish students on campus

Jewish Campus Services

Jewish Campus Life at U of T

RABBI JOSEPH TELUSHKIN
JEWISH WISDOM
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Shaarei Tefillah Congregation

SHAAREI TEFILLAH Congregation invites all young ladies in the community who will be celebrating the coming of BAT MITZVAH in the year 2002-2003 to attend the inaugural meeting of Shaarei Tefillah's B'Not Mitzvot program on Sunday, April 7th at 10:30 a.m. at Shaarei Tefillah Congregation, 3600 Bathurst St. A full program has been developed to challenge, stimulate and enhance the coming of age for the young ladies of the community. Jewish learning, dynamic speakers that relate to what you want to learn about, crafts, and a Chesed program are just a small portion of what Shaarei Tefillah is offering to you, as you take your place in Jewish womanhood. To reserve your spot for this special meeting, please call the Synagogue office at 416-787-1631.

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On Campus

Tikkun Olam, Salvadoran dirt and me

By RYANN MILLER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — It was over 40 degrees and not even lunchtime yet. I was digging the foundation of a Salvadoran home several Tuesdays ago and trying to speak Spanish with a seven-year-old girl. Until that week, I had never attempted either. I had also never raised money to send myself to El Salvador for a week of social action in village communities.

During their respective reading weeks, 10 York students and 10 U of T students went to Ciudad Romero on a trip called Alternative Spring Break: El Salvador. The program was conceived and organized by American Jewish World Service, with help from Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto and Ve'ahavta: the Canadian Jewish Humanitarian and Relief Committee. Our partner organization in El Salvador was La Coordinadora. It was thanks to these non-governmental organizations that we were able to dive into social action on a very grassroots level.

Our days were spent learning about and helping a community that has been ravaged by civil war, Hurricane Mitch and the earthquakes of '98 and '99, not to mention the daily hardships of living in abject poverty. On the plane ride down, I had asked myself what my relationship was to social service and, more specifically, Jewish social service. I didn't have much of an answer.

But after one week, the 10 of us, along with 15 Brandeis University students, learned much more than we ever thought possible about social action and Judaism's relationship to it. We also learned a great deal about the Salvadoran people's struggle for dignity and basic human rights, and bonded with people as we realized that their liberation is connected to ours.

But why did this matter to a bunch of North American, middle class, Jewish 20-somethings? Part of our journey was finding answers to this question. The other part of the journey was spent digging foundations for earthquake-resistant homes for families, distributing Dengue Fever prevention bags as part of a water purification initiative and participating in a reforestation project at La Coordinadora's tree nursery that will benefit the whole community.

One of the amazing things about this trip was how broad-based and all-encompassing it was. We discussed theories of Judaism and social justice and then acted on those principles. Armed with concepts like tikkun olam, tzedakah and gemilut chassadim, we began to see a connection between our Jewish social action roots and Ciudad Romero.

I experienced this connection in many different ways. There was the 12-year-old boy named Juan who helped us dig the foundation of his family's house. When I took a water break and wiped the dirt off my face, he laughed at me. I apologized, in broken Spanish, for not being strong. He smiled and said that together we would build a home for his family. That moment reminded me of why I was there: together we could make a difference and together we would try to right one of the many wrongs of our world.

Another time, all 25 of us participated in one of the community's peaceful conflict-resolution meetings for the local teenagers. Because many men in El Salvador carry guns and rifles, conflict resolution is a very real issue. The abuse of power has been moderated, but not eliminated entirely. The teenagers talked about the threat of gangs and violence and how all they really wanted was to exist peacefully, without any trouble, and not get involved in the violence that seems to underscore their country's recent history. They told us they all wanted to go to university, like us. I felt a number of conflicting emotions then. I hated the violence that has destroyed families and futures in El Salvador. I was angry at the powers that be for maintaining an economic system that gives priority to the rich elite and keeps most Salvadorans too poor to feel that they can do anything. And I felt compassion for these kids – almost our age – who didn't have the opportunities we did, through no fault of their own.

Why was I so lucky? My parents always told me, "You can grow up to do whatever you set your mind to." Why were these kids denied the right to a peaceful existence, a healthy standard of living and, most likely, higher education? I realized, while sitting in the peaceful conflict-resolution group, that my life and opportunities meant not that I was deserving of all that I had, but instead that I had a responsibility. My life is a symbol of privilege and opportunity in North America. This privilege must be held accountable and must be distributed more evenly. My personal mission for global justice and peace was born then and there.

The trip was non-sectarian, so while we learned about global responsibility and social justice from a Jewish perspective, our participation in helping the community had no religious affiliation. Personally, this aspect of the program appealed to me greatly, because I see non-sectarian compassionate action as reflecting Deuteronomy's 28:9 appeal that humankind walk in God's ways. I interpret this to mean that we have a responsibility to imitate God's work as a life-giver and sustainer. Because Judaism is once again thriving in the world, especially in North America, Jewry has a duty to look beyond our local communities to give. In this age, our community is global and our responsibility universal.

So Salvadoran dirt was the means for us to participate in a truly grassroots tikkun olam project. And me? Well, I now understand the connection. *Gracias* for the opportunity and *shalom*.

Ryann Miller is a religious studies student at the University of Toronto.

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Ottawa memorial recalls Pearl

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Daniel Pearl was 38 years old, the same age as Scott Anderson, editor-in-chief of the *Ottawa Citizen*. For Anderson, that was one of the things that made Pearl's death so personal.

Anderson, the master of ceremonies at a memorial service for Pearl held here last month at Congregation Beth Shalom, said the *Wall Street Journal* reporter was kidnapped and murdered in Pakistan for being an American, a journalist and a Jew.

"For journalists, Daniel Pearl's brutal death symbolizes a new era in news gathering," Anderson told the several hundred people in attendance. "We can no longer assume journalists will be considered impartial observers. Journalists are targets as well. Daniel Pearl is part of that new reality."

In Pearl's memory, Anderson said the *Citizen* plans to purchase copies of a book of Pearl's stories being compiled by the *Wall Street Journal* and distribute them to local schools and libraries.

Noting that Pearl's widow has received messages of condolence even from people in the Arab world, Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon told the gathering to focus on this positive outcome of the tragedy.

"I think this is one of the legacies which we all should remember of Daniel Pearl: that his brutal death will not be in vain… that it will bring about tolerance and understanding to be able to remove hatred, bigotry and anti-Semitism," Divon said.

American Ambassador Paul Cellucci vowed his country will continue to pursue Pearl's murderers.

"We will continue our fight to bring to justice the killers of Daniel Pearl… and we will do everything possible to ensure that tragic events such as these do not happen again," Cellucci said.

Andrew Burns, British high commissioner to Ottawa who served as his country's ambassador to Israel from 1992 to 1995, said he feels close ties to Israel, its people and its struggles.

"The killing of Daniel Pearl reinforces the need to rout out terrorism wherever it occurs," he said.

Don Boudria, Canada's minister of public works and government services, offered condolences on behalf of the government of Canada.

Of Pearl's murderers, he said: "The beliefs we hold should be our guiding force for a better life and afterlife, and not an excuse to end life…"

Representatives of Congregation Beth Shalom and the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa also spoke and memorial prayers were recited.

INTERGENERATIONAL SEDER: Hamilton's Kehila Jewish Community Day School invited its families and seniors from Shalom Village retirement home to the school's first inter-generational model seder. Here Grade 2 student Judah Glogauer helps 90-year-old Eva Levy with her charoset and matzah. Assisting is Barbara Abraham, volunteer co-ordinator at Hamilton's Shalom Village Residence for seniors. Levy said she enjoyed being with the students. "I think this is beautiful. Children always love the seder, and they respect their parents more if they are included in what goes on." [Julia Kollek photo]

YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

יום השואה והגבורה

פון אַלעק סילווער

ליט אַ באַשלוס פון דער כנסת איז דער טאָג פון כ"ז ניסן פראָקלאַמירט געוואָרן אלס „יום השואה", ווי אַ טאָג וען עס ווערט דערמאָנט דער אומקום פון די זעקס מיליאָן יידן, וועלכע זיינען פארטיליקט געוואָרן דורך די נאַציס, ימח שמם, במשך דער צווייטער וועלט מלחמה.

ס'איז זיכער פאַר יעדן קלאָר, אַז „יום השואה" איז געווידמעט דעם גרעסל פון טרויער אין דעם באַדאַרף זיך צו פאַראיינקן מיט די נשמות פון די קדושים וטהורים, וועלכע זיינען פארשניטן געוואָרן פאַר דער צייט אַן וועמענס אַנדענק מיר טראָגן אייבּיק אין אונדזערע צעווייטיקטע הערצער. דער טאָג פון אומקום אַן גבורה וועט אפּגעצייכנט ווערן פון נאַנצן יידישן פאָלק.

איז עס שוין אַזוי דער יידישער גורל, וואָס איז מיטן פון פריד אין האָפענונג — אין די דרי וואָכן, וואָס הייבן זיך אָן מיטן שיינעם יום־טוב פסח אין ענדיקן זיך מיט יום העצמאות — זאָל אויספאַלן דער יאָרטאָג פונעם גרויסלעקסטן אומגליק אין אונדזער געשיכטע. מחן מיר זיך אומקערן צו דער טרויערקער דאָטע אינעם לעבן פון עם ישראל אין דערמאָנען, געדענקען אין אפּגענע געהערקן כבוד דעם טאָג, וואָס וועט בליבן אויף אייביק אין דער געשיכטע פון יידישן פאָלק אלס יום הזכרון, וואָס עס האָט פאַסירט אין מיטן פון צוואַנציקסטן יאָרהונדערט.

אונדזערע קדושים, וואָס די נאַציס האָבן אומגעברענגט מיט כלערליי מיתות משונות, האָבן אונדז איבערגעלאָזט א צוואה: **נישט פאַרגעסן און נישט פאַרגעבן!** וויבּיק זיך אויפּיס, אז מיטן לויף פון די יאָרן, אין מיטן טויט פון די עלטערע דורות, ווערט די דאָזיקע צוואה נישט אפּגעהיטן, ווי די קדושים האָבן זיך עס פאַרדינט.

עס קומען אויף כּל מיני „היסטאָריקער", וואָס ווילן „באַווייזן", אז קיין שואה איז בכלל נישט געווען. ס'איז א יידישע אויסטראַכטעניש — זאָגן זיי — כדי צו נעמען געלט בײַ די ייִדישן. אַנדערע נישט־יידישע פאָרשערס און וויסנשאפטלערס, וועלכע אַנערקענען יאָ, אַז ס'איז פאַרגעקומען איך דער נאַצי־תקופה א שחיטה אויבער יידן, אָבער נישט אָן אַזא גרויסן פאַרנעם, ווי יידן שטעלן עס פאָר. זיי בּאַרעכטיקן דאָס מיטן פאַקט, אַז מיליאָנען פון אַנדערע פעלקער זיינען אויך אומגעברענט געוואָרן.

דאָס איז טאַקע אמת. א סך פעלקער איז אייגנע האָבן אויך שטארק געליטן פון די ייִטשן. אָבער זיי האָבן היטלער אין זיך נאַצי־מאַשין נישט אויסגעמאַרדעט אויף א טאַטאַלן אופן. פאַרקערט, די פאַלאָקן, די ליטוינער, אוקראַינער אין אַנדערע פעלקער האָבן נאָך געהאָלפן די נאַצים אויסצופירן זייער מאָרד־מלאכה אויבער יידן.

עס איז אָבער אַנדערש מיט אונדז יידן. מיר וויסן אויף זיכער, אז א דרייטל פון אונדזער פאָלק איז דערמאָרדעט געוואָרן אויף א בעסטיאַלישן אופן אין די נעמאָס, קאָנצענטראַציע־לאַגערן אין קרעמאַטאָריעס. ווי אַן עלפּ־פּרס גראַסעוועטער שאירית הפּליטהגיך קען איך מיט זיכערקייט פעסטשטעלן, אז עס איז צווישן אונדז נישטא קיין אייגער, וואָס איז זיך משפחה זאָלן נישט האָבן געוווען קרבנות פון היטלערזן. מיר האָבן נישט פאַרגעסן אין מיר וועלן נישט פאַרגעסן, ווייל פאַרזיך דעם לויף פון יאָרן איז די וווּנד בײַ אונדז נאָך נישט פאַהיילט געוואָרן אין מיר וועלן זי טראָגן בּיז סוף פון אונדזער לעבן.

נישט בלויז כּדי צו דערמאָנען אונדז, די קרבנות פון נאַציזם, וועגן אונדזער חורבן, איז געווען די אייניציקע אויפגאַבע פון דער „יום השואה" פראָקלאַמאַציע. דער דאָזיקער טאָג מוז אויך זיין א סטימול פאַר דעם וויסטער־זיקן פאָלקס־לעבן. דער „טאָג פון אומקום" דאַרף תּמיד דערמאָנען דאָס געשעענע אין עס דאַרף וועקן אינטערעס בײַ דעם יונגן דור צו לערנען אין וויסן דאָס פאַרגעקומענע.

נאָך א ציל האָט „יום השואה". ער דאַרף פּסדר האַלטן וואָך אונדזער אויפמערקזאַמקייט לגבי די אַנטי־סעמיטישע געפאָרן, וואָס דראָען אין לויערן אויף אונדז פון פארשידענע זײַטן אין פון פארשידענע קריזן. מיטן דערמאָנען וועט אויך קומען דאָס באַקעמפן די דאָזיקע גיפטיקע חולאת פון דער נישט־יידישער וועלט.

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Coast to Coast

The media's label of 'illegality' is destructive

As of this writing, the Arab League summit in Beirut is about to get underway and the media are gearing up. Some analysts believe the conference could be a major turning point in Arab attitudes towards Israel; others, however, continue to express skepticism. More next week as events unfold.

In the meantime, there is an important follow-up to a report in this column two weeks ago about UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's March 12 address to the Security Council. In it he mistakenly described Israel's presence in the territories as "illegal," creating a furor whose repercussions are still being felt.

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

George P. Fletcher, professor of law at Columbia University, noted that Annan refuses to acknowledge that after fighting the 1967 defensive war, Israel was entitled to retain territory pending negotiations leading to full peace and security guarantees as prescribed in UN Resolution 242. In disclaiming this, Annan was attempting nothing less than a "redefinition" of the Middle East conflict ("Annan's Careless Language" *New York Times*, March 21).

This vital point has all too often been misunderstood or completely overlooked by the media. As a result, many people assume that the Palestinians are fully justified in waging a violent struggle against Israel to achieve liberation from an "unjust" or "illegal" occupation.

As Fletcher noted, "A new and provocative label of 'illegality' is now out of the chute and running loose, ready to wreak damage. The worst prospect is that Palestinians will dig in with a new feeling of righteousness and believe that the international community will force Israel to withdraw from its 'illegal' occupation.:. In this time of crisis and forgetfulness, using the term 'illegal' is destructive and dangerous."

Fletcher continues that UN Security Council Resolution 338, passed in 1973 after the Yom Kippur War, "imposes an obligation on Israel and the Arabs to negotiate peace. Because it insisted that the Palestinians negotiate an end to the Israeli presence, the Security Council could not have thought the occupation itself violated international law."

Fletcher's insistence on the facts seems to have resounded in the halls of the UN. Two days after Fletcher's article appeared, Frederick Eckhard, spokesman for Kofi Annan insisted that Annan had used the term "illegal" only in reference to certain aspects of Israel's presence in the territories, but not to its presence in general (letter, *New York Times*, March 23).

This is not merely hair-splitting or pettifogging. It goes to the heart of why Israel is entitled – some would say "obligated" – to remain in the territories awaiting negotiated safeguards for a withdrawal, the extent of which is also subject to those negotiations.

It is also why some critics, especially those on the left, who most want to see Israel free from the burden of occupation, insist that only a negotiated resolution rather than a unilateral withdrawal will accomplish this.

But for that to happen, world leaders must abide by historical facts, and the Palestinians must stop the violence and terrorism and allow negotiations to resume.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

SPEAKING OUT: Ten-year-old Sarah Goldberg spoke about volunteering with Out of the Cold, a program for the hungry, in her speech on mitzvot at Hamilton's 25th annual Morris Black Speaking Contest, which invites children from grades 4 to 8 write and deliver speeches on Jewish themes. The contest memorializes Morris Black, who left money in his will to sponsor the event. Goldberg shared second place in her group with Chava Starkman, whose spoke about Maimonides.

[Julia Kollek photo]

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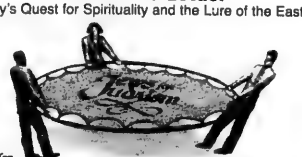

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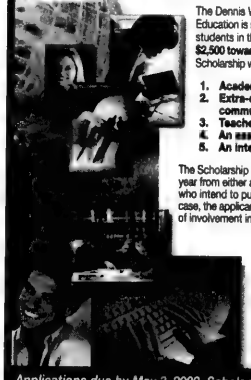

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Jewish secular humanist schools connect

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Representatives of Canada's three secular humanist Jewish Sunday schools met here last month to talk about areas of common interest.

"It was fantastic to be able to meet with our colleagues from Vancouver and Toronto," said Lissa Donner, the education chair for Winnipeg's United Jewish Peoples Order, the youngest of the three schools. "We agreed to share resources. That will make a big difference to a small volunteer-run organization like ours."

Jefri Knazen represented Vancouver's Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture at the meetings on March 16 and 17, while Frances Handlorski and Maxine Hermolin, respectively the education chair of the Morris Winchevsky School and executive director of the Morris Winchevsky Centre, came from Toronto.

They discussed practical matters such as teacher and student recruitment, advertising, outreach, holiday celebrations and evaluation. They also agreed to establish a joint Web site to facilitate communication between the three schools.

"We decided to work together because of our shared philosophy of education," Hermolin said. "We have created a coalition to interconnect our schools and deliver similar programming."

The schools, Hermolin said, cater to people who are unaffiliated but looking for ways to celebrate their Judaism.

The three, she said, are offshoots of the United Jewish Peoples Order (UJPO), a national Yiddishist socialist organization with active chapters in Toronto, Vancouver and Winnipeg. The schools teach Jewish traditions and culture and celebrate the holidays from a secular humanist perspective.

"We have Passover seders, for example, using our own haggadahs," Hermolin says. "We make the Exodus relevant by emphazing the struggle for freedom and social justice in the world, ideals we teach in our schools, too.

"And our bnei mitzvah celebrations encompass candlelighting, music, poetry and research presentations. It makes for a meaningful coming of age and is a real highlight of the secular humanist school experience."

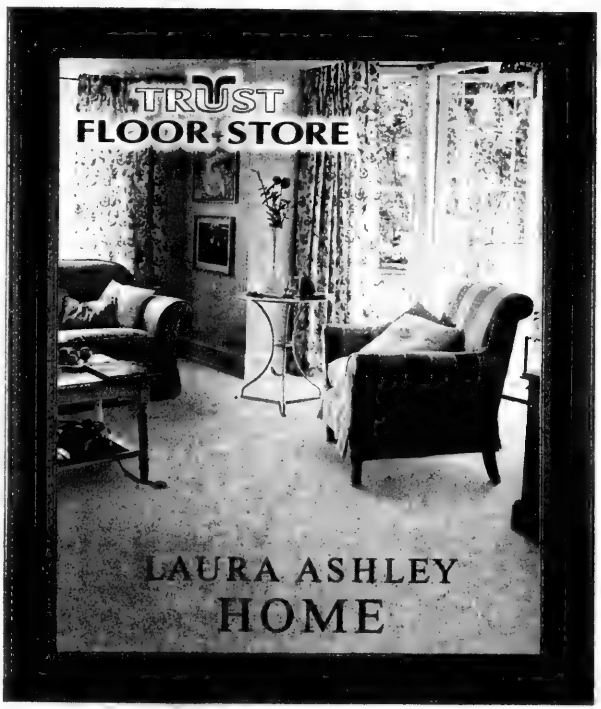
Of the three schools, Toronto's 74-year-old Winchevsky School is the oldest. The Peretz Institute is more than 40 years old, while the Sholem Aleichem School has been open for five years.

The Toronto program has about 40 students enrolled this year, while the Peretz Institute has 30 in its two-year bnei mitzvah program. (Vancouver also has a small elementary group, Hermolin said.) Sholem Aleichem has 15 students this year.

The Winchevsky School, Hermolin said, is under the umbrella of Toronto's UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education, but because the school is not part of the religious mainstream, it has limited finances and human resources. "The majority of Jews are unaffiliated, but it's hard to get the word out that we exist," she said.

Last fall, the Peretz Centre opened a new building in partnership with the city of Vancouver that combines education and housing. Sholem Aleichem and Morris Winchevsky representatives attended the opening and that's when the plans were made to formally meet in Winnipeg, Hermolin said.

"We have been talking for a number of years," she said. "I was actually invited to Winnipeg a few years ago to help get the Sholem Aleichem School going."



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BONDS AWARD: Lawrence Bloomberg was recently honoured at Israel Bonds International Prime Minister's Club Dinner in Palm Beach, Florida. Gideon Patt, (left), president and CEO, State of Israel Bonds Worldwide, is seen here presenting the Defenders of Jerusalem Award to Bloomberg and his wife, Fran. Silvan Shalom, Israeli minister of finance, is seen at right.

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Arafat 'enemy of the entire free world,' Sharon says

By ALUF BENN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon called Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat "Israel's enemy and the enemy of the entire free world" in a brief televised address to the nation Sunday evening.

Sharon accused Arafat of leading a campaign of terror and said Israel "must fight… an uncompromising war to uproot these savages, to dismantle their infrastructure because there is no compromise with terrorists.

"We co-operated with United States envoy Anthony Zinni, and in return we got terrorism. I decided to give up my demand for seven days of quiet, and in return we got terrorism. We withdrew the Israeli army forces from the [Palestinian] cities, and in return we got terrorism," he said.

The statement came as Israel endured a slew of attacks – beginning with a suicide bombing at a Passover seder in Netanya – and as the IDF operation against Arafat's Ramallah compound, which began last Friday, was broadened with the IDF's entry into Beit Jala on Sunday after mortar fire on the Jerusalem neighbourhood of Gilo.

The IDF plans to take over more cities and towns for periods longer than any previous operations since the start of the intifadah 18 months ago. But the IDF stressed it only intends to stay in the cities as long as it takes to search for wanted terrorists and uproot their network and infrastructure.

So far, a great deal of the material found in Arafat's compound, the Muqata'a, includes weapons banned by the Oslo accords, such as anti-armour weapons. The compound also yielded a large collection of documents linking the PA leadership with the terrorist attacks inside Israel.

IDF forces have asked Arafat and his entourage to give up a number of Palestinians who have taken refuge in the Muqata'a and who are wanted by Israel. These include Palestinians involved in the arms smuggling on the Karine-A. At the same time, assurances were given to Arafat that he will not be harmed.

In the meantime, diplomatic efforts were in high gear Sunday as international mediators tried to convince Arafat to adopt the ceasefire proposal put forth by U.S. envoy Anthony Zinni last week. The UN Security Council Resolution 1402, passed last Friday, that called for an immediate ceasefire and the full co-operation of the two sides with Zinni, increased pressure on Arafat.

Both sides seem to be drawing on the support of their respective allies.

On Sunday, U.S. President George Bush said that Arafat "can do a lot more" to prevent attacks against Israelis and that the United States supports Israel's right to defend itself.

Sunday also saw attacks on Israeli positions on the northern border, with Hezbollah firing anti-armour rockets and mortars, resulting in a brisk exchange of fire between the IDF and the Lebanese militants, as well as Israeli air strikes.

Bush did not speak with Arafat or Sharon. He urged all Middle East leaders to strongly condemn the attacks against Israelis, but singled out Arafat.

"He has got to speak up," Bush said. "He needs to stand up and condemn… these attacks."

But Bush also said Israel must work to reduce the violence. He urged Israel to "make sure there is a path to peace as she secures her homeland."

IDF sources said incursions into more Palestinian towns appear very likely after a wave of recent Palestinian attacks.

In Haifa last Sunday, at least 14 people were killed and more than 30 injured, four seriously, when a suicide bomber hit the Matza restaurant.

The restaurant, which was crowded at the time of the blast, is owned by Jews but run by Israeli Arabs.

Hamas claimed responsibility and identified the bomber as an 18-year-old resident of the West Bank refugee camp of Jenin. His family said he carried an Israeli identity card, meaning he was an Israeli citizen.

"We will continue the martyrdom attacks on Israel until the full withdrawal from Palestinian territory," Hamas said over loudspeakers in the camp.

Later, in downtown Tel Aviv, about 25 people were wounded, five seriously, when a suicide bomber detonated a bomb at about 9:30 p.m. in the My Coffee Shop café. The owner said it was only partially full at the time.

The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, linked to Arafat's Fatah movement, took responsibility for the attack in "the heart of the Zionist entity."

Less than two hours after the Haifa blast, a suicide bomber injured four people, one critically and another seriously, in an attack on the West Bank settlement of Efrat's commercial centre.

Five Israelis also died over the weekend in three separate incidents.

Two elderly Israeli men were stabbed and killed last Friday morning by a Palestinian who infiltrated the Neztarim settlement in Gaza.

Last Sunday, a border police officer was shot dead in the village of Baka al-Garbiyeh, on the Green Line border, during an exchange of fire with two Palestinians who were trying to cross into Israel. Border police shot and killed the two would-be infiltrators.

In an anonymous phone call, a spokesperson for the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades said the two were trying to enter Israel to carry out a suicide attack.

Last Friday afternoon, two Israelis were killed and more than 30 others were injured in a suicide bombing at a supermarket in Jerusalem's Kiryat Yovel neighbourhood. The Al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades said the bomber was an 18-year-old female from a refugee camp near Bethlehem.

"Israel's three main cities were hit in three days. Palestinian suicide bombers have made terror attacks a daily event," said David Baker, an official in the prime minister's office.

In response to the suicide attack in Netanya, the Israeli operation in Ramallah began Friday morning with the positioning of IDF armour and infantry units near Arafat's headquarters.

The IDF penetrated the compound and attacked each building, searching for gunmen, arms caches and wanted terrorists. In some cases the fighting was intense, and two Israeli soldiers were killed. At least 12 Palestinians were also reported killed during the fighting.

With electricity cut and communication reduced to one cell phone, Arafat – isolated on a single floor and surrounded by his closest advisers and bodyguards – made a frantic effort to call world leaders, asking them to stop the Israeli incursion. He also gave defiant TV interviews, saying he would rather die than be exiled or detained.

Israeli military sources said supplies provided to the compound included pita bread, mineral water, cheese, eggs, flashlights, candles and canned meat.

Defence Minister Benjamin Ben-Eliezer said soldiers had strict orders not to enter Arafat's building and not to harm him in any way. Ben-Eliezer gave no indication that Arafat's confinement would be eased.

"He [Arafat] brought this upon himself… This isolation will separate him from the terror groups," Ben-Eliezer said.

Sharon convened his security cabinet Sunday to discuss the ongoing Ramallah operation, as well as the response to the escalating wave of terror attacks. The meeting lasted three hours and no decisions were made. Sharon said deliberations would resume Monday or Tuesday.

The main issue at the meeting was Arafat's isolation, after the ministers heard about the IDF plan for the continuation of the operation in the territories.

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CANADIAN VOLUNTEERS FOR ISRAEL

Syria helps Hezbollah: Israel

By DANIEL SOBELMAN
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israel believes that Syrian President Bashar Assad has been ignoring Jerusalem's warnings about curtailing the activities of Hezbollah on the northern border.

Well-informed sources claim that Assad – who, they say, is also disregarding U.S. warnings on the matter – seems to have changed his attitude toward Hezbollah's operations against Israel, presumably on the assumption that Israel is not interested in opening a second front along the northern border and is in no hurry to intervene in the activities of the Shi'ite Muslim organization in Lebanon.

The assessments of the Israeli sources are based on recently accumulated information and are causing concern with regard to a possible escalation on the Israel-Lebanon border.

Following the events of Sept. 11, Israel confirmed that Assad was taking steps to rein in Hezbollah in an effort to ward off U.S. action against Syria in the framework of the war against terror. Recently, sources in the know said Assad had taken action to put an end to arms shipments from Tehran to Lebanon via Damascus, and that Hezbollah had taken to using alternative routes.

The sources say Hezbollah wants to drag Israel into a confrontation along the northern border and that the organization intends to respond harshly in the event that Israel carries out strikes against Syrian or Lebanese targets.

At this stage, all the Israel Defence Forces reserve units that have been called up recently have been slated for operations in the territories. The IDF is, however, readying for the possibility of a flare-up along the northern border.

Senior reserve officers were called in to the Northern Command Sunday to prepare for a scenario in which Hezbollah would try to cause a deterioration in the situation along the border with Lebanon. The command is preparing for a massive Hezbollah attack on Israel within the next day or two.

"Israel is close to the moment at which it will say, 'Enough is enough' with regard to the north," a security source said yesterday. "We are very concerned about the preparations being made there in anticipation of attacks against us. Syria is chiefly responsible for this and Israel is likely to respond with a strong strike against Syrian interests in Lebanon if it is attacked again."

–With files from Amos Harel

Bomb found in Red Crescent ambulance

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian ambulance was found carrying a bomb near Jerusalem last Friday. The bomb was hidden under a gurney on which a sick Palestinian child was lying. The driver confessed that this was not the first time ambulances have been used to carry bombs.

The bomb was taken out of the ambulance and detonated in the presence of representatives of the international committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

"The ICRC understands the security concerns of the Israeli authorities and has always acknowledged their right to check ambulances, provided it does not unduly delay medical evacuations," the ICRC said in a statement on Friday. The Red Crescent expressed shock at the incident, and said they had started an internal investigation.

According to the Israel Defence Forces, the driver, Islam Jibril, 31, who was already on the IDF's blacklist, confessed to having tried to smuggle in the bomb. He admitted that this was not the first time an ambulance was used to transfer terrorists and bombs, and that Red Crescent workers are among those sent on terror missions, a charge that until now the Red Cross and Red Crescent have forcefully rejected.

Jibril said the bomb – configured as a belt to be worn by a suicide bomber – was given to him by Mahmoud Titi of the Al Aqsa Brigades. Sources in Nablus affiliated with Titi, told *Ha'aretz* Sunday that they do not transfer weapons through IDF checkpoints and do not use ambulances, because checks at the checkpoints, and especially those of ambulances, are thorough.

Apparently, the ambulance, on its way from Nablus to Ramallah, went through four other checkpoints before the bomb was uncovered. Jibril was driving his sister-in-law and her three small children – one very sick. A physician, Dr. Rassan Hamdan, was sitting with the driver in front. Hamdan said soldiers searched the ambulance at the Hawara checkpoint outside Nablus, but did not check the IDs of the passengers or the driver. The ambulance then went through three other checkpoints, uninterrupted.

"A jeep suddenly sped scarily toward us and signaled to us with its headlights. The soldiers got off the jeep and started shooting in the air. We stopped, and they shouted at us in Hebrew to get out of the vehicle," Hamdan said.

The IDF reserve soldier who stopped the ambulance said he became suspicious because the ambulance was driving very fast but did not turn on the siren. When the ambulance did not stop despite the signals, the soldiers fired shots in the air, he told *Ha'aretz*.

Two or three hours later Hamdan, the woman and the three children were allowed to return to Ramallah.

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March 25

• The Jewish National Fund won an Israel Prize for Life Work. The award, which will be presented on April 17 in Jerusalem, is being given to the group on its 100th anniversary. The panel making the award noted the JNF's efforts in purchasing and reclaiming land for Zionist pioneers, and its contributions to Israeli forests and agricultural development.

March 26

• Security officials prevented a major disaster when they discovered a car laden with explosives travelling in south Jerusalem. The car suddenly exploded, killing the two Palestinian terrorists inside after police began chasing it. The al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigades claimed responsibility.

• Ariel Sharon accepted a compromise ceasefire proposal prepared by Anthony Zinni, but with reservations. The U.S. Mideast envoy drafted the proposal in order to implement an Israeli-Palestinian truce.

March 27

• Passover started. A suicide bomber killed 21 people and wounded more than 100 as they sat down for the seder in Netanyah's Park Hotel.

March 28

• Four members of the Gavish family in Efrat were killed by a Palestinian terrorist who entered their home at night and surprised the unsuspecting family.

March 29

• The emergency cabinet met as a result of the terrorist incidents and afterward senior officials indicated that Israel would carry out harsh reprisals that could include an attack against Yasser Arafat's compound in Ramallah.

• Two Israelis were stabbed and killed by a Palestinian who infiltrated Netzarim settlement in the Gaza Strip.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

Israel & the Jewish World

Anti-Israel protests intensify across Arab world

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

CAIRO — Anti-Israel protests grew violent throughout the Arab world earlier this week. Riot police fired tear gas and water cannons at demonstrators headed toward the Israeli Embassy here as Arabs took to the streets for the fourth straight day on Monday, calling on their governments to get tougher with Israel.

In the Egyptian town of Sohag, thousands of university students and teachers burned Israeli flags and asked their leaders to take steps against Israel.

In Jordan, at least four protests broke out. At the University of Jordan, anti-riot police used batons to prevent some 500 angry demonstrators from leaving the campus. In Zarqa, 27 kilometres northeast of Amman, about 3,000 people chanted "Death to Israel" and called for a jihad against the Jewish State.

In the Ein el-Hilweh refugee camps on the outskirts of the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, hundreds of people chanted, "We want to blow up embassies if [Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser] Arafat becomes a martyr. We want to hijack planes if Arafat becomes a martyr."

In Alexandria, Egypt, about 10,000 people gathered in support of the Palestinians. A similar number attended a demonstration in Bangladesh, while Arab diplomats and their families protested outside the Palestinian Embassy in Beijing.

After talks with Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher on Sunday, Palestinian Planning Minister Nabil Shaath rejected U.S. criticism that Arafat can do more to stop Palestinian suicide attacks. "President Arafat is a hostage," he said. "The Palestinian people in Ramallah are hostages of Israeli forces, and the American president speaks of Israel's right to defend itself... This is very astonishing. We have not seen this before."

Lebanese President Emile Lahoud issued a statement Monday condemning what he called international silence over the suffering of the Palestinians. "Time has come for Israel to know that the policy of imposing security by force will not succeed in making the Palestinian people abandon their rights," he said.

The president of the United Arab Emirates, Sheik Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, called on the United States to act to implement Saturday's UN Security Council resolution that said Israel should immediately withdraw from Palestinian towns, including Ramallah. (Washington supported the resolution, but called on Arafat to do more to quell the violence.)

In Iraq, President Saddam Hussein urged Arab countries to adopt "economic measures" against Israel and its supporters. He did not elaborate, but the ruling Baath party issued a statement calling on Arabs to use oil as a weapon.

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Vancouver, BC

Beth Israel is a conservative synagogue dedicated to strengthening and enriching all aspects of Jewish life for its 750 member families. Beth Israel is looking for a full time Executive Director who will support the Board in its renewal efforts for the Congregation.

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- Work closely with the Rabbi to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of life cycle events
- Ensure outstanding administrative support, including fiscal responsibility, through effective management and development of the staff
- Actively participate in synagogue and community events while also focussing on the future by identifying needs and providing recommendations to meet the needs
- Ensure the effective management, maintenance, repairs, security, and future planning needs of all the Synagogue's facilities, including, the Synagogue building and cemetery.

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We offer a competitive salary and benefits program. *Please apply to:* Chair, Search Commmittee, Beth Israel Synagogue, 4350 Oak St., Vancouver, BC V6H 2N4.

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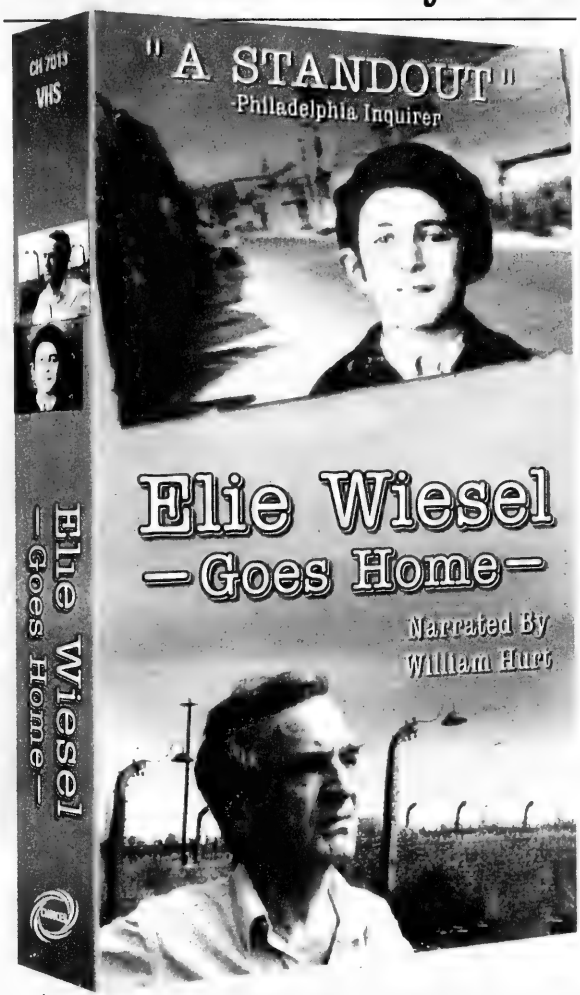

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BEASTS...

based on the Midrash

The first shafts of light appeared over the horizon as Moshe (Moses) walked to the Nile, the great river that sustained all of Egypt. He pushed apart the wall of bulrushes, and there was Pharaoh, Egypt's king.

"Moshe," gasped Pharaoh, "How did you know I was here?"

"God told me I would find you here. He also told me that in three weeks He will bring a fourth plague upon Egypt. Fierce animals will overrun the country. Are you **sure** you don't want to let the Jews go and worship God in the desert?"

Pharaoh thought for a minute, as the murky waters of the Nile churned behind him. *The first three plagues hadn't really been so bad. Who is this Moshe to tell me what to do? I, the King of Egypt!* "**GET OUT OF HERE!**" he roared, his face contorted with fury. Moshe calmly turned and left through the swaying bulrushes.

* * *

The first shafts of light appeared over the horizon. In the pale morning light, the Egyptians in the streets pointed in disbelief. "They're coming!" "It's true!" "The animals are coming!" Distant roars echoed through the desert, and almost imperceptibly, the ground trembled. The swarm of animals grew nearer. Elephants trumpeted. Komodo dragons licked at the air. Hyenas laughed. Cougars growled. The Egyptians fled into their houses and locked their doors.

Pharaoh nervously looked through his barred window at the animals massing in the streets. A loud clanging reverberated through the room as his guards secured the double doors with iron bars. Pharaoh petted his cat, Abyssinia. "We're safe," he smiled.

He shrieked as Abyssinia dug her sharp teeth into his finger. She glared at him and slowly backed away. A howl erupted in the street as the animals tried to break through the doors. The hinges rattled but would not give. "We're safe," he muttered again.

A long, slimy tentacle eased its way through the window. Pharaoh recoiled in horror as it slithered across the room and lifted the iron bars securing the doors. The tentacle withdrew, and the doors fell open. The sea of animals poured into the palace, as Pharaoh fled to his private chambers where he cowered under his bed. A blast of cold air swept into the room. A huge white bear entered, and silently surveyed its new territory. It lumbered onto Pharaoh's bed, smiled, and went to sleep.

"Moshe! Aharon (Aaron)!" screamed Pharaoh.

"Yes?" said Moshe, standing next to his brother Aharon in the doorway.

"How... how did you know I... how did you get here?" sputtered Pharaoh.

"You called for me, didn't you?"

The polar bear let out a particularly loud snore.

"Get these animals out of here! Go and worship God in the desert! Just get rid of these... beasts!"

"I will leave the city now and pray that the plague end. But Pharaoh, keep your word this time."

"Of course," gasped Pharaoh, as Moshe and Aharon turned and left. Pharaoh stayed under his bed, listening to their receding footsteps, listening to the roars in the streets, listening to the rhythmic snoring of the great white bear....

The snoring abruptly stopped. Hesitantly, Pharaoh crawled out from under his bed. The bear was gone. He cautiously left his bedroom. The hall was empty. Nervously, he descended the staircase. There was absolute silence.

Abyssinia met him at the bottom. She rubbed against his leg and purred.

Moshe entered. "It's all arranged," he said. "We'll leave tomorrow, and in three days...."

"You're not going anywhere," Pharaoh declared. "The Jews will remain slaves here. Forever!"

Moshe, knowing Pharaoh would change his mind, shook his head sadly, and left.

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Mrs. F. suddenly needed help.

When her husband's homecare was cut back from 4 hours to 45 minutes a week, the 71-year-old caregiving wife had virtually no time off.

Her husband had suffered two strokes and had Parkinson's. She constantly worried about him falling, and did not feel comfortable leaving him alone.

She had health problems of her own compounded by the stress related to being "on duty" 24 hours-a-day, 7-days a-week.

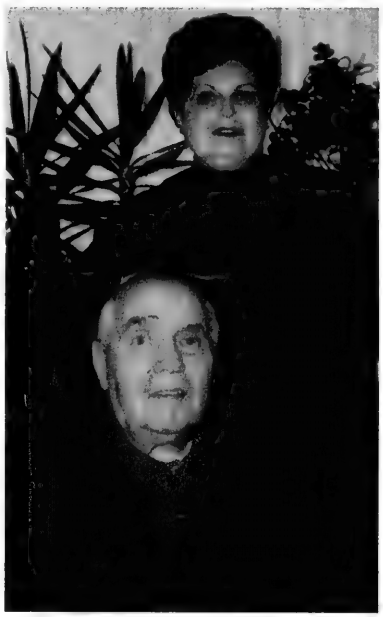
Help was literally just around the corner, at Bathurst and Steeles.

Mrs. F. found the support she needed from The Bernard Betel Centre's At-Home Respite Program.

This free service pairs caregivers with volunteers who can give them a break for a few hours once a week. (No nursing or physical care is provided.) The homebound person receives quality companionship while the caregiver receives precious free time.

Matches are very carefully made; enduring friendships develop. It's a win-win situation.

'The beauty of this program, the reason it works so well, is that the caring, compassionate people who volunteer do so because they want to, not because they have to'



Mady and Sam Grotsky: It means a lot to them both to have volunteer visits.

Mrs. F. now has something wonderful to look forward to every Monday: She goes swimming, shops or attends to personal appointments during the volunteer's three-hour visit. She is getting the relief she so greatly deserves and needs.

Similarly, Mady and Sam Grotsky's lives changed dramatically in 1997 after Sam suffered a disabling stroke – his right side was paralyzed, he lost his speech and can only move about slowly with a cane.

One of the Grotskys' daughters-in-law happened to see Paula Mintzberg, respite services co-ordinator, talking about the respite program on a morning TV show. "Quick, get on the phone," she told Mady. They joined the program almost four years ago and continue to receive weekly visits.

It means a lot to her and, especially, Sam to know their volunteer will be back each week. "The beauty of this program, the reason it works so well, is that the caring, compassionate people who volunteer do so because they want to, not because they have to," says Mintzberg.

The Bernard Betel Centre was the first, and remains the only agency in Toronto providing at-home respite care at no cost to caregivers.

The service is part of the centre's community outreach department. Within its walls this not-for-profit community centre offers exciting recreational, educational and social activities to independent seniors – adding life to their years and years to their life.

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The Bernard Betel Centre's Jewish heritage is reflected in everything we do. We take pride in celebrating Jewish holidays, culture and values. Religious services are held at the centre every Shabbat morning and on Jewish holidays.

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Who Authored the play Zadie's Shoes?

(Hint: the answer is printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Mon., April 22/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Tues., April 23/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: Zadie's Shoes Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: Zadie's Shoes Contest, 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of The Winter Garden Theatre or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

Arts & Travel

Toronto Jewish Film Festival courts laughter and controversy

By BILL GLADSTONE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — As they prepare for their 10th season, organizers of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival exude confidence that they are offering one of their best programmes ever.

"We had an unusually good track record this year, in terms of getting everything we wanted," said programming director Shlomo Schwartzberg.

"I think we have a very 'edgy' lineup of films. By 'edgy' I mean that the films have a lot of edge to them. We're offering a lot of powerful and controversial movies."

The fest opens April 20 with the world premiere of the Canadian-made film, *Schmelvis: Searching for the King's Jewish Roots*. The film explores evidence that the legendary American pop idol Elvis Presley is descended from Jews along his maternal line, making him Jewish according to Jewish law.

Turns out the King was always friendly and supportive of Jews around him, wore a golden Chai symbol around his neck, and even put a Magen David on his mother's tombstone.

Comic and bizarre, Schmelvis ends up posing more questions than it answers. At times it seems like a remarkable and highly clever "quest" film that explores central issues of Jewish identity. Even if at moments it seems of dubious significance, it's always hugely entertaining.

Although the Montreal and Vancouver Jewish film festivals were both unsure about Schmelvis, organizers of the Toronto fest, the second largest in North America, grabbed the film without hesitation. As Schwartzberg acknowledges, the festival has always been idiosyncratic and keen to march to its own drummer.

"I think we've chosen a really catchy film that will capture a lot of people," he said. "It's a perfect buoyant entertainment to open the festival with and get it off to a good running start." To judge by early ticket sales, the film has definitely caught the public's fancy, he added.

Music is a strong theme at this year's festival. Also on offer are a Dutch-made profile of Kinky Friedman, a Jewish country rocker turned murder mystery novelist; an Israeli documentary, *Taqasim*, about Israeli violinist Felix Mizrahi returning to his former home in Cairo; the US-made *Keep On Walking*, about a Jewish-raised African-American gospel singer ("You haven't lived until you've heard a joyous gospel choir sing *Adon Olam*," says the film's promo); and *Strange Fruit*, an American documentary about the famed Billie Holiday song, which was written by Abel Meeropol, a Jewish schoolteacher from the Bronx.

Holocaust themes are also well represented. *The Optimists* tells the little-known story of the rescue of the Bulgarian Jews during the Holocaust. *Sobibor* tells of a heroic rebellion of Jewish prisoners at that concentration camp in 1943.

"Terrorists" In Retirement, made in France in 1983, tells of a controversial wartime episode in which a group of extreme anti-Nazi resistance fighters were abandoned by the resistance movement and executed by the Nazis. *The Grey Zone* focuses on the 12th Sonderkommando unit at Auschwitz, which revolted in 1944, destroying half of the camp's ovens.

Based on a true story, *The Believer* focuses on a virulent Nazi skinhead and Jew-hater who was born a Jew; it depicts much violence and racism in New York City.

"I think it's a coup for us that we were able to get the film," Schwartzberg said. "It's a really controversial film. It was supposed to be at the Toronto International Film Festival but the filmmakers pulled it out because of September 11."

If controversy is what festival organizers seek, they may have their hands full with some of the Israeli films and films about Israel on offer. *The Accused*, for instance, is a 46-minute British-made TV documentary that focuses on Ariel

Continued on page 37

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SHE'S OFF: El Al's first female pilot, First Officer Merav Schwartz, 33, recently completed her first commercial flight for El Al from Tel Aviv to Nairobi, Kenya. Schwartz was accepted to El Al's world-renowned flight school in April 2000, after having successfully served in the Israeli Air Force, as have all El Al pilots. After more than a year of training, she was assigned to El Al's Boeing 737 fleet, which is used for regional destinations in the Mediterranean as well as throughout Europe. She hopes one day to be assigned to El Al's jumbo jet aircraft.

Controversial films included in Film Festival's lineup

Continued from page 36

Sharon's role in the Sabra and Shatilla massacres in Israeli-controlled Lebanon in 1982. Made last year, the film assigns full responsibility to Sharon for the bloodbath.

Schwartzberg defends the decision to include the film at a moment when the world seems to need no additional incitement to bash Israel or the Jews. "I think the subject is important," he said. "I don't think we should be scared of discussing anything – Israelis certainly aren't. Every subject under the sun is discussed by Israelis."

Then there's *A Bomb in the Basement*, a recent Israeli production that explores Israel's nuclear capabilities, with much archival footage and contributions from Shimon Peres and the Mossad's Isser Harel.

The festival is offering a number of interesting Canadian productions, such as *Je Me Souviens*, a Quebec-made investigation of anti-Semitism in Quebec from the 1930s to the present. There's also a retrospective track that allows festival goers to see numerous popular films from previous years. Titles include *Autumn Sun*, *Underdogs*, *A Jewish Wedding*, *A Tickle in the Heart*, and *Blacks and Jews*.

These are only some of over 60 films scheduled for screening during the festival, which runs from the evening of April 20 to the evening of April 28. Although no films are scheduled on Saturday April 27 during daylight hours, numerous free events have been arranged involving story tellers and Jewish learning.

The festival takes place at the Bloor Cinema, east of Bathurst. Program booklets should be available at public libraries and Cineplex Odeon theatres as of April 10. For more information or to purchase tickets or a pass, visit the web site [www.tjff.com] and click on Festival 2002, or phone 416-324-9121.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 47.

1 C	2 A	3 B	4 S	■	5 P	6 L	7 O	■	■	8 R	9 E	10 C	11 O	12 N
13 A	C	O	P	■	14 R	E	C	15 T	■	16 E	L	O	P	E
17 A	L	L	I	■	18 O	A	H	U	■	19 D	I	C	E	D
20 N	U	T	T	21 Y	P	R	O	F	22 E	S	S	O	R	■
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38 R	I	L	E	D	■	39 O	M	S	■	40 P	I	V	O	T
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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

ISRAELI PROFESSOR DOV NOY TO SPEAK ON JEWISH FOLKLORE

The Yiddish Culture Council of Toronto presents **Prof. Dov Noy**, the renowned scholar and professor of folklore from the Hebrew University, Jerusalem. Noy's topic is Jewish Folk Literature in Eastern Europe. Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. $3. Sunday, April 14, 8 p.m.

* * *

Jewish Folk Choir: The songs of Yiddish songwriter **Mordecai Gebirtig** are the focus of the 76th annual spring concert of the **Toronto Jewish Folk Choir** in early May. The concert features Yiddish singer **Claire Klein Osipov**, tenor **John Botten**, narrators **Sydney Perlmutter** and **David Abramowitz**, pianist **Lina Zemelman**, and the choir as conducted by **Esther Ghan Firestone**.

Der zinger fun noit (*The Singer of Misfortune*) is a dramatized musical montage on the life and works of the Krakow-born **Gebirtig** (1877-1942), one of the most popular Jewish folk composers of his day.

His songs reflect the joys and sorrows of everyday life in the Jewish communities of prewar Europe. Among the best-loved titles are *Kinderyorn* (*Childhood*), *Moishele main fraint* (*My Friend Moishele*), *Es brent* (*Our Town is Burning*), *Drai techterlech* (*Three Daughters*) and *Reizele*.

Havergal College, 1451 Avenue Rd. (south of Lawrence). Free parking. Adults $18, seniors and students $15. Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m. Advanced tickets at Jewish bookstores. 416-489-7681 or 416-444-2332.

* * *

Governor General's Award: Montreal artist **Barbara Steinman**, known for her innovative artwork and sophisticated use of technology, is one of seven winners of the third annual Governor General's Awards in visual and media arts.

The others are **A. A. Bronson**, **Charles Gagnon**, **Edward Poitras**, **David Rokeby**, **Irene Whittome** and **Ydess Hendeles**. All received awards from Governor General Adrienne Clarkson at a ceremony at Ottawa's Rideau Hall on March 20.

Steinman's art "deals with issues of tolerance and the fragility of boundaries," a press release explains. Her series of photographs, Day and Night, hangs in the National Gallery of Canada.

* * *

Jewish Life in Birobidzhan: Friends of Yiddish presents **Nikolai Borodulin**, a YIVO bibliographic specialist, giving an illustrated lecture in Yiddish on Growing Up in "Stalin's Zion," Birobidzhan.

Borodulin was born and raised in Birobidzhan, and recalls the fascinating details of Jewish life in this still-existing autonomous Jewish region of the former U.S.S.R. Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Members free, guests $7. Saturday, April 13, 8 p.m. RSVP by April 10 to Sandy, 416-736-8073.

* * *

Arts Briefs

• "Yiddish Theatre meets **Sholom Aleichem** meets **Neil Simon** meets **The Twilight Zone**" is how the Morrison Theatre Company of Morrison, Colo., describes *High Crimes and Misdemeanors*, a new play based on stories by **Joanne Greenberg**. Readers in the Denver area are invited to "stop by and see the show." April 5 to 28. 303-935-3044.

• The 55th annual juried art show of the **Willowdale Group of Artists** is on view April 8 to 21. North York YMCA, 567 Sheppard Ave. at Bayview.

•**The Toronto Philharmonia** salutes **Elgar**. $26 - $37. Toronto Centre for the Arts, George Weston Recital Hall. 5040 Yonge St. Thurs. April 11, 8 p.m. Tickets 416-870-8000 or 416-250-3708. [www.torontophil.on.ca]

•The U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. presents The Art and Politics of **Arthur Szyk**, Polish-born Jewish artist-activist who switched from book illustrating to political cartooning after the Nazis invaded in 1939. April 10 to Oct. 14. [www.ushmm.org]

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Ninth year for March of Dames

By BEN ROSE
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — The *March of Dames – 9 Lives!*, 50 women and a few honorary males, ran for its ninth season, March 20-24, at the Tim Sims Playhouse, with its usual gusto and humour.

In the funniest act, Victoria Goring, miming the song *It Had to be You*, didn't say one word, as she tried to put a white tablecloth under a bottle of wine, (which she drank in two glasses) and then disappeared into a big cardboard box, rooting out a new TV set and remote control, which she set up beside the wine.

More vocal, but equally humorous, were Leslie Kaz and Michelle Neilson, playing two nuns who wander through a mall, trying on form-fitting, plastic clothing that makes them so happy they end up doing a delirious dance. Before the dance, they suppress, just barely, their evident instinct to have a relationship with one of the honorary males.

Hosting *March of Dames*, held in aid of the Toronto Cat Rescue Society, was veteran Lisa Merchant, who with Janet Van De Graaff and Lindsay Leese, demonstrated their improv skill in acting out themes suggested by the audience.

Stella Walker, introduced as the "goddess of the oddest," sang a song dedicated to her favourite artist, "Dada." She appears often at the Yiddishland Cafe and other Jewish concerts, singing in Yiddish.

Sonja Mills did an excellent piece on a candidate for the provincial Tory leadership, outlining the kind of Ontario she had in mind, which transferred all school children to jails for their safety, while teachers joined the ranks of the unemployed.

Other performers were Katie Bergin, Lisa Brooke, Jamillah Ross, Lex Vaughn, Kristeen von Hagen and Shoshana Sperling.

Sperling's day job, as she calls it, is writing religious comedy for Vision TV, sending up stereotypes of bigots.

"I'm not making fun of religions," she said in an interview. "I'm just exposing those racists who claim they represent certain religions."

The former Regina native has lived in Toronto for 10 years. "I'm everything – an actor, a performer, a Canadian. I don"t want to be put in any category," she said.

Her latest problem is finding a new title for a play she has written, she said. For now, she has named it *Regina Monologues*, which everyone assumes is related to *Vagina Monologues*, and which, with Nightwood Theatre as co-producer, will be presented by Theatre Passe Muraille next February, under its new title.

It will open in Regina this fall. "It's about the city of Regina. It has nothing to do with vaginas," she said. "I gave it that title because it was a deadline for a festival and I had to have a name."

Arts & Travel

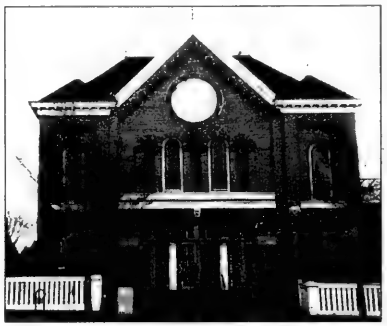
Canada's oldest suviving synagogue is in Victoria, B.C.

By RANDY ROWETT & KATHRYN KATES
Special to The CJN

VICTORIA — When you think of British Columbia's picturesque capital situated on the southern tip of Vancouver Island, high tea at the historic Fairmont Empress Hotel comes to mind.

But long before 1908 when the first teapot steeped, the Jewish Congregation Emanu-El had already been in existence for 38 years.

Still thriving today, Congregation Emanu-El, located on 1461 Blanshard St., is the oldest surviving synagogue in Canada and on the west coast of North America – originally servicing the Jews that arrived on Fort Victoria's shores in 1858 who were attracted by the Fraser River Gold Rush on the mainland.



Congregation Emanu-El. [Kathryn Kates photo]

In fact, this national historic site is one of the oldest place of continuous worship of any religion in British Columbia.

The Jewish pioneers were welcomed into Victoria's early settlement because they flourished in business, industry, politics and the arts. With its mild weather making Victoria pleasant to visit all year round, it is not surprising that these early immigrants were enticed to stay.

Even today, many Canadians fed up with the cold winter weather are looking west to Victoria instead of south to Florida to resettle or retire.

Travellers to Victoria can be kept busy for days within steps of the often-photographed Inner Harbour, home to the provincial Parliament Buildings. Attractions around the harbour include the impressive Royal British Columbia Museum which houses exhibits of the human and natural history of the province.

Adjacent to the museum is the National Geographic IMAX Theatre.

A few short blocks away is the 1860s Carr House – the birthplace of the late Emily Carr, the city's most famous artist, author and eccentric genius.

Other places of note and fun include the Crystal Garden Conservation Centre, a tropical paradise in the heart of downtown; and the Royal London Wax Museum, saluting famous and infamous figures from history, politics and entertainment.

Across the inner harbour is the Victoria Bug Zoo, full of creepy, crawly creatures that you can touch, if you really want to.

In and around the city's centre there is plenty to see, including Craigdarroch Castle, built as a status symbol by Scotsman Robert Dunsmuir after making his fortune from Vancouver Island coal.

Nearby is Oak Bay Village, a great place to stroll and shop for souvenirs.

You'll need to take a tour or rent a car, but it is well worth it to visit Sydney and the Saanich Peninsula, minutes from the airport. This small community even has its own museum.

Goldstream Provincial Park is located on traditional fishing grounds of the local First Nations. Around mid-October, for nine weeks, millions of Pacific salmon make their way up the streams of the park to spawn and die. It is a sight to see if you can stand the smell.

Most everyone that comes to the Victoria area makes a pilgrimage to the Butchart Gardens. North of Victoria, it's easy to find. Just follow the cavalcade of tourist buses up Hwy. 17 to the blooms.

In 1904, Ontario born Jennie Butchart turned her husband Robert's cement quarry into The Sunken Garden. Over the years, the family-owned business has grown with the addition of the Rose, Italian and Japanese Gardens.

There are festivities offered throughout the year. July and August bring a magnificent fireworks display every Saturday night. As you can imagine, many of The Butchart Gardens' staff have green thumbs and if you ask nicely, they will be more than willing to share tips with budding amateur gardeners.

You can be accommodated very nicely in Victoria, from the budget Accent Inns to the prestigious Fairmont Empress Hotel, where many of the antique laden rooms and suites overlook the Inner Harbour.

Other hotels in the vicinity include the Hotel Grand Pacific with its modern Japanese style spa and the four-star Chateau Victoria. Staying off the beaten path includes both Victorian and modern hotel rooms designed by architect Paul Hadfield.

If you enjoy water adventure, then the Oak Bay Beach Hotel & Marina Resort is for you. Activities include whale watching and kayaking. The Oak Bay has its own Canadian customs' office for those taking the ferry from the hotel's docks to Washington State.

Approximately 45 minutes southwest of Victoria is Sooke Harbour House. According to present day owners' Sinclair & Frederica Philip, this luxury country inn with 28 exquisitely designed guest rooms served as a safe house for Jewish refugees during World War 11.

For more information contact the Greater Victoria Visitors and Convention Bureau at 250-414-6999 or [www.tourismvictoria.com]

Advertising Feature

Travel Agency offers affordable Family Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours to Europe

Peerless Travel is one of North America's largest Jewish travel agencies, and Canada's largest. Of 60,000 clients served in 2000, 9,000 traveled to Israel. The other 51,000 comprised corporate and business travelers and leisure travelers taking cruises and vacation packages to southern sun destinations. Peerless offers worldwide discounted airfares, hotels & car packages, specialty travel groups, and much more.

Following its' success operating one of the best North American family Bar/Bat Mitzvah tour programs to Israel, Peerless is now offering families Bar/Bat Mitzvah tours to Europe, based on the same model of success (details below). Most of Peerless' business is return customers and referrals. "Our best advertising" says Peerless president Ehud Telem, "is praise from clients."

Peerless prides itself on quality tours. Their educational and cultural value is enormous - both for what you see, and the quality of the guides. And the value is great. Peerless family tours to Israel and Europe offer more dollar value than any tour offered by anyone in North America!!!

Peerless also prides itself on respecting scheduled tour departure dates no matter the group size. Visits to certain sites may vary, however, the Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony at Masada is always a highlight. What setting could be more moving for such an auspicious occasion?

Friendly, courageous, full of vitality, Israel's people represent a kaleidoscope of cultures and languages, making this the most exciting country on earth. Israel isn't only a cradle of history: it's a mosaic of present-day humanity.

Tour itineraries are unique and incorporate adult/family activities. Many evenings feature theme dinners. Imagine spending an evening in the Old City of Jerusalem at the Cardo Culinaria, site of a Roman market, eating Roman-style food and enjoying entertainment. In the spirit of the evening, everyone dons a toga, helmets and shields. Another evening may feature a dinner/dance by the beautiful Sea of Galilee. Many meals are enjoyed outdoors on terraces.

Compare this with a Bar or Bat Mitzvah held in your home city. Booking your venue up to three years in advance, you begin organizing details at least six months ahead; in a short evening's time, you've spent more than a tour could cost for your family. Try the Peerless alternative, sparing you work and worry; you can even book a tour at the last minute if space is still available.

A Peerless Bar/Bat mitzvah family tour is all inclusive, featuring luxury accommodation; it's hassle-free, and worry-free. Every detail of your tour is looked after; all scheduling is done for you and nothing interferes with your family having a great time. You'll love the many exciting activities planned - jeep tours and white water rafting are just a couple.

Trip extensions and side trips to Egypt, Greece, Turkey, Morocco, Jordan, and Mediterranean Cruises are offered. Currently being organized is a second solidarity tour to Israel, May 19-28, led by Beth David's Rabbi Philip Scheim and Beth Emeth's Rabbi Howard Morrison.

Why Europe? Already visited Israel? Europe offers a rich and exciting tapestry of Jewish life. Stretching over 2000 years of exile, Jewish life has left an indelible mark, especially in central Europe. Many "second timers" have asked Peerless to develop a European tour based on the agency's vast experience acquired over years operating family tours.

The Europe family Bar/Bat Mitzvah tour is operated in the same style and on the same principles as the Israel family tours. All inclusive, luxury accommodations, no worry, no hassle, all needs looked after, with minimal out of pocket expense. A tour escort guides your family, attending to your needs, and as required, provides an expert English-speaking local guide.

Your family will enjoy a varied multitude of general interest sights and family actvities i.e. Hungary's Puszta Horse Show and Milan's Sforza Museum with its famous musical instrument collection. You'll also visit old Jewish districts and sites in Prague, Budapest, Venice and Vienna. And the highlight, the Bar/Bat mitzvah ceremony for your son or daughter will be held in a beautiful old Vienna synagogue where each child will be honored with an aliyah and read a Torah portion.

Tour expenses include entrance fees to sites and activities outlined in the itinerary; transfers, including to restaurants outside the hotel; daily breakfast; 13 dinners including welcome, farewell and Bar/Bat Mitzvah dinner; two lunches; Bar/Bat Mitzvah ceremony; taxes; service charges; airport and hotel porterage; and gratuities to hotel staff and outside restaurant staff. **Two Europe Family Bar/Bat Mitzvah Tours are planned for this summer - July 7-21 and August 4-18.**

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Business Profile

Holocaust survivor rises to top of bakery business

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

Shortly after the Buchenwald concentration camp in Germany was liberated by the U.S. army in 1945, Max Feig, one of its starving, disease-ridden inmates, saw loaves of bread literally falling from a clear sky.

To Feig, a Czech Jew who survived the Holocaust by the skin of his teeth, the bread, dropped by American aircraft, was like manna from heaven.

Little did he know that bread – the staff of life – would figure prominently in his own life later on.

In 1953, soon after his arrival in Toronto by way of Israel, Feig started working as a driver for Crown Bread Bakery on Augusta Street.

He needed the job to supplement his income as a seasonal bricklayer.

Feig learned bricklaying in Israel, where he and his family – wife Rose and daughter Pearl – lived from 1948 until their immigration to Canada..

Having concluded that the baking business was a promising one for a hard-working, ambitious man who didn't mind interminable hours, Feig and fellow door-to-door delivery man, Emil Friedman, decided to open their own bakery.

Max Feig co-founded Open Window Bakery in 1957

In tandem with two other partners, Leslie Kellerman, a bread baker, and Louis Friedman, a cake baker, they founded Open Window Bakery.

It blossomed into one of Toronto's biggest bakeries.

The partners opened their first store on Bathurst Street on Jan. 7, 1957.

Within a few years, Open Window shops were popping up all over town, vindicating Feig's belief in the bakery business.

Forty five years on – Open Window stores treated its customers to free refreshments to mark the anniversary – Feig presides over a small empire whose tantalizing fare is sold as far west as Hamilton and as far east as Oshawa.

In a massive plant on Finch Avenue West, workers pump out an array of breads, bagels, rolls, buns, croissants, pastries and cakes.

A jumble of giant ovens, rollers, mixers, steam rooms, walk-in refrigerators, flour-dusted tables, silos, stainless steel bowls and bulky flour bags, the plant hums with activity 24 hours a day.

Having bought out his partners years ago, Feig is president of the company. His daughter, Gail Agasi, is vice-president.

Feig's two other children, Pearl and Edith, have pursued different interests.

His sister's son-in-law, Yacov, manages the cake department, while his son-in-law, Gabor, is an Open Window salesperson.

Altogether, Feig employs a staff of about 200 people, some of whom have been with him for decades.

As he walked around the plant, giving a reporter a tour, he cordially greeted workers and stopped briefly to chat with them.

At one point, Open Window had more than 30 stores, counting the Health Bread Bakery franchise, which Feig folded into the business in 1975.

But in recent years, he closed stores – there are 12 today, four of which Feig owns outright – and began selling to grocery chains like Loblaws, Longo's and Highland Farm.

"Business used to be much, much better," he said, in tones redolent of Eastern Europe.

"Now the competition is very big. Today there are more bakeries. On every corner, I see a bagel bakery."

As a result, Feig had no alternative but to seek out chain stores. He estimates that as much as 70 per cent of his baked goods are sold to stores such as Loblaws and Longo's.

Feig, who turned 81 recently, was born in Luh, a small town in the Carpathian Mountains in Czechoslovakia. He was the fourth oldest of eight children.

Ignatz (Yitzhak), his father, was a cattle dealer. Gita, his mother, was a seamstress.

There were approximately 40 Jewish families in Luh, which was mainly inhabited by ethnic Ukrainians.

Hungary, an ally of Germany, occupied Luh after the outbreak of World War II. Pressed into a labour battalion, Feig was sent to Yugoslavia.

Max Feig and daughter Gail Agasi.

Considering the terrible fate that befell many other Jews, Feig's treatment was relatively humane.

But things took a sharp turn for the worse after he was shipped to a succession of concentration camps in Germany: Ordruf, Flossenburg and, finally, Buchenwald.

He was very sick in Buchenwald with a case of typhoid.

He could not have survived the ordeal without the help of his younger brother, Sam, who now lives in Detroit.

Three of his sisters – Sima, Rifka and Shana – also lived through the Holocaust.

But his parents, as well as three of his siblings, including older brother Herman, perished.

After being liberated, Feig returned to Luh, but there was nothing there for him, so he left.

Being a Zionist, Feig went to Israel, settling on a farm near Zichron Yacov.

Conditions were hard.

Like many newly arrived Jews of that era, he and his family dwelled in a simple shack.

"I had to leave Israel because my wife couldn't take the heat," he explained.

And, Feig added, he was none too happy on a farm.

He had much better luck in Toronto.

For the first few years after launching Open Window, he drove a delivery truck. Then he was a salesperson.

Surprisingly, perhaps, Feig was never a baker, leaving the baking to seasoned pros.

"I had no knowledge of baking," he said.

Feig, a member and benefactor of B'nai Brith, has slowed down since being stricken with health problems. Within a five-year period, he had two bypass heart operations.

Although he feels better these days, he has not resumed his old punishing pace, and now usually puts in a six-hour day.

But he has no intention of stepping down any time soon and intends to stay as long as his health permits.

"If I retire, what will I do?" he asked plaintively.

Sonny Goldstein, CFP
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Baycrest Centre celebrates Passover big time

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Planning to whip up a batch of chicken soup and kneidlach for 1,000 guests? Donna Gates has the perfect recipe.

She can also provide hints for making meat loaf, or for Passover, a matzah farfel kugel for those same 1,000 people.

As director of food and nutrition services at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Gates oversees the production of these favourites plus many other kosher, nutritious and tasty dishes.

Baycrest kitchen staff – there are 260 employees, 120 of whom are full time – work in shifts from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. in one of the largest kosher kitchens in North America.

Rabbi Berlat

Under the watchful eye of mashgiach Nachman Wilhelm, they prepare about 1,300 meals daily. This includes meals for residents, for the centre's cafeteria and for people who receive Meals on Wheels or require kosher meals in other facilities.

Residents who have a concern or question about the meals, or have a recipe idea to submit, can go to Baycrest's food committee – it includes residents – which meets every four to six weeks to plan meals and "every so often" to do a menu review, Gates says.

"Recipes are developed by the committee, and we bring in residents to do taste tests. Everything is very democratic," she says."

When thoughts of Passover were still on most people's back burners, Gates says, members of Baycrest's kitchen staff were cleaning, preparing and planning menus.

"Our Passover period began Jan. 2 when we ordered grocery items such as matzah products and canned goods from U.S. distributors. Perishables such as meat, poultry and produce were bought locally, closer to Passover," she says.

Also on the shopping list is equipment such as aluminum pans and chemicals for cleaning the kitchen for Passover, a job that began at the end of January.

Up to and including Passover, staff spend more than 1,000 extra hours on special cleaning, with the work extending well past midnight on some days, says Gates. "At the end of this, the counters shine, sparkle and sing, and the rubber gloves are worn, torn and ragged."

A few days before Passover, all food is served on paper plates and all meals are dairy, which allows the kitchen staff to transfer the regular dishes into storage and the Passover dishes into use, she says.

Thinking ahead to next year's farfel kugel?

To prepare for 1,000 people you'll need: 75 kg of farfel; 35 kg of eggs; 30 kg of frozen apple slices; eight 16-litre cans of apple juice; 710 ml of lemon juice; 4 kg of sugar; 5 kg of raisins, 17 litres each of applesauce and canned pineapple; 1 kg of matzah meal; and 1 litre of cooking oil.

To prepare the kneidlach for 150 litres of chicken soup stock, you'll need 50 dozen eggs, 6 litres of water, four litres of cooking oil, 260 grams of salt, 17 kg of matzah meal and six 75-litre bottles of club soda.

If you plan on making meat loaf, you may want to start by calling your butcher and pre-ordering 54 kg of minced beef.

"[Passover] is a huge undertaking, but when we see clients and family enjoying our seders, it makes all the work worthwhile. It's very moving to see how emotional some people become.

"I see them all year, and when I see them at the seder, they are so much more alive and happy," Gates says.

Baycrest's seders included a hospital seder for clients and their families, a seder for Apotex Centre residents and a seder for Baycrest Terrace residents.

Included in the seder menu was gefilte fish; chicken soup with kneidlach; braised brisket, roast chicken or boiled chicken; matzah farfel kugel or mashed potatoes; tzimmes; and stewed apricots and sponge cake.

Rabbi Norman Berlat, Baycrest's director of pastoral care, says Passover is of great significance to the Baycrest community.

"It brings to mind by-gone Passovers and that usually brings positive, warm, moving memories. Because about one-third of our residents are Holocaust survivors, Passover might bring memories of anti-Semitism and of the ghettos and concentration camps. They remember the efforts they went to just to have matzah. Their faith helped them survive.

"It is also seen as a time of homecoming. Many residents go home to their families, while others have their families join them here for our seders. In any case, we try to make it joyous and meaningful for them."

The anticipation begins weeks before the holiday, says Rabbi Berlat. "Our goal at Baycrest is to enrich residents' lives and make things as normal as possible for them. This is their home, and we want it to feel that way."

Sofiya Shapiro, food service aide in the Baycrest Centre kitchen, prepares soup for Passover. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

It is also important to include the outside community in their observances, he says. "At least 25 per cent of the people at our synagogue services come from the general community, and we encourage people to bring their children. They have become part of our extended Baycrest family."

People who live nearby also come by with bags of chametz for the annual chametz burning ceremony, he said.

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25 HOUSES WANTED TO RENT
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35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT
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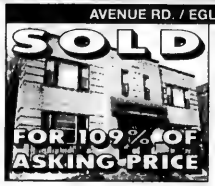

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Israel & the Jewish World

As intifadah rages on, anti-Jewish acts in France continue

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — France's Jewish community has seen a wave of anti-Jewish attacks since the beginning of the Palestinian intifadah more than 18 months ago. Arson has hit synagogues and Jewish institutions. Pedestrians who look Jewish have been attacked. Police have fielded hundreds of complaints lodged by Jews about threats and abusive language. Defamatory graffiti messages in Jewish neighbourhoods have included: "Dirty Jews," "Jews to the gas chamber," "Jews! Prepare for an intifadah in France" and "Death to Jews."

The attacks continued last weekend, as the violence escalated in the Middle East. There were fires at a synagogue in southeastern Lyon and in the eastern city of Strasbourg, and a fire destroyed a synagogue in the southern city of Marseille, police said. There were no injuries reported at the latter fire, which broke out late Sunday night, shortly after police had completed a patrol of the synagogue as part of intensified security measures recently put in place at Jewish religious sites.

Also on Sunday, a gunman opened fire on a kosher butcher shop near Toulouse, in southern France. The owner was inside at the time of the attack but was unharmed.

And *Le Journal du Dimanche*, a Sunday newspaper, reported that a Jewish couple in their 20s suffered injuries from an attack Saturday afternoon in the town of Villeurbanne, in the Rhone region. The woman, who was said to be pregnant, was reportedly hospitalized overnight.

Though French authorities have tracked down suspects in only a handful of cases, they have established a clear pattern: the vandalism, abuse and attacks have often been perpetrated by youths from Arab families that immigrated to France from North Africa. These Arabs, they believe, consider attacks against French Jews a way to protest Israel's policies toward Palestinians.

Arabs in France have mobilized in support of the Palestinians in the territories, and local Jews have rallied in support of Israel. During past conflicts between Israelis and Palestinians, French citizens of Arab origin did not respond as they have throughout this current intifadah; they did not attack Jews or Jewish institutions.

The recent wave of Jew hatred that has swept through France has stirred fear and concern among local Jews. Hundreds of anti-Semitic incidents have spurred responses among leaders of France's organized Jewish community.

"This is worse than random acts of violence," says Haim Musicant, director of CRIF, an umbrella organization of French Jewish groups. He views the acts as a sustained intimidation and incitement campaign aimed at frightening French Jews who support Israel.

"For the first time since the Holocaust, synagogues have been burned, and calls of 'death to the Jews' have been heard," he adds. "It is no wonder that members of Jewish communities around France were alarmed, and came to us for help. True, up to now there have been no fatalities, but Jews have been injured, as have their cultural symbols."

Two candidates for the French presidency have taken positions on a variety of domestic issues while saying little about the attacks against Jews.

The two, President Jacques Chirac and Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, originally told Jewish community leaders to show fortitude and try to calm their memberships. With the elections weeks away, both have been wary of alienating the Arab vote. Some five million people of North African ancestry live in France.

But after attacks against Jews multiplied, the two candidates inserted into their speeches statements designed to allay apprehensions. They also issued orders for stiff enforcement of the law against perpetrators of the attacks.

Meanwhile, CRIF president Roger Cukierman has issued an urgent appeal to French authorities, calling on them to put an end to the attacks.

"We want to prevent a situation from arising in which Muslim hatred joins forces with anti-Semitism of the extreme right," Cukierman said recently in a speech delivered at CRIF's annual conference.

Public opinion polls suggest that sympathies in France tend to lie with the Palestinians. A majority of respondents expressed support for the Palestinian aspiration to establish a state, and have said they view the Palestinians' current struggle as a legitimate expression of the demand for national liberation. A year after Israel elected Ariel Sharon prime minister, many French people continue to harbour deep misgivings about him.

Presidential candidate François Bayrou, who recently visited Israel, believes the attacks lack the anti-Semitic component of the Christian attacks against Jews in Europe. "This is definitely a form of protest undertaken by Muslims against their [Jews'] way of life in France," he said.

At press time, police had not yet commented on the cause of the Marseille fire, which destroyed all of the synagogue's books and religious scrolls.

The same synagogue, located in the middle of a housing project in the Mediterranean port city, was the target of an attack last October, when assailants hurled a Molotov cocktail at it.

In the four other attacks last weekend, the synagogues suffered minor damage, mostly to their facades, and there were no injuries.

— With files from Daniel Ben Simon

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SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship **AD#1340**

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Or Chaim wins its division at hoops tourney

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The Or Chaim Knights rode strong defensive play and effective shooting near the basket to a championship win in Tier III competition at the 11th annual Red Sarachek Yeshiva University Basketball Tournament last month in New York City.

The Knights finished the competition with a 4-1 record, losing only to eventual Tier II champions MTA of New York. Other than that 50-23 shocker, Or Chaim handled itself well, shutting down opponents' top scorers and getting important baskets at key times, said David Dayan, team manager.

The Knights had no problem with teams from some of the smaller schools, beating Block Yeshiva of St. Louis handily but getting a scare from Maimonides of Brookline, Mass.

Or Chaim trailed Maimonides by 12 points in the third quarter, but clawed its way back in the final minutes to win 39-36.

In the semi-final, Yeshiva High School of Boca Raton, Fla., played them tough, but Or Chaim came on to win a see-saw contest, 42-37.

The championship final saw them tip off against Northwest Yeshiva of Seattle, Wash. Or Chaim took the lead and never looked back. Although the final score was 45-42 and Northwest made a little run in the second quarter, the Knights shut them down and were never really threatened.

"We pretty much played better all the way through," Dayan said.

Knights co-captain Eli Goldberg, a point guard, was named Tier III most valuable player.

Altogether, 18 teams from across North America participated in the tournament. Magen David of Brooklyn, N.Y., defeated Ramaz of New York City to capture first place in Tier I.

Or Chaim Knights celebrate winning the Tier III event at New York tournement.

Ramaz recently won the Israel Becker Tournament hosted by the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

Or Chaim, which won Division III at the Israel Becker event, was the only Canadian entry in New York. The tournament is named for Yeshiva University's long time men's basketball coach, Red Sarachek.

"It's the premier yeshiva high school basketball tournament in the country," said Michael Kranzler, director of admissions at Yeshiva University. "Over the years, we've had the top Jewish high school teams playing."

The Or Chaim Knights include: Goldberg, Dayan, Avi Silverman, Daniel Magder, Daniel Gutenberg, Yudi Greenberg (co-captain), Zev Rapp, Gabi Leventhal, Moshe Klein, David Elmaleh, Yonah Krakowski, Ilan Ulmer and Menachem Salmon. The team is coached by Mike Blatchford, and Peter Salmon served as chaperone.

Sprinter may be today's top Jewish athlete

By SCOTT GRANOWITZ
Special to The CJN

BOSTON — When today's top Jewish athletes are considered, the names Shawn Green, Jay Fiedler, Kerri Strug, Lenny Krayzelburg and Mathieu Schneider come readily to mind. All are great athletes who compete primarily in North America.

But if you were to look outside the continent, a different name would no doubt top the list. Based on last year's performance, the top Jewish athlete – perhaps anywhere – is Zhanna Pintusevich-Block.

Pintusevich-Block, a 29-year-old native of Kiev, Ukraine, ran the biggest race of her career in August at the 2001 World Championships in Edmonton.

It will go down as perhaps the biggest upset ever by a Jewish athlete. Pintusevich-Block shocked the world by ending the streak of 42 consecutive final-race victories in the 100-metres by American superstar and Sydney gold medalist Marion Jones. Pintusevich-Block's time of 10.82 in the final was the fastest time of the year by any woman.

Pintusevich-Block burst onto the world track & field scene more than four years ago at the World Championships in Athens. It was there that she ran a then personal best of 10.85 seconds in a memorable 100-metre photo finish loss to Jones (10.83). Although her forte is the 100-metres, later that summer, Pintusevich-Block added a gold medal in the 200.

Pintusevich-Block came out of the blocks fast, and held off a surging Jones at the finish line to win by three-hundredths of a second. It was truly a dream come true after coming so close in 1997 when she and many spectators thought she had won. (Her victory lap celebration was cut short by the officials). Known primarily as a world-class finisher, it was her much improved start out of the blocks that led to the upset.

Her coach Mark Block, who also happens to be her husband, helped greatly in that area. Block is world-renowned for helping sprinters get fast starts in their races.

A former coach at Clemson University and University of California -Berkeley who now earns a living as a track & field agent for Flynn Sports Management, Block had reservations about combining the coach-wife relationship. But after a disappointing Sydney Olympics in which she finished fifth in the 100 metres and eighth in the 200, Pintusevich-Block left her former coach Valentine Bondarenko to form a different kind of marriage with Mark.

The two practised starts everywhere, including their home.

"She did come close to breaking furniture in the living room as we do not have much room," quipped the 37-year-old Block, who mentions Zhanna's "discipline and the ability to work very hard" as her best qualities.

Mark and Zhanna met at the 1993 World Championships in Stuttgart, Germany. Zhanna (nee Tarnopolskaya) at the time was married to Igor Pintusevich, a European-class Jewish hurdler whom she competed alongside for the Soviet Union going back to the 1991 Junior European Championships, where she won gold.

It wasn't love at first sight for Mark and Zhanna – the two didn't start dating until months after her divorce from Pintusevich in 1997. These days the two live outside the Flynn Sports Management offices in Johnson City, Tenn., where Zhanna trains half the year when not competing on the world circuit.

Mark's Jewish heritage is something that puts Pintusevich-Block at ease with herself and the upbringing she had in her beloved Kiev.

"I feel we share many things that we would not otherwise," said Pintusevich-Block about the importance of marrying a Jewish man.

"Our thinking is very similar and our values are very similar. It is also amazing for two people who grew up in such different places [to see] how much in common we have. This we both believe is because of our Jewish upbringing – not just in a religious way."

Pintusevich-Block, who competes under the Ukrainian flag, believes she has the chance to participate in "at least one more Olympics, and [there's] a good chance I can go beyond that."

If she does, she will begin approximating the success of Irena Kirszenstein-Szewinska, the legendary Jewish-Polish sprinter who set world records in the 100, 200, and 400-metre events in the 1960s and 1970s.

Already the Kirszenstein and Tarnopolskaya families share certain features. The Kirszenstein family escaped Nazi concentration camps in Poland by running off to Russia, while Pintusevich-Block's mother was sent to Siberia as a child during the Soviet persecution of Jews.

If the family histories carry through, one day Pintusevich-Block may be as accomplished an athlete as her Polish-born counterpart. And sports fans might even recognize she has a legitimate place at or near the top of a list of the best Jewish athletes of today.

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It's time for honesty on Mideast

When it comes to Israel, Canada's good-cop-bad-cop routine is becoming tiresome. Brand new Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, poor sap, is sent out to rebuke Israel in front of the Canada-Israel Committee, in a speech that was no doubt approved by the Prime Minister's Office, while the prime minister says Canada stands "shoulder to shoulder" with the Jewish state.

This is like bopping someone on the head and then offering him an Aspirin.

As I was saying...

By RON CSILLAG

It's useful to look back to the Brian Mulroney era, when the differences between Mulroney and his foreign minister, Joe Clark, were real and palpable, and the two clashed frequently and publicly on Mideast policy.

At the end of the day, though, as Mulroney was practically forced to put it at the height of the first intifadah, "it is the prime minister who speaks for Canada."

Well, let's hear it then.

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien's bland platitudes about this country's support for Israel will be empty and meaningless unless he's willing to abandon his inoffensive, Lester Pearson-era fence-sitting and use some of the backbone he's hinted at in Afghanistan.

I fear that's not likely to happen. I've interviewed Chrétien several times and noticed something I've never told anyone before. While he's informed and animated, and even charming, on national unity, the economy and other big issues, nothing alters his demeanor and body language like the Middle East. Bring up Israel and the Palestinians, and it's as though he's suddenly donned a hair shirt, shifting uncomfortably, eyes darting about and reciting a script written by foreign affairs minions. His disastrous trip to Israel two years ago spoke volumes.

Am I being unfair? I don't think so. The gloves have been off for a long time in the Middle East (maybe they were never on) and it's time for some boldness, let alone honesty.

Chrétien can start by paying heed to an unprecedented public request from Israel to Canada that we run interference at the current annual fiasco (read meeting) of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, now taking place in Geneva.

As reported in last week's *CJN*, Israel has asked Canada (in the absence of the United States, which some thuggish regimes succeeded in kicking off the commission) to try to force recorded votes of the five anti-Israel resolutions expected to pass, at least to avoid the appearance that the measures were endorsed unanimously.

(It was on the meeting's opening day that the ambassador from Algeria, of all places, said that every night in the Palestinian territories is like Kristallnacht. You get the idea.)

It should be noted that Canada has done a lot of positive behind-the-scenes work on the Middle East, including helping to end Israel's isolation at the UN. Canada also stayed until the bitter end of the UN anti-racism conference and helped blunt a lot of the vitriolic language – and even dissociated itself from parts of the final communiqué.

But Canada has also censured Israel for applying excessive force against Palestinians; has supported, or abstained from, a slew of smaller, but no less scurrilous, anti-Israel UN measures; and backed a declaration that accused Israel of "grave breaches" of the Geneva Conventions – at the very time Canada itself faced accusations that it was violating the same conventions by handing Taliban and Al Qaeda prisoners over to a non-neutral country (the United States).

Good cop, bad cop.

Someone should also tell UN Secretary General Kofi Annan that Israel's occupation of territories captured in 1967 isn't illegal, as he said last week. Perhaps that isn't Canada's place, but *someone* should tell him.

A seismic shift in Canada's position on Israel is needed now more than ever. But don't expect the Earth to move any time soon.

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Epi on Education

Seymour Epstein

The recent decision of the Ontario government to grant a refundable education tax credit to parents of children in independent schools has raised the issue of accountability. Can the government grant a tax credit to parents without some assurance that the education offered in these independent schools is valid? One would think that such assurance is an obvious requirement and a fairly simple task.

Things educational, however, are never that simple. A few points:

• This particular form of government aid to private education is coming from the Ministry of Finance, not the Ministry of Education. It is a tax credit to parents, not curriculum funding to schools.

• The raison d'être of faith-based schools is a curriculum different from the public system's. In some cases, that translates into mere additions to the general course of study, but in many schools, either the pedagogic approach or the religious ideology affects the global curriculum. That can be just as true of a Montessori school as it is of a chassidic one.

• Some educators and many laymen assume that educational progress can be measured accurately and quantified precisely. While that may be true, comparing the results of such testing from school to school or even from child to child is dangerous and misleading. Each school, like each student, is unique. Now that we embrace the notion of multiple intelligences, standardized testing is seriously brought into question.

I am pleased that the tax credit has forced us to confront accountability. As it happens, I do not think the government has a need to request curricular accountability with regard to this credit. The regulations demand certain things of participating schools and are both fair and sufficient. However, Jewish day schools should be accountable to their own parent bodies. In an open school market, parents can determine if a particular school is living up to its own values, curricular content and pedagogic approach. That is a much more realistic and user-friendly accountability than one which attempts to compare a unique learning environment to a central model quite remote and unconnected.

The more schools define their own goals and values, and the more parents are involved in that process, the more integrity our Jewish education will have. This is an inner accountability that leads to learning both authentic to our traditions and relevant to our future.

Epi (Seymour Epstein) is the vice-president of Jewish Education at UJA Federation of Greater Toronto.

The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 37.)

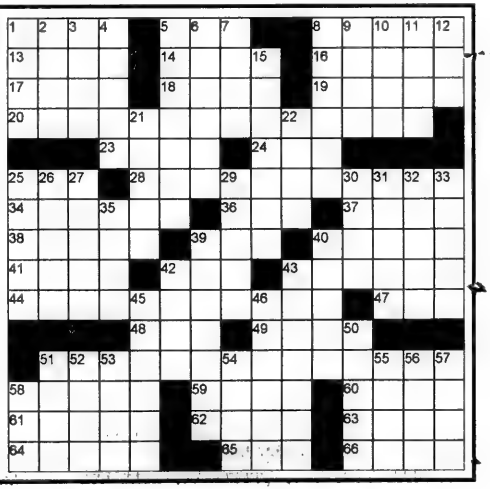
By Matt Gaffney and David Bianco (QSyndicate@aol.com)

Across

1 They're hailed in New York
5 Arafat's grp.
8 Mossad mission, maybe
13 "There's never ___ around..."
14 Sq. cousin
16 Use a ladder, perhaps
17 "___ Need Is You"
18 Island where Bette Midler was born
19 Chopped finely
20 Classic Jerry Lewis character
23 Israel
24 Dershowitz's charge
25 Spot or Fido
28 Big name in cosmetics
34 Like 17% of Israel's land
36 Some football players: abbr.
37 ___ avis
38 Agitated
39 New age chants
40 Move around a point
41 Temple no-no
42 Woman in 49-across
43 Live
44 Clinton advisor
47 ___ Moines
48 Van Gogh's lack
49 Literally, "paradise"
51 J.D. Salinger book
58 Emulate Chagall
59 "Ye ___ Shoppe"
60 Schlump
61 Verb for Yom Kippur
62 Western tribe members
63 5th-century B.C.E. reformer
64 Matchmakers make them
65 Julian Schnabel's field
66 Minus

Down

1 "Misery" actor
2 Free-speech advocates, for short
3 Leave quickly
4 He swam for the gold
5 Invite to use a *chuppah*
6 Studied: var.
7 Sephardic number
8 "Part" of biblical fame
9 Yale grads
10 Chanel of fashion
11 Telephone letters
12 Beatty or Flanders
15 Miss Muffet's and others
21 Triangular street sign
22 Long fish
25 Art Buchwald's *I'll Always Have* ___
26 Author Jong
27 Eagle's grabber
29 Bernstein or Fudd
30 *Redemption* author
31 Copperfield born Kotkin
32 Eat away at
33 Gives thumbs up
35 Adapt
39 "I'll get ___..." ("King of Wishful Thinking" lyric)
40 Actress Rosie
42 Political author Abba
43 Most embarrassed
45 They gab
46 Steinem issue
50 Prize for Milton Friedman
51 ___ morgana
52 1959 Haifa occurrence
53 Noted name in diaries
54 Colorado resort
55 Seep
56 Makes a mistake
57 Votes for Schumer
58 Apartment



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Mount Sinai Researchers DREAM

AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY IN THE PREVENTION OF TYPE 2 DIABETES

Researchers at Mount Sinai are looking for people to participate in an international study called DREAM. This study will examine the occurrence of Type 2 diabetes in people who are most likely to develop the condition. "Preventing diabetes means we may also prevent the serious health consequences of diabetes. Diabetes is the major cause of blindness, kidney failure, and leg amputation worldwide. It is also a common cause of heart disease and stroke," says Dr. Bernard Zinman, Director of Leadership Sinai Centre for Diabetes, Sam and Judy Pencer and Family Chair in Diabetes Research.

What is diabetes?

Diabetes is a disease that prevents your pancreas from producing enough insulin to meet your body's needs. Insulin regulates your body's glucose (sugar) levels. Without enough insulin, the glucose levels in your blood rise. Diabetes is diagnosed when your blood glucose level is seven or higher after not eating for at least eight hours.

Why is diabetes a problem?

It is estimated that 1.5 million people suffer from diabetes in Canada and that by the year 2016 there will be another million people afflicted with this disease. We are facing an epidemic of diabetes. Incidence of the disease is increasing dramatically due to factors such as:

- *the aging baby boomer population*
- *society becoming increasingly obese and sedentary*

Who is at risk?

You are at risk if any of the following apply to you:

- *there is a history of diabetes in your family*
- *you are of Native North American, Latin American, African, Asian or Hispanic descent*
- *you have given birth to a baby that weighed over 9 lbs.*
- *you had previous diabetes in pregnancy (gestational diabetes)*
- *you have had previous high or borderline blood sugar levels*
- *your blood pressure is high*
- *you are overweight*

Who can take part in the study?

You can take part in the study if:

- *you are at least 30 years old*
- *you DO NOT presently have diabetes*
- *you are not pregnant and not planning on becoming pregnant for the next five years*

Are there any medications?

Yes. This clinical trial is testing the effectiveness of two medications - ramipril and/or rosiglitazone - in reducing the risk of a person developing Type 2 diabetes. Both medications are extensively used for other purposes. Evidence from preliminary studies has shown that both drugs are safe and may prevent diabetes.

How long will this study last?

If you are interested in taking part in this study, you will be seen regularly by a research team during the next three to five years.

For More Information...

For further information and/or to book an appointment to participate in this exciting new research, please call:

Sue or Debbi at the Leadership Sinai Centre for Diabetes at 416-586-8775

Don't miss our upcoming events...

Body 'N Soul Gala - April 13 at **Le Parc**, in support of **Colorectal Cancer Research** at **Mount Sinai Hospital**. Thank you to our sponsors, ***Pharmacia Oncology, Roche Oncology, Sanofi-Synthelabo Oncology,*** and ***Commerce Press.***

Pacific Bridge Gala Dinner - April 21 at **The Four Seasons Hotel**, in support of **Chinese patient programs** and research at **Mount Sinai Hospital**. Thank you to our confirmed sponsors, ***Firm Capital, CIBC World Markets, Equitable Trust,*** and ***Para Inc.***

Mount Sinai Classic Golf Tournament - June 13 at **Angus Glen Golf Club**, in support of the **Leadership Sinai Chair in surgery and ATC**. Almost sold out, so please reserve your participation today! Thank you to our confirmed sponsors, ***Equitable Trust, Scotiabank,*** and ***Nike.***

Henry's Tournament Fore Health - August 12 at **The Board of Trade, Country Club**, in support of the **Marvelle Koffler Breast Centre**. Registration has begun, so please reserve your spot for this popular event today! Thank you to our sponsors, ***Henry's Camera, Scotiabank, Unilever, IBM, Brampton Brick, Iceberg Vodka,*** and ***Druxy's.***

For more information, please call Hannah Slavens at 416 586-8662 or e-mail: hslavens@mtsinai.on.ca
Keep up with events on our website www.mtsinai.on.ca

Mount Sinai Hospital Auxiliary Gala...

Celebrate Life 2002

Thursday, May 23rd
at the National Trade Centre

Dinner, dancing, and a fabulous auction are some of the highlights of the evening.

Gala Raffle

Win a 2002 Ford Focus ZTS!
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For more information on the above events, please contact Cindy Berk at 416-586-8290 or visit us online at www.mtsinai.on.ca/auxiliary

Upcoming Healthy Living Lecture Series...

New Advances in Diabetes

Date: Monday, April 29
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: **Leah Posluns Theatre, Bathurst Jewish Community Centre**
In partnership with BJCC and UJA Federation

The Realities of Postponing Having Children

Date: Wednesday, May 8
Time: 7:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.
Location: **The City Playhouse, Vaughan**

For more information, please call Joanne Woodward, Community Relations Officer Mount Sinai Hospital at 416-586-8306

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Для записи на лекции и за дополнительной информацией обращайтесь к ХАНЕ ВАЙСБЕРГ, декану института по телефону **416 – 222-7105 x 30**

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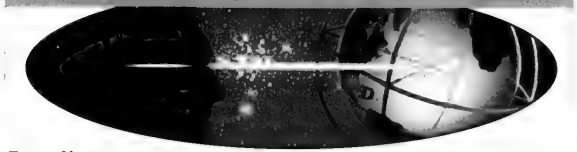
Серия: Еврейская мистика



Тема: **Мистические ключи к эмоциональному здоровью и счастью**

Лектор - раввин Цви Фриман, автор еврейских бестселлеров.

Сделайте для себя открытие. Узнайте, как древняя мудрость Кабалы может радикально помочь Вам справляться с такими трудностями повседневной жизни, как стресс и беспокойство, боль и страдание.

Среда 24 апреля, 1, 8 мая, с 8 до 9:30 вечера

Серия лекций о пророчествах

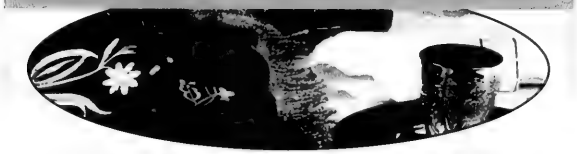
Тема: **Битва при Армагеддоне (Гог и Магог)**

Лектор - раввин Иссер Цви Вайсберг – известный популяризатор Торы

Книги великих еврейских пророков предрекают ключевую апокалиптическую битву между евреями и арабами в период кончины века сего. Эти незабываемые лекции посвящены книгам пророков и иным древнееврейским источникам, которые раскрывают некоторые из тайн этого противоборства и говорят о том, как соотнести его с современными событиями в земле Израиля.

Воскресенье 19 и 26 мая и 9 июня с 8 до 9:30 вечера

Серия лекций: Еврейский образ жизни



Тема: **Опыт Шабата – его законы, обычаи и волшебство**

Лектор - раввин Иссер Цви Вайсберг – известный популяризатор Торы

Эта серия лекций заостряет внимание на основополагающих галахических принципах шабата, а также на практических советах о том, как соблюдать Шабат, и как прочувствовать его таинство и волшебство.

Воскресенье 21, 26 апреля, с 8 до 9:30 вечера

Серия учебных лекций по ивриту

Тема: **Основы иврита**

Преподаватель - Пнина Стайнер

Вам всегда хотелось лучше понять язык Торы. Сегодня представляется возможность освоить основы иврита под руководством знающего и опытного педагога.

Понедельник 6, 13, 20, 27 мая, 3 июня с 9:15 до 10 вечера

Только для женщин

Серия лекций «Женские голоса»

Тема: **Ривка – сила восприятия** Лектор - Хана Вайсберг

Курс возобновлён по просьбе слушателей и предлагает слушателям новаторский подход к понятию женской духовности, а также советует, как женщина может справиться с проблемами современной жизни. В этом семестре предстоит знакомство с Ривкой и незаурядной силой её восприятия, которая определяет пути её детей и её народа. Курс обеспечивается наглядными материалами.

Вечерний курс: с 8 до 9 вечера в понедельник 6, 13, 20, 27 мая, 3 июня

Дневной курс с 10:30 до 11:30 утра во вторник 7, 14, 21, 28 мая, 4 июня

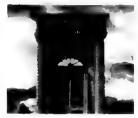
Серия лекций «Моя мама и я»

Размышления для женщин за круглым столом

Обогатите свою неделю духовным влиянием очередной главы Торы. Приглашаем мам с детишками. Пожалуйста позвоните нам, чтобы уточнить место проведения.

Среда 8, 15, 22, 29 мая, 5 июня, 10:00 утра

ЭТО ИНТЕРЕСНО



Молитва – кому она слышна?

Воскресенье 14 апреля с 8 вечера

Лектор - раввин Дж. И. Шойхет

Серия лекций «О праздниках»

Воскресенье 12 мая с 8 вечера -

Лекция посвящена празднику Шавуот

Эта праздничная лекция «Матан Тора» подготовит Вас к очередному дарованию Торы.

Дата	Время	Тема	Читает
Воскр., 14 апреля	С 8 вечера	Молитва–кому она слышна?	Раввин И. Шохет
Воскр., 21, 26 апреля	С 8 до 9:30 вечера	Еврейский образ жизни	Раввин Иссер Вайсберг
Воскр., 12 мая	С 8 вечера	О празднике Шавуот	TBA
Воскр., 19 и 26 мая и 9 июня	С 8 до 9:30 вечера	О пророчествах	Раввин Иссер Вайсберг
Пон., 6, 13, 20, 27 мая, 3 июня	С 9:15 до 10 вечера	Изучение иврита	Пнина Стайнер
Пон., 6, 13, 20, 27 мая, 3 июня	Вечерний курс: с 8 до 9 вечера	Женские голоса	Хана Вайсберг
Вто., 7, 14, 21, 28 мая, 4 июня	Дневной курс с 10:30 до 11:30 утра	Женские голоса	Хана Вайсберг
Среда 8, 15, 22, 29 мая, 5 июня	10:00 утра	Моя мама и я	Хана Вайсберг
Среда 24 апреля, 1, 8 мая	С 8 до 9:30 вечера	Еврейская мистика	Раввин Цви Фриман

The JRCC's Institute of Torah Studies

Welcome To Our Spring Semester

For Men and Women

На обратной стороне по-русски

All classes and lectures take place at the JRCC, 18 Rockford. There is no charge for any courses or for source material provided with our courses but we do appreciate advance registration. Donations are welcome to help cover our costs.

To register or for more information, please call **CHANA WEISBERG**, Dean of the Institute at **416-222-7105 x 30**

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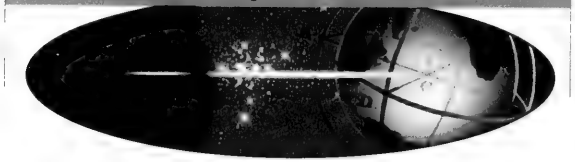
Jewish Mysticism Series



Topic: **The Mystical Keys to Emotional Health and Happiness**
With RABBI TZVI FREEMAN, best- selling author
Discover how ancient wisdom of Kabbalah can dramatically improve your skills in dealing with challenges of everyday life, such as coping with anxiety and pain and suffering.

Wednesday, April 24, May 1 and 8 From 8-9:30PM

Prophecy Series

Topic: **The Wars of Armaggedon (Gog and Magog)**
With RABBI ISSER Z. WEISBERG, noted lecturer and educator
The books of the great Jewish prophets predict a major apocalyptic battle between the Jews and the Arabs at the end of days. This series explores ancient Jewish sources to uncover the mysteries of this confrontation and how it relates to current events in the land of Israel.

Sunday, May 19, 26 and June 9 From 8-9:30PM

Jewish Living Series

Topic: **The Shabbat Experience – Its Laws, Customs and Magic**
With RABBI ISSER Z. WEISBERG
This series focuses on the underlying fundamental halachic structure of Shabbat as well as a practical, hands-on instruction of how to observe the Shabbat and experience its mystery – and its magic.

Sunday April 21, 28 From 8-9:30PM

Learning Hebrew Series

Topic: Basic Hebrew with PENINA STEINER
You've always wanted to become more proficient in reading the ancient language of the Torah. Now's your chance to learn the basics of the Hebrew language with a competent and experienced teacher.

Monday, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3 From 9:15-10:00 PM

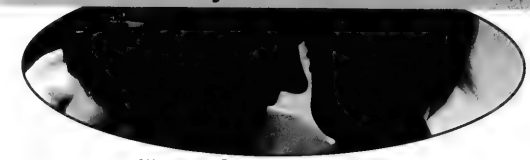
For Women Only

Feminine Voices Series

Topic: **Rivka-The Power of Perception** With Chana Weisberg
Back due to popular demand, this course provides an innovative understanding of feminine spirituality as well as insights in dealing with the challenges facing us as modern women. Discover Rebecca and her enormous power of perception as she changes the direction for the future course of her people. Textual source material provided.

Night Course: From 8-9:00PM on Monday, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3
Day time Course: From 10:30-11:30AM on Tuesday, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4

Mommy and Me Series



Women's Roundtable Meditation
In a relaxed home setting, infuse your week with some inspirational thoughts on the weekly Torah portion. Moms and tots welcome. Call for location.

Wednesday, May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5 – 10:00AM

PUBLIC LECTURES

Prayer--Is Anyone Listening?
Sunday, April 14 at 8:00PM -
with Rabbi J. I. Schochet

Holiday Awareness Series
Sunday, May 12 at 8:00PM -
Shavuot Holiday Lecture
Prepare yourself to receive the Torah anew with this holiday awareness lecture on the meaning and magnitute of "Matan Torah"- the giving of the Torah.

Date	Time	Class	Instructor
Sunday April 14	8:00PM	Prayer - is Anyone Listening?	Rabbi I. Schochet
Sunday April 21, 28	From 8-9:30PM	Jewish Living Series	Rabbi Isser Z. Weisberg
Sunday, May 12	8:00PM	Shavuot Holiday Lecture	to be announced
Sunday, May 19, 26 and June 9	From 8-9:30PM	Prophecies Series	Rabbi Isser Z. Weisberg
Monday, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3	From 9:15-10:00 PM	Learning Hebrew Series	Penina Steiner
Monday, May 6, 13, 20, 27, June 3	Night Course: From 8-9:00PM	Feminine Voices Series	Chana Weisberg
Tuesday, May 7, 14, 21, 28, June 4	Day time Course: From 10:30-11:30AM	Feminine Voices Series	Chana Weisberg
Wednesday, May 8, 15, 22, 29, June 5	10:00AM	Mommy and Me Series	Chana Weisberg
Wednesday April 24, May 1, 8	From 8-9:30PM	Jewish Mysticism Series	Rabbi Tzvi Freeman

Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies:

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- Monitors and responds to hate groups – worldwide
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- Brings Nazi war criminals to justice in Europe, South America and North America
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– Simon Wiesenthal

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Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center For Holocaust Studies is an international human rights organization dedicated to fostering tolerance and understanding through community involvement, educational outreach and social action. Friends confronts important contemporary issues including racism, anti-Semitism, terrorism and genocide and is accredited with Non-Government organization status at international agencies including the United Nations, UNESCO and the OSCE. Affiliated offices are located in Los Angeles, New York, Toronto, Miami, Baltimore, Jerusalem, Paris and Buenos Aires.

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The Canadian Jewish news
48 Pages | Thursday, April 11, 2002 | 29 Nisan, 5762 | 75¢

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This Week
Greater Toronto Area

Ethiopian immigrant realizes dreams in Canada. ***Page 12***

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National

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www.cjnews.com

Pro-Israel forces rally in France

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

PARIS — Demonstrators took to the streets of Paris and other French cities Sunday to express their solidarity with Israel and protest against a wave of anti-Jewish violence as tensions flared in the Middle East.

Waving Israeli flags and draped in the blue and white colours of the national banner, protesters marched from the Place de la République to the Place de la Bastille in Paris, chanting in French and Hebrew and carrying signs that read "Yesterday New York, today Jerusalem, tomorrow Paris."

Organizers estimated the turnout at 150,000, although eyewitnesses put it at between 20,000 and 30,000. Police said another 8,000 pro-Israel protesters were marching in Lyon, 4,000 in Marseille and 2,500 in Strasbourg.

French news channel LCI reported that a police officer in Paris had suffered a knife wound in the abdomen at the hands of a young member of a radical Jewish organization. A demonstrator in Marseille reportedly suffered a knife injury to the thigh.

The demonstrations came against a backdrop of heightened tensions in the Middle East. The violence there has stirred strong emotions in France, which has large Arab and Jewish communities, and coincided with a series of attacks on Jewish targets in the country.

The pro-Israel demonstrations also came a day after about a dozen pro-Palestinian marches were held in cities across France.

Continued on page 35

CANADIANS MARCH TOO: On the same day that pro-Israel demonstrations were held in Paris and New York, some 800 supporters of Israel attended a rally at Queen's Park Sunday afternoon. Speakers at the event included Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz of Aish HaTorah and Rabbi Moshe Stern of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. *[Frances Kraft photo]*

UJA federations launch emergency Israel campaign

TORONTO — UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is joining a $300-million (US) North American emergency fund-raising campaign for Israel that it helped to establish.

The emergency fund-raising drive, announced by United Jewish Communities, the umbrella organization for North American Jewish federations, will support social service programs in Israel, which have been strained to the limit by reduced government funding and the cost of terror relief.

"The need for programs to serve Israel's most vulnerable is increasing dramatically as government resources are necessarily diverted to security; the cost of long-term terror relief increases with each blast," said Howard Sokolowski, who is chairing the emergency campaign in Toronto and UJA Federation Campaign 2003, with Ronnie Appleby.

$300 million (US) target for North America

"With thousands of IDF reservists called up, Israeli families and the entire country are suffering further economic hardship, so these emergency fund-raising dollars will make a major difference," Appleby added. "Our message to Israel loudly and clearly is that 'we're with you.'"

The new campaign follows UJA Federation 2002 campaign, which is expected to raise $50 million (Cdn).

A UJA Federation of Greater Toronto leadership delegation is now in Israel on a fact-finding mission.

In conjunction with the Israel Now Consortium, UIA Federations Canada, Canadian Jewish Congress and the Canada-Israel Committee, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is formulating a plan that involves more missions to Israel, events on Israel's behalf, educational forums and contacts with both the media and Canadian parliamentarians.

UJA Federation has sent nearly 1,000 people to Israel on monthly missions since September 2000.

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat Rosh Chodesh: Tazria-Metzor
Candlelighting: 7:38
Havdallah: 8:43

Sharon seeks summit with moderate Arab leaders — see page 33

The News in Brief

CANADA

New Rabbi

CALGARY — Temple B'nai Tikvah will have a new rabbi beginning in September. The Reform synagogue's board announced recently that Rabbi Howard Voss-Altman, currently assistant rabbi at North Shore Congregation Israel in Glencoe, Ill. and a former labour lawyer, will assume the pulpit in time for the High Holy Days.

ISRAEL

Bogus Bills

JERUSALEM — Israeli troops found stashes of counterfeit shekels and dollars, as well as plates to print money, inside Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters, say Israeli officials. According to Justice Minister Meir Sheetrit, Arafat is responsible for printing several million dollars and shekels in fake money, which could have been used to undermine Israel's already shaky economy. Other officials said the money could have been used to pay Palestinian terrorists operating in Israel.

IDF Sends Food

JERUSALEM — The Israel Defense Force said last week that it supplied provisions to besieged Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat. The provisions included 66 containers of yellow cheese, 13 cans of hummus, 34 crates of mineral water and 40 cans of halvah.

WORLD

Activist's Suicide

TOKYO — A pro-Palestinian activist here committed suicide last week by lighting himself on fire. Takao Himori killed himself in a Tokyo park to protest Israeli policies, a fellow activist said. Himori was a member of a group known as Voice, which has held hunger strikes and vigils in support of Palestinians.

Shul Firebombed

BRUSSELS — Vandals firebombed a synagogue here last week, causing damage inside but no injuries. Eyewitnesses quoted by Reuters said two areas of the building on the first floor were slightly damaged by fire, which burned the floor and some benches, but did not harm any holy books. Police were posted around the clock at the synagogue in Brussels' Anderlecht district following the March 31 attack.

Death Threats

NEW YORK — The Brooklyn family of a Jewish activist who supports Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat says it is getting death threats. The family of Adam Shapiro says it has received calls calling Shapiro a traitor, and threatening to kill him and his family. Shapiro, who was in Arafat's Ramallah headquarters when it was taken over by Israeli forces, has been an outspoken member of a pro-Palestinian group.

Regrets Pardon

NEW YORK — Former U.S. president Bill Clinton told *Newsweek* magazine that he regrets pardoning Jewish billionaire financier Marc Rich. Rich fled the United States to Switzerland in 1983 after he had been indicted on 51 counts of tax evasion, racketeering and violating trade sanctions with Iraq. His presidential pardon "was terrible politics," Clinton said. "It wasn't worth the damage to my reputation. But that doesn't mean the attacks were true."

Drive for Jews

AUCKLAND — New Zealand's Jewish community has launched a campaign to attract foreign Jews. The drive is aimed at Jews from poor countries and emphasizes New Zealand's high standard of living, economic stability and security. The nation's population of 3.7 million includes some 4,700 Jews.

Durban 'Disgraceful'

CAPE TOWN — The South African government has condemned the anti-Semitism at an anti-racism conference last summer as "disgraceful." The conference by nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) in Durban last August took place just before a high-profile United Nations conference against racism. Aziz Pahad, South Africa's deputy minister for foreign affairs, said Muslim activists had "taken over" the Durban NGO meeting and turned it into an anti-Semitic event.

Government Issues Israel Travel Warning

OTTAWA — The federal government has advised Canadians to "defer" tourist travel to all Israel, the West Bank and Gaza because of the risk of terrorist attacks.

Canadians travelling on business "should evaluate carefully the implications for their security and safety before deciding to travel to Israel due to the risk of further terrorist activity," the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade says.

Canadians in Israel "should avoid crowded places when at all possible due to this increased risk," the statement cautions. "Downtown Jerusalem near the intersection of Jaffa and King George streets as well as the adjoining Ben Yehuda Pedestrian Mall are particularly high risk areas."

Canadians should also avoid "large gatherings, crowded places, and proximity to other possible targets, including pedestrian promenades, shopping malls, open markets, restaurants, discotheques, bus stations, and public buses. The Lebanese border area should be avoided."

Canadians are strongly urged to stay away from the West Bank and Gaza. Canadians already there "should leave."

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Community buildings struck by vandals

Toronto JCC, Reena, Saskatoon, Ottawa shuls attacked

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Three Jewish community buildings in Ottawa and Toronto were targeted by vandals last week with graffiti linked to the Middle East conflict, while in Saskatoon, the Agudas Israel Synagogue was struck by a firebomb that caused $130,000 worth of damage.

"Palestine," "Iran" and "MEM" were scrawled on the walls of Reena, a non-profit agency that serves developmentally disabled adults in Thornhill, north of Toronto, while Temple Israel in Ottawa was spray-painted with "All the oppressors must die" and "Israel is a terrorist state." The Miles S. Nadal Bloor Jewish Community Centre in downtown Toronto was also struck.

The graffiti left staff at Reena shaken and the agency's clients were agitated at the tense atmosphere and the presence of police investigating the incident, said Minnie Ross, head of communications for the agency.

"We were very surprised they would have targeted Reena, as we have no affiliation with events in the Middle East," she said.

While 60 per cent of the organization's clients are Jewish, "we just go about our business helping the developmentally disabled," she said.

In Ottawa, Rabbi Steven Garten said Temple Israel's congregation is concerned over its security.

He said he had received calls of support from clergymen he works with in interfaith dialogue and the Anglican bishop of Ottawa has sent a letter of support. But no other religious leaders had contacted him. He was particularly critical of the silence of the Muslim community's religious leader.

"We are saddened that the Imam of Ottawa at this moment has not spoken out against it. The rabbis were quick after Sept. 11 to indicate vandalism of Islamic facilities was unacceptable," Rabbi Garten said.

In Saskatoon, a flammable substance was thrown through a broken window into a classroom that was being used to temporarily store hundreds of religious and secular texts. Police and fire were called by the company monitoring the shul's alarm system. No other parts of the building were affected and Shabbat services were held the next morning in the sanctuary.

"We thought it was important to send a message to anybody who did this that we wouldn't be dissuaded from our activities," said synagogue spokesman Grant Scharfstein.

Bar and bat mitzvah lesson continued as planned and an upcoming Holocaust memorial service will go on as planned, he said.

The community, which numbers between 500 and 600 people, has received numerous calls of support and Premier Lorne Calvert toured the shul after the incident, Scharfstein added.

CJC executive director Bernie Farber called the graffiti incidents in Toronto and Ottawa "shameful and disgraceful.

"These vandals are targeting building where children or vulnerable adults attend. They skulk around in the middle of the night and they spray paint buildings in an attempt to intimidate our community."

Farber said he expected "non-Jewish community leadership, both political and religious, to speak out and condemn it and nip it in the bud.

"Silence can mean acquiescence," he said.

Farber pointed to an incident earlier in the week in which two protesters demonstrating at the Israeli consulate in downtown Toronto pushed a doctor against a car after he said,

Continued on page 14

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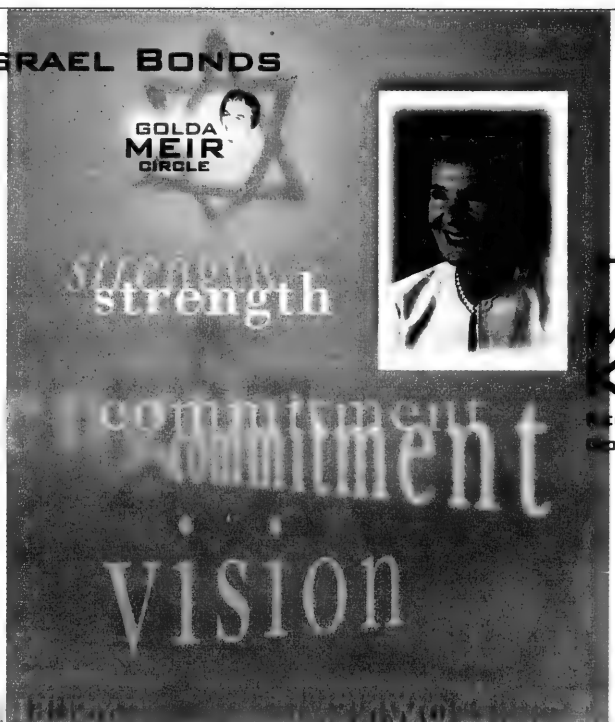

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Greater Toronto Area

Activists, but not for peace

In the immediate aftermath of the five suicide bombings at the start of the Passover holiday in Israel, the Jewish State "enjoyed" a measure of immunity from world condemnation. After all, it would have been unseemly for the European elites, the Vatican, other Church leaders and "peace activists" to condemn Israel for weeping over its dead.

But when Israel decided to hunt down the murderers who sent the bombers on their grotesque missions, and to destroy the elaborate infrastructure that shelters those murderers and the bombers they have created, that immunity was immediately revoked.

When Israel was no longer seen as the suffering victim, the double standard that has always been applied to the Jewish State was once again waved in its bleeding face.

When Israel proclaimed to the world "We shall not die, but live!" the consciences of the European elites, the Vatican, other Church leaders and the self-styled "peace activists" were rapidly aroused and mobilized on behalf of the mastermind of the latest Palestinian terrorism, the prevaricating leader of the Palestinian Authority. Condemnation of Israel was unequivocal, harsh and swift – and utterly devoid of moral or humane content.

We have seen it and heard it all before, on numerous occasions in the past when Israel refused to submit to its own destruction.

The public outcries and defamations against Israel are unnerving and maddening, but the interventions by the so-called "peace activists" are outright abuses of and affronts to decency.

Hundreds of activists from Italy, France, Britain and other European countries, rushed to Ramallah with the precision and speed of a military operation, all the while remembering to bring along the media, to act as "human shields" for their standard bearer, Yasser Arafat.

These activists belong to the well-travelled, highly-experienced cadre of Europe's anti-globalization protesters.

"What's happening in Palestine is frightening," Bertrand Cassen, chairman of Attac, a French anti-globalization group, told the *Wall Street Journal* last week. "The emotions are so high we have to intervene. The Sept. 11 effect on the movement is completely gone."

These veterans of Europe's violent anti-globalization demonstrations in Genoa, Barcelona and Gothenburg, "like Jesse Bove, who earned his fame by destroying a McDonald's outlet in southern France," the *Journal* points out, "have climbed back to prime time on European television newscasts."

According to the *Journal*, they "offer unflinching support to the Palestinian cause." That should not be surprising, for violent anti-Israelness runs with the course of their hardcore ideological loyalties, their anarchist proclivities and their intolerant, fascist methods – not to mention, of course, the link between the United States and the Jewish State that justifies, in their minds, unceasing, dark disdain for Israel.

Anti-globalization demonstrations in Ramallah [Isranet photo]

Yet, as the *Journal* article also discloses, deeper and more sinister animosities drive these Europeans' sentiments against the Jewish State.

"For many people in the movement, the crux of the matter is that Israel has no right to exist, but the movement as a whole is only dealing *right now*, with the aggression launched by [Israel Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon in Palestine (*my emphasis*)," said Guy Taylor, one of the leaders of Britain's Globalise Resistance group. "We are anti-Zionists, not anti-Semites," he said.

Taylor's distinction, however, is as tortured and fatuous as it is false. The UN anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, last September pulled down, once and for all, the ugly, duplicitous mask worn by all of the "human rights" and "peace" activists who propound that distinction, who are wilfully oblivious and indifferent to the rights of Israel or of its citizens while they plead only for the rights of the Palestinians, and who hold that the only democracy in the entire Middle East is deserving, not at all, of living in peace after 54 years of constant warfare.

Throughout the large cities of Europe, these "human rights" activists are leading the way in organizing vociferous protests against the Jewish State. And they are happily joined by large Muslim communities whose frenzied hatred of Israel finds a kindred spirit within the raging zealotry of anti-globalization activism.

Adding to the defamation against Israel was B.C. Member of Parliament Svend Robinson. To the everlasting disgrace and shame of the values Canadians hold so dear, and to the Parliament which is the embodiment of those values, he too trekked to Ramallah "to protest against Israel," wearing his kevlar, bullet-proof vest, while the cameras were rolling, of course.

What began in Durban is now resuming. The celebration of hate has hit the streets again and people like Svend Robinson are dancing in the middle.

— MBD

SeeJN

TORONTO JEWS RALLY FOR ISRAEL: Some 800 supporters of Israel attended a rally at Queen's Park Sunday afternoon. Speakers at the event included Rabbi Yossi Michalowicz of Aish HaTorah and Rabbi Moshe Stern of Shaarei Tefillah Congregation. [Frances Kraft photo]

Greater Toronto Area

York University schedules exams on Shabbat

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – This year, Sabbath-observant students at York University had to make special arrangements to write Saturday exams.

This year's examination period, which runs from April 8 to April 25, includes two weekends, which means that some exams will be held on Saturday, April 13 and Saturday, April 20.

Until recently, the University of Toronto, McGill University and York University – which all have significant Jewish faculty and student populations – haven't scheduled exams on Saturday.

Deborah Hobson, York's vice-president of enrolment and student services, said the university broke with established practice to resolve several problems.

The primary challenge, Hobson said, has been to meet the demands of a growing student population while available space has remained fixed.

In addition, the ability to easily purchase term papers on the Internet has led more professors to select examinations as the most effective method to test students' knowledge. This has put tremendous pressure on the administration to set exams, post grades and mail out transcripts before the summer term begins, she said.

Hobson, who is in charge of the registrar's office, which schedules exams, said that over the past 5 years, it has become increasingly difficult for the registrar to make sure the schedule accommodates all the needs of the university.

Muslim and Christian students have had to ask for accommodation to meet their religious constraints, and in scheduling exams on the Jewish Sabbath, it was felt that all religions would be treated fairly, Hobson said.

She acknowledged that no other religion has to deal with the limitations on writing exams that the Jewish Sabbath involves, but she said the availability of alternate exam dates should resolve most of those issues.

Prof. Martin Lockshin, director of York's Centre for Jewish Studies, said many students will hesitate to ask for special treatment.

With the change in policy, students who prefer to remain anonomous, have raised concerns that requests for alternate dates, which involve the writing and monitoring of equivalent exams by professors, could cause hidden resentments and negatively affect grades because teachers would not be remunerated for the additional tasks.

As well, some faculty members resent the fact that the university believes the way to demonstrate tolerance to its various multicultural communities is by not giving religious accommodation to anyone. Others contend the new exam schedule runs against the spirit of the university.

York's Senate policy states that "classes and examinations will not be held on public holidays" or "on the evening prior to, or during the day of… the first and second days of Rosh Hashanah or Yom Kippur or the first two and last two days of Passover."

Walter Whiteley, spokesperson for the contract and grievance committee of the York University Faculty Association, which represents 1,150 faculty and librarians, said in a statement that, despite not being spelled out, "it almost went without saying that classes and exams wouldn't be held on Saturday or Sunday."

Whitely said working lives and expectations at York are "governed by established practices and collegial processes.

"Few details of these practices – that include no compulsory work on weekends, class size norms… are written down. When we refer to them, we rely on the shared assumption that these practices will continue to be respected."

Whitely said the recent change in exam policy is inexcusable because it was made without consulting YUFA.

The university "sent the required memo… months after the decision was made, weeks after scheduling was in process, a couple of weeks after Senate was 'notified,' and after the new schedule – with the new practices of weekend exams – was issued to students," Whiteley said.

"This is the first time I've seen the university act in such a fashion," said Prof. Harvey Mandel, who has been teaching at York for 31 years.

The change in policy and the way it was implemented will have negative ramifications for many of the students and faculty involved, Mandel said.

He said many of his students have told him they will not be able to write exams on Saturday due to religious and employment constraints.

While this has occurred in the past, Mandel said he has never had to accommodate so many students. He said the change will mean more work for faculty to write equivalent exams for the students involved, as well as being available to invigilate the additional dates.

However, Mandel said the long-term concern is the message being sent to faculty members.

"When the administration begins to implement such significant changes in policy without extensive consultations, faculty members begin to question the significance of their involvement in the daily governance of the university," he said in a statement posted on YUFA's Web site.

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RABBI AVRAHAM FEDER is the Rabbi of Congregation Moreshet Yisrael, Yerushalayim. He is Rabbi-Emeritus and senior-scholar of Beth Tikvah Synagogue in Toronto. He was the founder of MAOR, the Foundation for Unity and Diversity in Jewish life. In Israel, has served as consultant supervising the rabbinic tract of the Jerusalem Seminary of Judaic Studies and taught Hazzanut at Bar-Ilan University. He also served as President of the Rabbinical Assembly of Israel. He was awarded the Menahem Begin Prime Minister's Medal by Bar-Ilan University and is the author of a book on Jewish education and moral values entitled "In Search of My Brothers."

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Toronto doctor decides not to look away

Goldman assaulted at Palestinian protest

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — As demonstrators marched by, Dr. Bernard Goldman couldn't look away any longer.

On March 30th, Goldman, a prominent Toronto heart surgeon, stepped out of a Bloor Street bookstore and found himself in the middle of a Palestinian protest.

"There was palpable hatred in the air. It was so boisterous, you could almost sense the violence and hatred in the crowd," Goldman, 66, said in an interview.

With feelings of disappointment, frustration and horror fresh in his mind from the ongoing news about Israel and the barrage of suicide bombings, Goldman said, as he stepped outside of Chapters on the beautiful day with his daughter-in-law and grandson, he was confronted by the very same scenes he had just seen on CNN.

About 1,000 demonstrators were marching towards the Israeli consulate to commemorate the Palestine Day of Land. The protest took on a violent edge when participants began burning Israeli flags and two journalists were assaulted for attempting to film the incident.

While many bystanders chose to avert their eyes, Goldman, who had been brought up with stories about the pro-Nazi demonstrations that had taken place in Toronto in the 1930s and the community's silence as the Holocaust progressed in Europe, decided to look at the crowd directly.

"I caught the eye of one of the protesters and said 'Stop the suicide bombers.'"

For the statement, Goldman, an award-winning surgeon, was called a murderer and shoved into a parked car by several demonstrators with such force that he suffered a broken shoulder.

Reflecting on the incident, Goldman noted that "in a free and democratic society where people have the right to march, they should also have the obligation not to be violent.

"And bystanders should have the right to free speech without intimidation or fear."

In this community, Goldman said, "there is a general discomfort and embarrassment about being too vocal.

"People are afraid to speak out in support of Israel in fear of appearing to be too Jewish."

However, "this demonstration was just indicative of the Palestinian deceitfulness which is to play the victim while being an aggressor in the most inhumane, immoral way possible," Goldman noted.

"The situation in the Middle East is complicated," Goldman said, "and no one supports the killing of innocent Palestinian civilians."

But the community must support Israel and its judgment at this time because its very existence is at stake, he said.

Goldman, who is one of the founders of the Cardiac Surgical Centre in Toronto at Sunnybrook Hospital, has been involved for many years in the training of heart surgeons at Shaarei Zedek Hospital in Jerusalem.

Dr. Bernard Goldman

When he talks to his Israeli colleagues, Goldman said the extent of the tragedy hits him on a professional level.

Doctors who have been trained to be heart surgeons and used to operate on Israelis and Arabs are now spending their time taking out ball bearings, screws and nails from the most recent victims of suicide bombings, he said.

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The audacity to fight back

Like a red hot spark in dry tinder, hostility towards Israel has spread into raging demonstrations throughout the Muslim world, across Europe and even closer to home, here in Canada. The result has been a wildfire of incitement, and ominous, wildly threatening manifestations of brazen anti-Semitism.

In Ottawa last week, a synagogue was vandalized and defaced; in Saskatoon, a synagogue was set to the torch. In cities throughout Europe, but especially in France, which has the largest Muslim community in Europe, Jewish institutions, cemeteries, schools and synagogues were set upon by thugs, arsonists and assorted other craven bullies. The violent protests against the Jewish state have followed upon the violent language against the Jewish state.

In Rome last week, the editorialist in *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican's official news organ, accused Israel of launching a campaign of "extermination" against the Palestinians in the Holy Land. The editorial preceded a statement by the Pope in which he berated Israel for "humiliating" the Palestinians.

The ferocity and venom of the protests has been shocking, and Jews around the world are reeling from that shock.

After the conference on racism in Durban, South Africa, however, we should have been prepared. Durban was proof that the campaign against Israel has been elevated to a sophisticated, quasi-legal, quasi-religious, quasi-national multi-front attack. The violent demonstrations against the Jewish state and against Jews are nothing but the foul, poisonous harvest from the seeds of hate that have swirled in the international wind these past many years.

Protesters shout their calumnies at Israel; they demand "the end of the occupation," even as they call for the audacious Jewish state to be punished. Forgotten by the protesters, though, is that most Israelis also seek the end of the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. But most Israelis also know that Yasser Arafat seeks the end of a different "occupation," namely, the "occupation" of all of pre-1948 Mandatory Palestine. Also forgotten by the protesters is the fact that Israel only mobilized against the terrorists and the terror infrastructure after an unprecedented wave of five Passover suicide bombings.

Israel may indeed be audacious, but its audacity is simply that it wants to live, that it wants to live as a Jewish state in the Muslim Middle East and that it will fight back when enemies set upon it to deny it the right to live.

Next week, on Yom Ha'atzmaut, the fifth day of Iyar, we must gather in our homes, assembly halls, places of worship, schools and public squares to show the world that if it is audacious to want to live, then it is an audacity we all share.

Israel's audacity must be ours as well.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

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Israelis resilient

While the media seizes on every sensationalistic and negative element of the current conflict's affect on Israeli society, there is some positive news about the resilience of Israel and its brave citizens.

With a curious journalistic glee, many in the media have reported on the "movement" in Israel to refuse to serve in the army in the disputed territories. Yet is this movement an accurate picture of Israel – a weakening society that no longer has the resolve to stand firm in its right to exist as a Jewish State? Hardly.

In recent days, as reservists have been called up to defend Israel from barbaric terror, the army has been faced with a shortage of food for its soldiers. A friend of mine there explained how the Israel Defence Forces simply did not have enough food to feed them. The army assumes that only 70-80 per cent of those called for reserve duty actually report. But after the horrors of the Passover massacre, close to 100 per cent of the call-up turned up to defend the country and its people. The army was caught unprepared for the high response rate.

Luckily, Israelis are fiercely supportive of their soldiers and have brought food to the bases which are now inundated with Passover cakes, matzot and juice for the soldiers. Indeed, as we in the Diaspora cling to our television sets and despair, Israelis simply carry on. As they would tell us with a hint of arrogance and nonchalance, things may not be great, but *yehieh tov*, they will get better.

Benjamin Archibald
Boston, Mass.

* * *

Annan is anti-Israel

While I agree with Paul Michaels ("Misconceptions standard in Mideast conflict," *CJN*, March 21) that we should debunk the concept of "illegal occupation" of the territories, I disagree when he states that UN secretary general Kofi Annan's statement was due to ignorance.

In his statement, Annan expressed an anti-Israel bias that is incompatible with what is supposed to be the impartial position of the UN secretary general. I wish to add that this is not the first time Annan has expressed an anti-Israel bias.

Isaac Josy
Toronto

* * *

Let us boycott Europe

It was with incredulity that I read of the boycott by the European Union of Israeli goods. I have of course read for some time about the EU's position on Israel and the West Bank terrorists; it appears to welcome the killing of Jews and blames the Jews for the atrocities committed upon them.

The Europe that created the Holocaust did not attempt to justify the killing of six million Jews, but today it attempts to justify its anti-Semitism and the continued killing of Jews on the basis that Jews have brought it upon themselves.

The position taken with regard to Israel is merely a form of blatant anti-Semitism.

In response to this boycott, let us boycott all goods manufactured in the EU. Do not purchase Mercedes, Volkswagens and BMWs. Stop buying French perfumes, French wines, German wines, different countries' agricultural products and so forth. Let us forget travel to Europe and deny them the tourist dollar. Let us all stand up for our brothers and sisters living in a terrorist hell and attempt to punish those who condone it. American products match the quality of European products. Let us patronize the only country that stands behind Israel.

We cannot condone the actions of the European community. Let us teach them morality and ethics through our wallets. I believe that this is the only thing the EU will recognize.

Benjamin Levinter
Toronto

* * *

Make politicians accountable

With few exceptions, politicians are motivated by the simple desire to be re-elected. Fine. In the meantime, Jewish community leaders in the Diaspora will conduct a campaign to promote Israel's cause, which will clearly show these politicians that their re-electibility lies in the survival of a secure Israel. At present, one sees no evidence that a concerted effort to this end is under way.

David Green
Thornhill, Ont.

* * *

Strength in unity

We are witnessing frightening times for our beloved, beleaguered Israel. Israel's very survival is a stake.

It is not coincidental that a synagogue in Toronto was recently the object of arson, that schoolchildren in France are being attacked with stones, that Muslim extremists in the United Kingdom are calling for death to the Jews, that anti-Semitism is rising and rampant around the world or that the UN anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa turned into a debacle.

The war against Israel and the Jews will be won not on the battlefield, but through the printed or spoken word. We see it all around us – lies, distortions and a lack of journalistic integrity.

It is dangerous to bury our heads in the sand and hope, pray or pretend the situation will get better or go away. We must be fearless in our response. Our strength comes from a united powerful voice. The Arabs and Palestinians are out in full force and large numbers. We owe it to Israel to do no less.

Janet Fine
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Return to Kuty

By MURRAY TEITEL

The town begins on top of the hill and tumbles down to the river. Between the wars, the river formed a border flowing between Poland and Romania. That was when she lived in the town – on the Polish side. When her parents were born, the town was in Austria. Today it is in Ukraine.

Until the Holocaust descended upon them, it mattered little to the regional Jews on which side of the Cheremoshk they found themselves. On either, Yiddish was the language in which they conducted business, expressed feelings and held their endless disputations on religion, socialism and Zionism. When he was 11, her brother was sent to the town across the river to study in the yeshiva of the renowned Vishnitzer Rebbe. Once a month, she and her mother would cross the bridge to bring him home for Shabbos, acknowledging the brief change in sovereignty only by purchasing grapes while on the Romanian side, as if the fruit stalls of Vishnitz were the duty free shops of the Carpathian Mountains.

Though she left Kuty in 1935 at age 13, the town is still a part of her.

"You will never know," she told me once, "what it is like to live in a place where the scent of pine and the sound of rushing water fill the air. When I arrived in Canada, Toronto looked ho hum."

In winter the snows were as high as an adult's waist. My grandfather, a robust man, built a sled. Carrying her in one arm and the sled in the other, he would climb a path going to the peak of nearby Mt. Ovidyush and together they would sled back down, repeating the exercise again and again. In summers they would picnic by the river. My grandfather would enter the river upstream and let the fast moving current carry him back to his family.

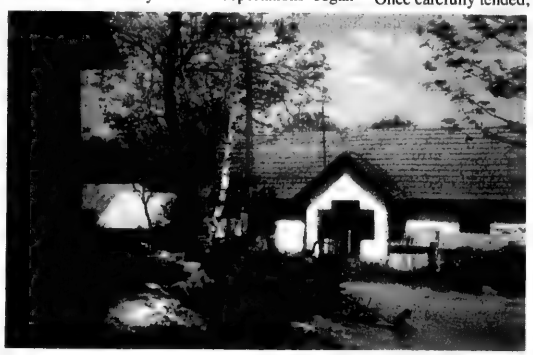
In 1998, after a 63 year absence, she returned to Kuty. I went with her.

In Lviv, the capital of Galicia, the westernmost province of Ukraine, we hired both a driver with a car and a translator. (In Ukraine, the drivers don't speak English and the handful of English speakers don't drive.) In magnificent spring weather, the ubiquitous chestnut trees each blooming with hundreds of vertical clusters of white blossoms that looked like Sabbath candles, we headed out into the fabled, rich, black earth of the Ukrainian Steppe.

The effects of post-Communist corruption and mismanagement were everywhere visible: thin people dressed in rags led farm animals on ropes to graze on roadside weeds; 10 people ploughed with horses for every one on a tractor; factories were abandoned; weeds smothered rusted machinery.

We reached the foothills. The air became cooler as the car began to climb. My mother stopped talking. I suspected her thoughts had turned to the townspeople murdered in the Holocaust. To-day Kuty has a population of about 4,000 people, almost all of them ethnically Ukrainian. The Polish census of 1939 found the following numbers: Ukrainians – 1,550, Poles – 600, Latins – 550, Jews – 2,520, others – 430.

On Sept. 17, 1939, Kuty was occupied by the Red Army, itself displaced on July 1, 1941, by Romanian and Hungarian forces allied with Germany. Word of deportations began to circulate. Some Jews tried to escape to Romania which, though allied with Hitler, did not at that time surrender its Jews. Certain Ukrainian farmers set ambushes and would kill those they caught. Other Jews prepared hiding places.



Street scene in Dehova

On April 10, 1942, Gestapo and SS units, aided by Ukrainian police, set Jewish homes on fire to force inhabitants out of their hiding places, killing about 950. On April 24, 500 and on Sept. 9, another 800 were deported to the concentration camp outside nearby Kolomaya from which they were later transported to death camps.

When we entered the town, of course, she wanted to see her former house, refusing to entertain the notion that it might no longer exist. Her well-off maternal grandparents had built it for her parents to entice them back to Kuty from Kolomaya where they had settled after marrying. It had a second floor balcony. People would come in the summer to sit on it and be cooled by the breeze. Who in their right mind would tear down such a beautiful house?

People are milling around a public building. We stop. Eva, our translator, is out of the car talking to people who look old enough to have been alive before the war. She settles on someone who looks too young. I see him shake his head. He points to his watch. I walk over and tell her to tell him we will have him back in time. Before he can refuse, Eva and I basically kidnap him by "ushering" him into the back of the car. Bernard, our driver, quickly pulls away.

He introduces himself as Michael Niemetz, a collector of local artifacts that he houses in a small museum outside the town. When we explain we are Jewish he becomes very interested.

Can we read Hebrew?

Of course.

Could we tell him what is written on the stones in the Jewish cemetery?

No problem. But first this house. It was on the main street at the corner of the street on which the courthouse stood, Ulitze Sodona. The Polish church was across the road.

We drive on what are undoubtedly the very cobblestones my mother trod as a child. They are buckled as if formed into mini-mountain ranges by tectonic plates below. My mother recognizes the park across from city hall. Once carefully tended, it is now overgrown with weeds among which goats graze. We pass in front of the church but do not see the house. My mother appears agitated: "It's somewhere here. I know it."

Then, after more driving, she says, matter of factly: "That's it. On the right, straight ahead." And there, indeed, is a house with a solid wooden balcony. The facade of the ground floor has been modernized, but the balcony with its four heart shapes carved into each wooden rail is unmistakably original (and, undoubtedly, my great grandfather's symbolic expression of his wish for the young couple's marriage). And there, indeed, across the street is the Polish church – the back of it.

We look at the house and walk down Ulitze Sodona where there is no trace of the court or lawyers' offices. The back of the house looks shabby. Gone are the fruit trees in the backyard orchard of my mother's youth. Though the owner will let us, she decides not to go inside. Having proven her point, she seems focused on fulfilling her end of the bargain with Pan Niemetz, so we head to the Jewish cemetery.

It must be at least a half a square kilometre in area. The 1715 charter by which a noble of the Pitotski family founded the town gave full civic rights to the Jews, who always formed about half the town's population.

Unfenced, it is covered in weeds and thorny bushes. The stones that have fallen are sprinkled with goat droppings. Nonetheless, Eva is full of admiration for the locals who, unlike their counterparts in other towns she has visited, have not removed the headstones to use as building materials.

Pan Niemetz and I wade into this sea of neglect. The gravestones yield little information since the dead are identified not by surnames but by their and their fathers' Hebrew given names. My maternal great-grandparents are somewhere here, but only because they had the good fortune to die before the Holocaust. How far back in this desolate tract might the people from whom I came be traced? Is Rav Avraham Gershon Kitover, the brother in law of the Ba'al Shem Tov, founder of Chassidism, buried here in the town of his birth?

We invite Pan Niemetz to dinner, but he has a prior engagement. We navigate the undulating cobblestones and find a restaurant. My mother and I order salads. She has become agitated: "Thank God we found that house. I don't know what I'd have done if it hadn't been there."

"What's the big deal?" I ask "It's only a house."

Her reply borders on the vehement. How could I understand? I can go back to Euclid Avenue any time I want and see where I grew up. She can't.

This is true. But have I? Do I want to? This woman who has both a master's degree and a master's in education is behaving irrationally. I don't argue with her.

We cross the Cheremoshk for an uneventful spin around Vishnitz (since the end of World War II also in Ukraine) and spend the night at the Roxalana Hotel in Ivano-Frankivsk. The next morning, we head out to look for traces of my late father's family in the three small farming villages near Rohatyn where they had lived: Dycky, Pitkamin and Dehova.

But for the introduction of electricity, Dycky looks exactly like it must have when my father left in 1933: dirt roads along which small, unrenovated houses, each with a small yard stand, the whole surrounded by vast fields. There and in Pitkamin, obliging people take us down narrow lanes, past barking dogs, through gaggles of geese to visit women in their 70s and 80s, but none have heard of the Teitels or Froshes (my grandmother's prominent family that managed large estates on behalf of absentee landlords and sent sons to university in Lvov, as Lviv was known at the time). There are no Jewish cemeteries.

Our last stop is Dehova, my father's birthplace. We stop someone and soon a number of women congregate around us. The consensus is that if anyone would know, it would be an old woman who lives at the end of the lane we are on. Eva and I proceed on foot while my mother and Bernard stay in the car. We open a rusted metal gate and enter a yard with a well and geese. A woman sits in her doorway, bathed in sunlight. Behind her, the cottage interior is very dark. She has lived in Dehova since before the war but doesn't recognize our surname. She remembers a different Jewish family but not what happened to it. We talk for a few minutes. Eva and I return to the car.

"So?" my mother asks.

"Nothing," I reply. "Nobody remembers us. No one's heard of us."

For an instant she considers this and says: "Now do you understand why finding our house meant so much to me yesterday? If not for that house it would have been as if we had never lived here."

Murray Teitel is the son of Miriam Teitel who lived in Kuty from 1922 to 1935. April 10 marks the 60th anniversary of the initial deportation of the Jews of Kuty.

Scholarly arrogance

The media have recently played up the claims of certain archeologists that the entire story of the Exodus is an invention and that it never took place. As proof, they cite the fact that no artifacts have turned up in Egyptian archives or other sources that mention the enslavement and the departure of the Jews, as we have been taught by the Torah.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Now archeologists are generally a very responsible group. They flesh out history based on their findings, and they have greatly enriched our understanding of antiquity. Not surprisingly, archeology is a favourite scientific pursuit in Israel, and I myself read the results of the scholars' investigations with great interest.

But lately some of them have, in my opinion, gone too far. Since no evidence has been found in Egypt or elsewhere that would verify the presence of our forbears in that land, they have come to the conclusion that the whole tale is based on folk memory, and therefore the Exodus from Egypt never took place.

I reject this conclusion, because in addition to all other considerations, it is based on dubious reasoning.

For the negation of our people's presence, enslavement and liberation from Egypt is based not on contrary data that come to us from Egyptian sources, but rather from the absence of data that would confirm that our people spent hundreds of years in that land.

To put it simply, these so-called "minimalist" scholars come to their conclusions because no one has found evidence that the alleged history took place. I find that reasoning appalling. To say that something did not happen because I or someone else has been unable to find evidence that it did is a conclusion based on zero evidence.

I advise the scholars to look some more and if they look in the right places with more energy and diligence, maybe they will find something. But merely to say that since so far they have not found anything, the Exodus could not have taken place is, to me, logically unacceptable.

To be sure, the number of minimalists is pretty small, but of course truth is not based on counting heads. The furor that the *Etz Hayim*, the new Conservative Torah and commentary, has created does not stem from the authors' assertion that the Israelite Exodus never took place, but from their discussing this theory at all. I think that, taken in context, the material is worth knowing, and readers do not need to be shielded from possible conclusions. They are not forced to accept them, and the Torah will continue to speak for us.

Solidarity forever

In a year when we have been plagued with the unexpected and unthinkable, we should all be reminded once more how important it is for us to show our support for Israel.

During a time like this, when we dread instant news updates and cringe when we even hear the words "Middle East," it seems almost impossible to find any light in such an unsettling situation. I wanted to write an upbeat Yom Ha'atzmaut column, but finding a theme seemed almost impossible.

Darcie Richler in Halifax

I was saddened this week when I found out that by the famous law of six degrees of separation, I had a connection to a woman my age who was tragically killed in Israel. As well, I was disturbed to hear, but understood why, some friends of our family decided to leave their beloved home in Israel, after much deliberation and debate.

As a Jewish student at a university where we have been inundated with so much anti-Israel rhetoric, I have felt particularly sensitive. It seems that only a small percentage of our student population is excited to see Israel get another year older. Dalhousie students, like many others across Canada, have intensely strong opinions on the current crisis, yet only one perspective – an anti-Israel one – seems to have been portrayed, both on campus, and more obviously, in the student newspaper. An even bigger problem is that the journalism is biased, ignorant and based on opinion, although written in a "current events"-type section.

There has been outrage from the Jewish community; we write letters to the editor and we organize support rallies, yet we have not seen our efforts lead to a positive change.

We must allow Yom Ha'atzmaut to be meaningful to us. Israel is another year older, after a difficult year where many did all in their power to seek changes for the better. We still see vigour in a nation that has so much reason to feel despondent.

It is fascinating to examine the differences between a Canadian and an Israeli. I am constantly in awe of Israeli citizens my age who have a vision that is larger than themselves, one that sees Israel and its independence as larger than their own single life. It just never even occurred to me that I could do such a thing.

I suppose it is my sheltered Canadian conscience speaking here, one that is lucky to have never had to make such choices or live such a life. As Canadians, we do not apply the Israeli framework to our daily lives; however, such a framework could bring about a much-needed reform for Jewish Canadians. It really comes down to putting away individualism and embracing collective responsibility.

The truth is, if we cannot go and defend Israel, there is so much more that still needs to be done, even here, from Canada. There is money to be raised to support Israel, there are letters that need to be written to the Canadian government to remind them that we as Canadian Jews, and more importantly, as supporters of a State of Israel, insist that Ottawa continue its support of the most legitimate democracy in the Middle East. The list goes on and on, but we must remember that all contributions count in one way or another and there is no better time than now to make them.

Yom Ha'atzmaut has changed for me this year. When I was in Jewish day school, we would dress in blue and white, sing and dance and eat falafel on that day. This year, I will go to bed on erev Yom Ha'atzmaut, hoping that when I watch the news the next day, we will have a day without the colour red, as difficult as that has become.

This is the time to channel our efforts together. Our message as Jewish Canadians must be powerful and strong. We have to put aside our ideological and political differences and show the solidarity that Israel desperately needs. I have promised myself to stop debating the variety of possible solutions with those who are equally frustrated. Instead, I will focus my energy on bringing about something that will actually benefit Israel.

Let us all hope that next year at this time, we can sing and dance again, without such heavy hearts.

Am Yisrael Chai.

Biased article sparks student activism

Since the current intifadah began 18 months ago, Jewish communities have been trying to find ways to increase student activism and get students to speak out in support of Israel. For many of Winnipeg's Jewish students, such activism was sparked by the publication of an article in a recent issue of the University of Manitoba's student newspaper called "And the Award for Terrorism goes to... Israel."

Bryan Borzykowski in Winnipeg

In order for students to become active they first need to become motivated, and nothing motivates them more than slanderous, inaccurate statements printed in student newspapers.

The article, which was written for the *Manitoban* by a respected student who ran for president of the U of M last year, contained comments associating Israel with ethnic cleansing. It caused an uproar among Jewish students and sent a flurry of them running to their computers to write letters to the editor.

The pandemonium that took place was something that I have never seen in all the years I have been involved in the Jewish community. I received phone call after phone call from people expressing outrage at the article. Several responses were written to the *Manitoban*, clarifying the article's fallacies and presenting the other side of the Middle East conflict. Although I think people were calling and commenting to me because I am the editor of the other Winnipeg student newspaper, the atmosphere of activism was real and deserved.

This activism came just a week after the Winnipeg Zionist Initiative, a youth-led group that promotes Israel awareness, brought Neil Lazarus to Winnipeg.

Lazarus, an internationally acclaimed Mideast expert and creator of the company awesomeseminars.com, spoke about the media's bias toward the Palestinians and what we need to be aware of when reading or watching the news. He came with Michael Schneider, who spoke about raising awareness about Israel, the situation in the Middle East and how students can take an active role in supporting Israel, including writing letters.

With the comments made by Lazarus and Schneider still fresh in students' minds and an opportunity to speak out in the pages of a student newspaper, it is not a surprise that people finally found a way to get their voices heard.

While letters to the editor and opinion pieces in the *Manitoban* can be read by the entire city of Winnipeg, it was refreshing to see how some members of the Jewish community made sure that the rest of the community knew about what was happening at the university.

Jay Greenfeld, Winnipeg's Jewish Student Association director sent out a copy of the inflammatory article not only to students, but also to prominent leaders such as Izzy Asper and Bob Freedman, the Jewish federation director. Teachers brought the article to the Jewish day schools and talked to their students about the issue.

Throughout the intifadah, the Jewish community has brought in speakers and held rallies, but getting students involved in activism has always been a challenge. So why are students speaking up now?

This has been the first time they have been directly affected by the bias in reporting and by anti-Israel sentiments. Finally students have a cause they can relate to. A member of their own student community has given the Jewish students the fuel and desire to get involved and become active, and hopefully this will carry on into more activism from students in the community at large.

Now, after saying all this, I want to point out that this saga has a twist, a curveball that people need to be aware of. This *Manitoban* article also happened to be plagiarized. It was taken off a Web site called allaboutpalestine.com. When the community found this out, of course, they became even more infuriated. How could a newspaper print an article so one-sided, and a plagiarized one at that? This once again brings issues of reliability and accuracy of the media into question.

What can be learned from all this? Read critically, shed that apathetic student skin and become active.

E-mail me at cjnbryan@hotmail.com.

The Kirshner File

Britain's moment in Palestine was momentous

Conventional wisdom holds that Britain betrayed the Zionist movement after assuming the League of Nations mandate in Palestine in 1922. Proponents of this view cite a litany of factors: Britain's 1939 White Paper, which envisaged a binational rather than a Jewish state in Palestine; Britain's arrest of Zionist leaders after World War II, and Britain's abstention on the November 1947 United Nations Palestine partition plan.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

Tom Segev, an Israeli historian, begs to differ with this interpretation. And in *One Palestine, Complete: Jews and Arabs Under the British Mandate* (Fitzhenry & Whiteside), he makes a compelling case for this thesis. "The British kept their promise to the Zionists," he writes in this richly documented, scrupulously nuanced book.

For example: Britain opened Palestine to mass Jewish immigration, though later it restricted the flow of Jews into the country. Britain also permitted Jews to purchase Arab land (even if this right was subsequently amended) and to establish settlements and develop agriculture and industry.

"Contrary to the widely held belief of Britain's pro-Arabism, British actions considerably favoured the Zionist enterprise," he states in this massive volume, which draws on a wealth of archival materials from, among other sources, the Israel State Archive, the Central Zionist Archive and the Public Record Office in London.

Segev compares Britain's role to a circus performer trying to ride two horses simultaneously. Caught between the conflicting ambitions of Zionists and Palestinian nationalists, the British often disappointed both sides.

In an attempt to come to grips with the turmoil in Palestine, Britain appointed a succession of commissions to study its complexities. As Henry Gurney, the mandate's last chief secretary, wrote: "If all the books of statistics prepared for the 19 commissions that have had a shot at the problem were placed on top of one another they would reach as high as the King David Hotel."

Indeed, no single report ever issued by Britain resolved the conundrum. In the end, fed up with the mess, Britain relinquished the mandate, paving the way for a Jewish declaration of independence, an Arab invasion and a full-fledged war.

The colonial scramble for territory, natural resources and markets propelled Britain into the morass of Middle Eastern politics.

Shortly after the outbreak of World War I, Britain, as well as France and Russia, began to eye the tantalizing Ottoman dominions in the Fertile Crescent, which extended from the Nile to the Tigris rivers.

Segev claims that Britain was not guided by strategic considerations. In fact, the reverse is true. As he himself concedes, the British issued the 1917 Balfour Declaration, with its pledge of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, to bolster their foothold in the region and to win international Jewish support for its war effort.

Having ousted the Ottoman Turks – Germany's ally – from Palestine, Britain was left with the burden of bringing a measure of order and, hopefully, prosperity to Palestine, a backwater by any yardstick.

When Gen. Edmund Allenby marched into Jerusalem in 1917, the city was awash with hunger and rife with disease. "The heart aches when one looks at it all," observed Chaim Weizmann, a Zionist luminary.

For the first few years, until the mandate came into force, the British military ran the show. And by all accounts, the army was successful in stamping out epidemics, improving the water supply and reopening schools, banks and courts.

Even as Britain consolidated its grip, Palestinian leaders made it abundantly clear that they were on a collision course with Zionism. They demanded independence and voiced opposition to Jewish immigration and Jewish land purchases. Najib Azuri, an Arab intellectual, prophesied that the two movements were destined to wage war until one defeated the other. David Ben-Gurion, who would be Israel's first prime minister, agreed.

At the 1919 peace conference in Versailles, France, the Zionists submitted what Segev describes as "a dream map." It included southern Lebanon, the Golan Heights and territory east of the Jordan River. The area allotted to Britain by the League of Nations to administer was, in fact, half the size. The Zionists, nevertheless, were pleased.

The same could not be said of the Arabs.

Two years before the official establishment of the mandate, "the opening shot" in the war over the fate of Palestine was fired. In April 1920, at the Nebi Musa procession in Jerusalem, rioting broke out, claiming the lives of four Jews and five Arabs.

This was followed, a year later, by melees in Jaffa during which 47 Jews and 48 Arabs were killed. As the years passed, violence became a bitter leitmotif of the mandate.

The fighting gave Britain some pause. Comparing Palestine with Ireland, Field Marshal Henry Wilson, the highest-ranking British officer in the Middle East, declared that Britain had no business being in Palestine – "Jewland," he dubbed it – and should leave. Wilson's advice was ignored, perhaps because others maintained that Britain's departure would ultimately endanger its grip on Egypt.

The first British high commissioner in Palestine, Herbert Samuel, was the scion of a rich Jewish family from Liverpool. Samuel, whom Segev claims resembled an operatic character, was a committed Zionist. Yet he came to regard the Arabs, who outnumbered the Jews by a wide margin, as a minority in need of protection, and urged the Zionist movement to exercise restraint and refrain from gestures liable to anger Palestinians.

David Ben-Gurion, a year after the end of the British mandate.

The Arab community, however, considered him an enemy. In Segev's estimation, Samuel led Palestine toward its first steps into the 20th century.

Next to the mandate itself, Segev notes, the most important Zionist achievement during this period was its success in splitting Tel Aviv from Jaffa, a nearly all-Arab town. It formalized the principle of separation between Jews and Arabs (a debate which, incidentally, still rages in Israel). The "principle of segregation," as he describes it, was accepted by virtually all segments of the Zionist elite.

In discussing the issue of Jewish immigration, Segev points out that, even at the height of aliyah in the 1920s and 1930s, relatively few Jews settled in rough-and-tumble Palestine. In any event, he adds, the Zionists were not keen about uncontrolled and unplanned immigration. Like the British, they believed in the link between immigration and the country's capacity to absorb new olim. In those years, the most desirable candidates for aliyah were young, unmarried men who could work the soil.

Insofar as land purchases are concerned, Segev says that more Arab land was generally available than Zionists could afford to buy. Among the sellers, ironically, were leaders of the Arab nationalist movement – "patriots on the outside, traitors on the inside."

Segev, rightly so, devotes a considerable amount of space to the 1936-39 Arab revolt, the first mass uprising in Palestine. This intifadah, which was directed as much against the Yishuv as Britain, gave rise to suggestions for partitioning the country. The Arabs opposed the idea. The Zionists favoured it.

Britain suppressed the Arab revolt in league with the Jewish Agency and the Haganah. But as World War II approached, the British government tried to win the friendship of the Palestinians through appeasement. "If we must offend one side," Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain said, "let us offend the Jews rather than the Arabs."

Which is precisely what happened. In May 1939, after the St. James conference in London, Britain announced a new policy designed to mollify the Arabs. Within a decade, an independent, binational state would be created. In addition, Jewish immigration and land purchases would be curtailed.

Chamberlain's charismatic successor, Winston Churchill – a Zionist – allowed the White Paper to die. Meanwhile, Haj Amin al-Husseini, the exiled grand mufti of Jerusalem, cozied up to the Nazis.

Palestine, which had been gripped by a recession, flourished during the war. But in 1944, Lechi, a Revisionist Zionist paramilitary organization, launched an anti-British guerrilla campaign, which came to a head in the immediate postwar years.

Having grown weary – and wary – of its responsibilities, Britain turned the mandate over to the United Nations, leaving behind a record of concrete achievements: new roads, railways, ports, schools and hospitals, a judiciary free of corruption and an electric power grid.

Britain, though, had no success in reconciling Jewish and Arab interests. Jews and Arabs would address these pivotal issues on the battlefield and through diplomacy in subsequent years.

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Ethiopian immigrant realizes dreams in Canada

By ERIN SILVER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Joseph Kibur learned at a young age to expect the unexpected.

At age 11 he came to Canada with nothing but raw talent. By the time he became a citizen, one organization had helped this Ethiopian Jew become the champion he had only dreamed of being.

"I came to Canada in 1983 with my family and started cross country running," says Kibur, 29, as he sits arm in arm with his wife, Mahlet Zena.

The couple, who live in Vancouver, were on a recent visit to Toronto.

"Harry Hus, who was involved in coaching athletics with Maccabi saw me compete in a race and approached me. He told me about Maccabi youth, and suggested I get more involved. He sponsored me and got me athletic footware," Kibur explains.

Though rumour has it that the Maccabi coach found Kibur running the race barefoot, Kibur sets the record straight, saying that he was wearing shoes, but didn't have enough money to buy a good quality pair.

Money wasn't Kibur's only difficulty upon arriving in Montreal from Ethiopia.

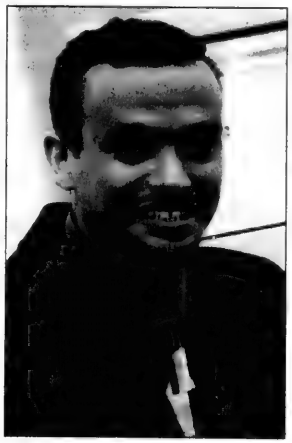
"It was hard coming to Canada. There were the language and cultural barriers and I didn't know what was available to me," he says earnestly.

Maccabi stepped in and provided Kibur with more than just shoes.

"My athletic career didn't blossom until I got involved with Maccabi. As a Jewish athlete, Maccabi was a support mechanism. It provided me with direction and motivation. It gave me the opportunity to network, make friends and to go to Israel, where I learned more about the Jewish culture and religion. I knew there were people interested in seeing me succeed."

In fact, Kibur succeeded in becoming a world-class athlete.

At the 1987 Pan American Maccabi Games in Venezuala, Kibur won two gold medals in the 1,200 and 2,000 metre races. In 1990 he competed in the Open Junior Pan American Games, and won a gold in the 5,000 metres. In the 1993 Games in Israel, he became the first athlete to win gold medals in three events – the 1,500, 5,000 and 10,000 metres – in one year. That same year, he won the Canadian Cross Country championships in Vancouver.



Joseph Kibur

That year also marked the last time Kibur would compete for Maccabi.

He was offered a track and field scholarship at Simon Fraser University in British Columbia and headed west. He studied management and systems science, an exciting name for computers, math and business, a discipline Kibur says prepared him very well for his career as an entrepreneur. Kibur now owns a successful Web hosting company called Netnation.com, which is based in Vancouver and trades on the Nasdaq.

Just as Maccabi changed his life, Kibur is now looking to help others in the same way.

"A few months ago I got a call from Tommy [Bacher, senior vice president of Maccabi Canada]. I was thankful because Tommy was supportive of me in the early days and I thought this would be a great opportunity to do what was done for me."

Kibur now sits on the national executive committee as the western representative, and he also made a very generous donation to Maccabi.

"I'm awed by the attitude and commitment Joseph has shown to Maccabi," says Dr. Lawrence Hart, president of Maccabi Canada.

"He sets an incredible example for other alumni," he continues.

"There is so much expertise out there. We're looking for alumni to get involved and coach, fund-raise and run regional programs."

The return to the organization of people who know what it means to walk into the stadium in Israel and have tears well up in their eyes, is essential, especially at this critical time, he says.

"Maccabi gives Jewish athletes the opportunity to participate with their peers on an ongoing basis and to get involved with the Jewish community," says Bacher, who competed in the 1985 games and helped buy Kibur his first pair of track shoes.

"It gives the next generation a chance to develop a bond with Israel. Maccabi also gives athletes the opportunity to be the best they can be," he says.

Now that he's involved with Maccabi again, Kibur hopes others will follow his lead.

"I think all alumni are obligated to pay their dues," says Kibur.

"I would like to see other athletes fulfill their dream. If I can help just one other athlete do that, it's well worth my time."

To get involved with Maccabi Canada call 514-736-6776 or e-mail maccabi@maccabicanada.com.

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Young musical duo run their own concert

TORONTO — A brother and sister musical team are running their own classical concert on April 27 at the Armour Heights Presbyterian Church.

William and Andrea Herzog, who play the violin and cello respectively, have decided to take their careers into their own hands. Though they have performed around town many times before, this spring they are going to run the show themselves.

William, 14, and Andrea, 15, began their string studies at age four and five respectively. The duo, who have performed at numerous public events and venues, both as amateurs and professionals, have been called "very promising young Canadians" by Mayumi Seiler, international violinist and artistic director of the Via Saltzburg concert series.

Andrea and William Herzog

Four years ago, they were the two youngest members to be accepted into the Toronto Symphony Youth Orchestra, and have more recently been invited to play with the Toronto Symphony itself.

The list of the teachers that have trained them looks like a who's who of the Toronto music community and includes Shauna Rolston, Mayumi Seiler, David Hetherington, Anna Lee Patapatanakoon, Daniel Domb, Erika Raum, Bryan Epperson, Lorand Fenyves, Mark Fewer and David Zafer.

Up until a year ago, they were entering competitions to get performing experience, and collecting a multitude of awards. This past year, their fourth at both the Kiwanis and Peel Festivals, Andrea and William entered as soloists and as a chamber duo, and came home with 13 first prizes out of 13 classes between the two of them.

But they saw the limitations of competition and wanted to move beyond it to give an affordable, high quality performance directly to a wider audience, their father, Bruce Herzog, says.

"It's not that they don't enjoy competition," he says. "The problem with competition is it's usually a very limited audience... You often do your best work for only a handful of people."

With their own concerts, they can choose their own repetoire, he says.

So William and Andrea rented a hall, made their own brochures and posters and printed their own tickets. Now they're pounding the pavement, enlisting the support of local businesses, friends and neighbours to sponsor the event and help them sell tickets.

Though their experience as soloists, chamber and orchestral players is extensive, they say their string duo is a very special part of their lives.

"We really enjoy it – we tend not to look at our music when we're playing because we spend most of our time communicating with each other," Andrea says.

"There are no worries when we play together, just music," William says.

If successful, they hope this event will lead to the creation of a series of affordable concerts by talented young musicians within the community.

The Herzog Duo concert starts at 7 p.m. on Saturday, April 27 at the Armour Heights Presbyterian Church at 105 Wilson Ave. near Yonge. Before April 12, tickets are $11 for adults, $7 for students and seniors. At the door, they are $12 and $8.

For further information or advance tickets, call 416-482-6657 or e-mail bruce.herzog@etel.tdsb.on.ca.

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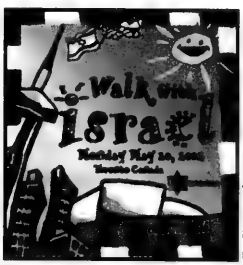
UJA FEDERATION

Walk TALK



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For more information, call the **UJA Federation Walk with Israel Hotline** at **416-631-5700** or visit our website at **www.jewishtoronto.net**

UJA FEDERATION

CJC trying to meet with French diplomats

Continued from page 3

"Stop the suicide bombers."

The doctor's shoulder was broken in the incident (see related story in this issue).

Contacted at Palestine House, Rashad Saleh, who organized the demonstration, said although "I didn't see anything... in a situation where emotions are running high, things like that could happen. I'm sorry if he was hurt, but I had nothing to do with it."

Saleh said the demonstration attracted people from a variety of groups and "the marshals can't be every place."

He condemned last week's graffiti incidents and he distanced the Arab community from the events. "I'm sure the Jewish community has so many enemies, especially racist people in the city, who take an opportunity like that when relations are stressed between the communities," he said.

In a news release late last week, Ontario Premier Mike Harris said he was saddened by the vandalism.

"I condemn these acts of hatred in the strongest possible terms. I will not allow our communities to be intimidated by people who don't understand the freedoms they enjoy. My thoughts are with Ontario's Jewish communities that have been affected by this vandalism."

* * *

Meanwhile, CJC is trying to arrange meeting with French diplomats to voice concerns about the recent spate of anti-Semitic violence in France.

The proposed meetings with envoys in Ottawa and at several consulates across the country are part of an effort by Jewish communities around the world to press the government of France to move aggressively to counter the attacks that have targeted Jews, said Manuel Prutschi, national director of community relations for Congress. More than 350 incidents have been directed at the Jewish community since the onset of the Palestinian intifadah in September 2000.

Five French synagogues were firebombed last week alone. Jews and Jewish institutions in France, Belgium and Germany have been the targets of a rising number of hate crimes.

The Jewish community has faced these attacks for a 1½ years. "What we want to communicate to the envoys is our community's concern over the situation and that public leaders denounce the anti-Semitism and take all necessary steps to curb it," Prutschi said.

The government of France must also employ the anti-hate legislation it has on the books against those who take part in racist attacks, he added.

Until now, the French government "has tended to downplay the situation," Prutschi said. "A lot of incidents have arisen where Jews and Arabs live cheek by jowl in neighbourhoods and schools in different cities. A lot of the activities seems to be the work of younger people. The government has not taken it seriously. It has looked at it as apart of a larger crime problem in cities."

In Toronto meanwhile, Alain Dubuy, deputy consul general and press attache at the Consulate General of France, said the consul is ready to meet with representatives of the Jewish community. The government of France is as "sorry as the Jewish community" about the violence and has made every effort to counter it, he said.

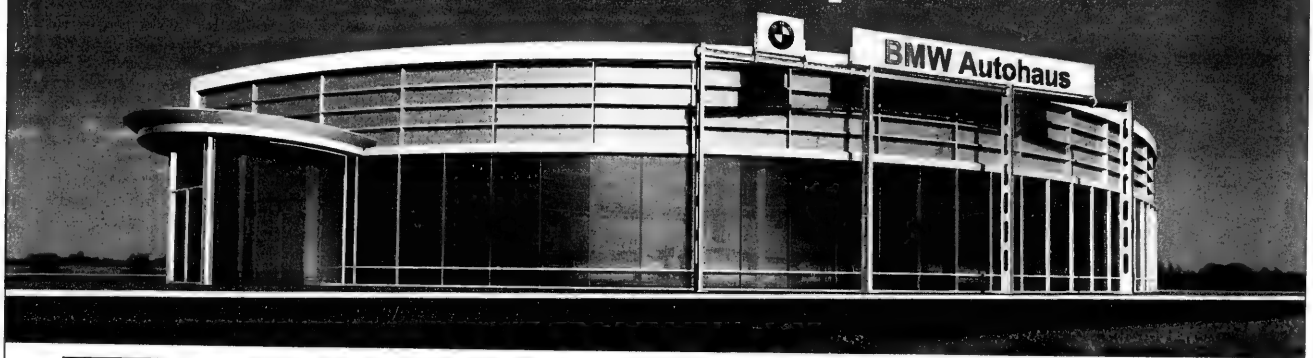
"The French government is very, very concerned about it and they are doing all they can to stop it. It is putting all forces at its disposal to catch the [perpetrators]."

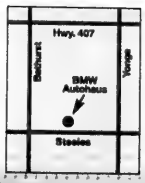
Nevertheless, "these are difficult to stop completely," he added.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Los Angeles said most of the attacks in France "are linked to the same hate and invective that inspire 9/11 and the Middle East suicide bombers. The time is long overdue for France to deal with the source of that hate – which includes extremist Muslim clerics – before there are further terrorist escalations and bloodshed."

TORONTO JEWS RALLY FOR ISRAEL: Some 800 supporters of Israel rallied at Queen's Park Sunday afternoon. [Frances Kraft photo]

If it were any bigger, tour buses would stop out front.





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Jewish Life

Terror – 'a self-defeating tactic'

***The Lessons of Terror*, by Caleb Carr, Random House, $29.95**

Books
Bernard Baskin

The basic thesis of this slim volume by novelist and military historian Caleb Carr is simple and unequivocal: the tactic of terror doesn't work. In ways that are unforeseen and unpredictable, terror always boomerangs, punishing the aggressor.

The author writes: "Warfare against civilians, whether inspired by hatred, revenge, greed, or political and psychological insecurity, has been one of the most ultimately self-defeating tactics in all of military history – indeed, it would be difficult to think of one more inimical to its various practitioners' causes."

What modern terrorists share with those who practised similar actions against civilians in earlier times is an abiding inability to see that the strategy is almost always unsuccessful. The author offers a variety of examples to bolster his argument.

For instance, the Roman massacres of German tribes under Augustus led, centuries later, to deadly retaliatory raids that destroyed the empire.

During the American Civil War, General William Sherman's fabled March To the Sea devastated the southern landscape – destroying homes, bridges, railways, roads etc. The long-term result was endless resentment and smouldering hatred among the defeated people of the south. The author asserts that "inflicting starvation, murder and destruction... proved as self-defeating in America as they had anywhere else in the world."

In his wholesale condemnation of terror, Carr includes the firebombing of Dresden during World War II, and the use of atomic weapons against the Japanese, Napalm in Vietnam and air strikes in Kosovo.

There appear to be two flaws in the author's argument. In the first place, he fails to make a necessary distinction between acts of brutality carried out by a national army as part of a formally declared war, and violence against civilians by non-state groups with the aim, not of military victory, but of causing panic and inflicting revenge.

In the second place, it is simply untrue that terror is never effective. One thinks of Napoleon's defeat in Spain, the French experience in Algeria and the American withdrawal from Vietnam. Even when terrorist groups do not achieve all of their aims, they are able to claim victory for some of them.

Carr remains unimpressed at the American response, thus far, to terrorism. "Despite our current military efforts, the core terrorist threats – biological, chemical and even nuclear warfare, suicide bombings and attacks, and still more airplane hijackings, along with the complex programs of state sponsorship necessary to prepare for such actions – remain largely unaddressed at their international roots, whatever our successes against specific groups or individuals."

Turning to the recent intifadah, Carr is sure that Arafat will never be able to achieve the concessions that were available to him before young, would-be "martyrs" began strapping explosives to their bodies and killing innocent civilians.

"Arafat seems destined to see his long campaign of terror go for naught, and the abandonment of his more limited guerrilla warfare a mistake." For the author, the impatient, vain and destructive instinct that encourages terror against the innocent must lead to the downfall of the perpetrators.

He is convinced that terrorism must be met by pre-emptive military action. "It is incumbent upon us to devise a style of war more imaginative, more decisive and yet more humane than anything terrorists can contrive."

Replete with interesting historical information, closely reasoned and passionately argued, *The Lessons of Terror*, which discusses some of the axial issues of our time, should be carefully considered and widely debated.

How valid is oral tradition?

By ZE'EV GLICENSTEIN

Roots & Remembrance

Arthur Kurzweil, the pioneering American Jewish genealogist, tells a remarkable story about how a passing remark from his mother's cousin, Maurice, led him to a significant family discovery.

Maurice recalled being told that he was "an '*ainicle*' of the Stropkover Rebbe."

Learning that the term "ainicle" usually means grandson but could actually mean any form of descendant, Kurzweil wrote that "my genealogical ears perked up and I knew that I had hit upon a major find."

Kurzweil rushed to the YIVO Institute to begin his investigations into this prominent Chassidic family. But even before he found the vital link between the Stropkover Rebbe and his great-grandfather, he had already began broadcasting it as proven fact.

"What I found myself doing from that point on," he wrote in his book, *From Generation to Generation*, "was breaking just about every genealogical rule in the book, especially the following two: Never make claims that you aren't sure of, and, Do research from the known to the unknown."

As he explained, it was such an exciting possibility to be descended from this illustrious rabbi that he "couldn't help" telling everybody that it was so, even though the claim at the time was based entirely on "circumstantial evidence."

Although Kurzweil eventually authenticated the link with archival records, he raises important questions about the validity of oral traditions and handed-down stories as genealogical evidence.

Israeli genealogist Chaim Freedman gained considerable expertise on that question while compiling a study of the descendants of the legendary Vilna Gaon, published as *Eliyahu's Branches* in 1997. He discusses the relevance of oral tradition and related issues in a recent guidebook called *Beit Rabbanan: Sources of Rabbinical Genealogy*.

Finding many families that claimed a relationship to the Vilna Gaon based on oral traditions, Freedman put them into three categories.

First were the claims that could be easily corroborated by reliable sources and records; these proved the least problematic. Second were the claims that stood up to critical scrutiny and could ultimately be judged as being "highly likely to be valid, beyond any reasonable doubt."

Third were the claims for which insufficient evidence could be found to validate them beyond any reasonable doubt. Freedman found that some cases in this group seemed promising enough to warrant the collection of all available genealogical information should an authenticating link surface one day.

Some oral traditions are patently false, he notes: in one case, research demonstrated that a person who was supposedly an only child actually had 20 siblings! Still, he insists that a "legendary kernel of truth" underlies every oral tradition, and that it's up to the genealogist to find it.

Freedman's methodology is certainly interesting, but whether it violates generally accepted genealogical standards of proof is another question. Genealogists sometimes make "quantum leaps" of faith and probability when charting a few crucial generations in the family trees of Rashi, King David and other revered figures. Such liberties are not universally regarded as kosher.

* * *

Summer Conference: Exciting details about the upcoming 22nd International Conference on Jewish Genealogy were recently released. The gathering is scheduled for Aug. 4 thru Aug. 9 at Toronto's Sheraton Centre, and all Canadian Jewish genealogists should plan to attend.

Speakers include Alexander Beider, the renowned expert on Jewish names; Olga Muzychuk, director of the Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine; Oleg Perzashkevich, a Belarus historian; Yale Reisner, director of The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation Genealogy Project in Warsaw; Batya Untershatz, former director of Search Bureau for Missing Relatives in Jerusalem; and Shi Lei, currently a Bar Ilan university student who is a descendant of Kaifeng Chinese Jews.

For details and registration information, visit www.jgstoronto2002.ca.

Jewish Life

Yom Hazikaron on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

At 8 p.m. on the 4th of Iyar (April 15), Israel will come to a standstill.

On that evening, sirens will blare and Israelis – and Jews around the world – will pause to remember the thousands of soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. Today, a look at Yom Hazikaron, Israel's Remembrance Day.

Over 20,000 soldiers have fallen since Israel's War of Independence. The Orthodox Union site traces the number of casualties from pre-state battles through the next 50 years **[http://www.ou.org/yerushalayim/yomhazikaron/names.html]**. Israel's Ministry of Defence maintains a large Hebrew-only Web site dedicated to Yom Hazikaron. You can view a list of all soldiers whose yahrzeit is being observed today **[http://www.izkor.gov.il/izkor50.asp]**. On the Yizkor page, you can read the special prayer for the fallen soldiers while hearing it recited **[http://www.izkor.gov.il/izkor11b.htm]**. A Hebrew poetry page includes works of some of the country's premier poets including Natan Alterman, Naomi Shemer and Chana Senesh. It includes King David's lament from the Book of Samuel II upon hearing of the deaths of Jonathan and Saul, "How the mighty have fallen" **[http://www.izkor.gov.il/izkor30a.htm]**.

The sirens will wail in Israel on Yom Hazikaron. But how can the grief and importance of that day be conveyed to Jewish communities throughout the Diaspora? The Virtual Jerusalem Web site recommends the lighting of memorial candles, "giving tzedakah, or charity, or learning on behalf of the deceased. Some learn Torah in the memory of a particular soldier, study history (either of the Jewish state or of Jewish history in general), or spend some time reflecting upon how the sacrifices of Israel's soldiers affect them and the direction their own lives are taking." **[http://207.168.91.4/vjholidays/memorial/]**

The Department for Jewish Zionist Education has suggestions for schools and other organizations that would like to hold remembrance ceremonies, including readings in English and the Prayer for the Welfare of soldiers in the Israel Defence Forces **[http://www.jajz-ed.org.il/festivls/zkatz/zk/]**. United Synagogue Youth's Karen Stein has prepared some more suggestions **[http://www.uscj.org/usy/pb/kzikaron.htm]**.

Aside from the over 20,000 fallen soldiers, many more have sustained serious injuries while serving in the military. The Zahal Disabled Veterans Organization (ZDVO) was established in 1949 to care for wounded and disabled soldiers during the War of Independence. Currently, the ZDVO has 48,000 members and has established four Beit Halochem rehabilitation centres in Israel. Their Web site also has a picture gallery and profiles a disabled veteran every month **[http://www.fidv-bh.com/]**.

On Yom Hazikaron, Israel's political, military and religious leaders gather at Israel's main military cemetery at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl. You can take a 360-degree look at one section of the cemetery online **[http://shlk.com/49]**.

For more Yom Hazikaron links, check out Aj6 Online **[http://www.aj6.org/jpbo/410/]** and the Israel Defence Force Web site **[http://www.idf.il/hebrew/links/links.stm]**. The International Coalition for Missing Israeli Soldiers' Web site was not operating when I checked it but may now be back **[http://www.mia.org.il/]**.

It is almost impossible to understand the grief of a small country that has given up 20,000 of its young. That's why an article about the loss of one soldier has such an impact. In "His name was Nachshon Wachsman," Esther Wachsman, explains how her son was kidnapped and held ransom by Hamas in October 1994. The IDF launched a military rescue that failed and Nachshon and the commander of rescue mission were both killed **[http://www.ou.org/yerushalayim/yomhazikaron/]**.

"The entire nation mourned with us," Esther Wachsman writes. "Thousands came to comfort us, though no one can comfort a bereaved parent… Food and drink were delivered non-stop to our home; bus and taxi drivers who brought people from all over the country who wished to express their condolences, left their vehicles and joined their passengers in our home. That unity, solidarity, caring, compassion and love with which we were showered gave us strength and filled our hearts with love for our people. After the shivah, we all returned to our routines… for that is what the Jewish people have always done – rebuilt after destruction, began new lives from the ashes and blood of the old."

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

The myth of the wandering Jew

By RABBI YEHIEL BEN AYON

It was not uncommon among large Sephardi families to send their sons abroad at a very early age. My grandmother's brother was barely bar mitzvah when his family dispatched him to Argentina in search of his own fortune. At the time, it must have been like sending one into another world. Indeed, his mother never saw this son again. Certainly there was contact by way of the letters they exchanged, but this correspondence could take up to six months.

I was always fascinated that my grandmother, who was born in 1900, just after her brother had left, went through life never meeting him. Here too, there were letters, photographs, even telephone calls, but the two never met.

Just recently, I met a grandson of that man, and while embracing him for the first time, I could not help but think that I was closing a circle of more than 100 years that our families had been separated.

Separation of families is not particular to anyone. *Papierne kinder* (paper children) is an old Yiddish saying. That's what the children who had left eastern Europe for the "New World" were called. These children would send pictures of themselves to their parents back home, pictures that were lovingly tucked into the frames of mirrors. There they would be looked at often and with longing. With marriages and births, more pictures would arrive and all of these too would be proudly displayed. But these children would sadly and cynically be known as *papierne kinder* – paper children – for they were too distant to be much more than that.

Was it always so? Was this the reality of the Diaspora, the scene of the ever-wandering Jew, a perpetually migrating people, as dislocated as they were disconnected from each other?

Not really.

The wandering Jew is more myth than fact. True, there were migrations and there were expulsions and persecutions, but, by and large, Jews tended to settle themselves in one place for hundreds of years at a stretch. In the case of Poland and the Rhineland, it was for 1,000 years; arguably, in Babylon (Iraq), it was for 2,000 years. Extended families lived as communities for generations, all in one place.

It was mainly in the 20th century that this stability changed. Pogroms, poverty versus opportunity, world wars and the Holocaust all contributed to this dispersal of families. Ironically, one other significant factor in separating families was (and remains) the State of Israel. The big question was whether to live in the Land of Israel or not. Some did, some did not. Despite the situation in Israel today, the prayer "and gather us from the four corners of the world" remains at least as valid as it always was. Clearly, the State of Israel is the beginning of a process that is still playing itself out.

So another anniversary for Israel approaches, albeit one tainted by terrorism with tragedy and uncertainty. Still, there is much to be grateful for and reason to celebrate. Not one thing should be taken for granted, and yet a world without Israel is inconceivable.

Just as HaShem deemed us worthy as a people to be blessed with the modern State of Israel, may He find merit in us not only to keep His gift in safety, but also to complete His promise of the "ingathering of the exiles from the four corners of the world" so that we may live our lives together as a family.

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ISRAEL AND THE ARABS: IS PEACE POSSIBLE?
TUESDAY, APRIL 23, 2002
at
Beth Tzedec Synagogue
1700 Bathurst Street
8:00 p.m. sharp
General Admission: $10.00 Seniors and Students: $5.00
Limited complimentary copies of the Ontario Jewish Resource Directory will be available
For information call: Boys Town Jerusalem 416-789-7241 or Beth Tzedec 416-781-3511.

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at the FOREST HILL JEWISH CENTRE
446 Spadina Road
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Israel, We're With You

Remember ... *the many who gave their lives to make Israel the strong nation that it is today.*

Join the Consulate General of Israel in **a Yom Hazikaron assembly on Monday, April 15 @ 7:30 P.M.** at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 55 Yeomans Road (2 blocks west of Bathurst, south of Sheppard).

Reflect ... *on the transition from Yom Hazikaron to Yom Ha'atzmaut.*

The Mizrachi Organization of Canada invites you to **a combined Yom Hazikaron & Yom Ha'atzmaut commemoration, Tuesday, April 16 @ 7:00 P.M.** at BAYT, 613 Clark Ave. West, Thornhill. When Yom Ha'atzmaut arrives, join an unbounded celebration — complete with refreshments and a top-notch band. **Join us the next day, Wednesday, April 17, as the celebration continues with UJA Federation's IsraelFest 2002.**

IsraelNOW The Israel Now consortium is made up of community organizations united in solidary with Israel, under the auspices of UJA Federation and The Consulate General of Israel

MIZRACHI

Israel, We're With You

PHOTO: STEPHEN EPSTEIN / BIG DIPPER COMMUNICATION

Support Israel. Celebrate Israel.

at IsraelFest 2002!

Wednesday, April 17 - 6:15 P.M.

On no other Israel Independence Day has Solidarity been so important. As Israel fights a full-fledged war against terrorism, our support is a crucial component of Israel's struggle. On Israel's 54th birthday - join our **Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration - IsraelFest 2002**! The event will get underway @ **6:15 P.M. on Wednesday, April 17** with a proud procession from the south parking lot of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre (4588 Bathurst Street) to Earl Bales Park. The celebration at Earl Bales Park will include musical entertainment by the Moshav Band, singing and dancing, clowns, face-painting, and kosher Israeli food.

IsraelFest 2002 is our way of saying "Israel, we're with you!"

IsraelNOW

The Israel Now consortium is made up of community organizations united in solidary with Israel, under the auspices of UJA Federation and The Consulate General of Israel.

UJA FEDERATION

No one gift changes more lives.

JWI steps out against domestic violence

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Jewish Women International of Canada's (JWI) third annual Walk for Hope is set this year for April 21.

The walk, which was first held in Montreal, promotes awareness and raises funds for JWI's domestic violence programs.

Walks are set to take place at the same time in Toronto, Montreal, Winnipeg and Vancouver, says Juliette Hershkovich who has chaired the Toronto walk since its inception. "People across the country are walking for the issue."

Penny Krowitz, executive director of JWI/Canada, says there is an ongoing reluctance in the Jewish community to discuss domestic violence.

"People who really know about things do not believe that it goes on in the Jewish community. The truth is, domestic violence happens in our community in the same proportion as in the community at large," says Krowitz.

"There is a *shande* attached to any family breakdown and too many Jewish women feel that if they come forward, they will let their families down.

"It is important to hold events such as this so women know there are resources available to them, and that they are not alone," she says.

JWI's projects include a rabbi's guide to domestic violence, which alerts rabbis to the signs of physical, psychological, financial and sexual abuse, and a guide for community workers.

The organization also distributes a pamphlet titled *Protect Yourself*, which offers concrete advice for any woman who is planning to leave an abuse situation. It is available in such places as doctor's offices, shelters or hospital emergency rooms – "any place where women who need help may gather."

To date, the organization has distributed about 150,000 pamphlets in English, French, Hebrew and Russian.

As well, together with Jewish Family & Child Service, JWI runs ASTEH, Alternative Short Term Emergency Housing, a kosher apartment – there are also apartments in Montreal and Winnipeg – for women who have fled their home and have nowhere else to go.

Alternate arrangements can be made for a woman who comes for help when the apartment is already in use, says Krowitz.

For the first time this year, the walk is a family event, says Krowitz. It takes place at Centerpoint Mall, from 10 a.m. to noon; registration is at 9:30 a.m.

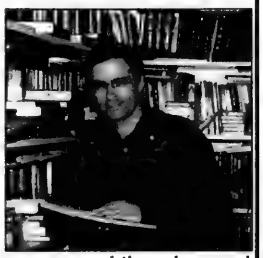
They are planning to have a DJ, face painting, a tattoo artist and special prizes for the first 30 kids who register. Every registrant who obtains $25 in pledges gets a T-shirt.

After signing in, registrants have the choice of taking the simultaneous indoor or outdoor walk, says Krowitz.

For more information or to obtain a pledge form, call JWI at 416-630-9313.

The First Annual
RACHELINE AND GASTON MIZRAHI MEMORIAL LECTURE
Sunday, April 21, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.
Temple Sinai Congregation, 210 Wilson Avenue, Toronto

Rabbi Mordechai Gafni



will discuss

Israel 2002: Spirituality, Crisis and Opportunity

Reception following

Rabbi Gafni, one of Israel's most important young philosophers and spiritual teachers, is an expert in dealing with the emotional pain, associated with living in a time of terrorism and loss. This timely lecture coincides with the week of Israel's Independence Day. The community is invited to attend.

CIRCLE OF CARE: **Circle of Care celebrates the energy and commitment of its volunteers during National Volunteer Week. Irwin Goldstein is happy to receive his kosher Meals on Wheels from Circle volunteers, Lillian Altman, 94, and Zoltan Ziegler, 77. A visit, a meal and a smile come with each delivery. For more information, call Gayle at 416-635-2860.**

The Consulate General of Israel, Toronto

The community is invited to attend a

YOM HAZIKARON ASSEMBLY

in memory of Israel's fallen

Monday, April 15, 2002,
3 Iyar 5762,
7:30 p.m.

Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue
55 Yeomans Rd. *(2 blocks w. of Bathurst, s. of Sheppard)*

REMEMBER

Yom Ha'Zikaron
A Memorial Day ceremony for Israel's fallen soldiers and victims of terror.

Sunday, April 14
at 7:30 pm sharp
Borochov Centre
272 Codsell Ave.
north of Sheppard
at Wilson Heights

The entire community is invited to our Yom Ha'Zikaron memorial organized by Hashomer Hatzair and Habonim Dror.

This event will be an educational experience, as well as a sign of support and solidarity with Israel. Special guest speaker.

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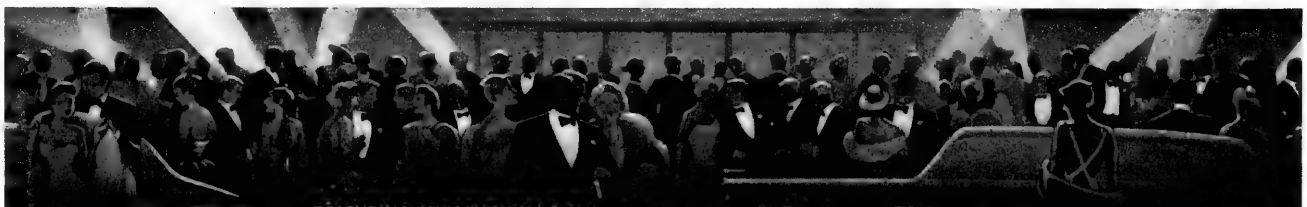

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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

Monday, April 15, is deadline for April 25 issue and Monday, April 22 is deadline for May 2. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, April 11

MONTESSORI OPEN HOUSE

Montessori Jewish Day School open house for the primary (age 2½ to 5) and lower elementary (age 6 to 8) programs, 7 p.m. 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Information or to register. 416-784-5071.

Saturday, April 13

MOSHE SHUR IN CONCERT

Climax of the Hasidic Shabbaton at Beth Tzedec Congregation with renowned scholar-musician **Moshe Shur**. 9 p.m. Held in conjunction with Beth Tzedec Young Members. 416-781-3514, ext. 34.

Sunday, April 14

JEWISH FOLK-LITERATURE

Yiddish Culture Council, Toronto, pubic lecture with **Prof. Dov Noy**. professor of Folklore, Hebrew University, Jerusalem, speaking on Jewish Folk-Literature in Eastern Europe, 8 p.m., at Workmen's Circle, 471 Lawrence Ave. W.

FAITH & SOCIAL JUSTICE

Panel discussion 2 p.m., at First Narayever Congregation, 187 Brunswick Ave. Jewish and Christian activists discuss the personal connections they make between their faith and social justice work. Panelists are Dianne Saxe, Avrum Rosensweig, Susannah Schmidt and Paula Butler. For information, Rebecca Smollett, 416-535-6465.

RUMMAGE SALE

At Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue, 9 a.m. to noon. Children's men's and women's clothing, housewares, toys, books and more. 416-633-5500.

Monday, April 15

ISRAEL AND ITS POSITION

Alex Serota, chartered accountant, speaks on Israel and Its Position, 8 p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. The lecture is sponsored by the Frances Bitterman Memorial Fund.

Tuesday, April 16

AT QUEENS UNIVERSITY

People and Ideas in Jewish History lecture series offered by Queens University Jewish Studies Program focuses on Diaspora Jewish Identities and the Post-Zionist Debate with **Prof. Phil Goldman**, 7:30 p.m., Policy Studies Bldg., Room 202.

BOOK REVIEW

Adath Israel Sisterhood book review series with **Heather Kassel** features *Moonlight on the Avenue of Faith* by **Gina Nahai**, 8 p.m.

Wednesday, April 17

MUSIC AND HISTORY

Music as an accompaniment to history with **Ben Steinberg**, featuring voice, piano and rare tapes. 8 p.m. at Temple Har Zion, 7360 Bayview Ave. Co-sponsored by the music and adult education committees. 905-889-2252.

JWI CHAPTER MEETING

Jewish Women International Markham-Unionville Chapter meeting with special guest speaker. New members welcome. **Sheryl** 905-395-7926 or **Susan** 905-940-0286.

CELEBRATION

Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at Forest Hill Place Retirement Residence, 2 p.m., 645 Castlefield Ave. **Boris Neiman** entertains with his one-man klezmer band. Call **Susan** 416-785-1511 to reserve a seat.

Continued on page 23

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Continued from page 22

Thursday, April 18

WARSAW GHETTO

A memorial meeting marking the 59th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, with ghetto songs and readings, 8 p.m. at Workmen's Circle Centre, 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Sponsored by Workmen's Circle and the Jewish Labour Bund.

JEWISH FOLKLORE

Evil and Justice in Jewish Folklore is the topic **Prof. Dov Noy**, Shoshana Shier Distinguished Visiting Professor of Jewish Studies at the University of Toronto, addresses, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation, 416-781-3511.

KALLAH: THE GATHERING

The Koffler Centre of the Arts, Kolel and the Jewish Community Centres of Toronto cosponsor the 2nd annual Kallah interactive lecture series. Topic is God: Personal Thoughts with **Elie Weisel** and former New York governor **Mario Cuomo** from New York City; Toronto moderator **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein.** Location; Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. For tickets or information, 416-636-1880, ext. 271 or 416-485-7007.

LIFE, LOVE AND DEATH

Poetry reading and book launch, *Dungenessque* by **Ron Charach** and *The Shape of This Dying* by **Harold Heft**, 8 p.m. at Holy Blossom Temple. 416-789-3291.

And What Else Is New

THE SHABBAT EXPERIENCE

Join Jewish Russian Community Centre's Institute of Torah Study 2-part series for men and women on the Shabbat Experience: Its Laws, Customs and Magic with **Rabbi Isser Weisberg**, on Sunday, April 21 and 28 from 8-9:30 p.m. at the JRCC, 18 Rockford Rd. To register or details, **Chana Weisberg**, dean of the institute, 416-222-7105 ext. 30.

THE FLAME WITHIN

A 3-lecture series entitled Rekindling the Flame Within by **Rabbi Michael Skobac** of Jews for Judaism starts off Monday, April 15 with Is Religion Killing Judaism? and continues April 22 with Battle for the Jewish Soul and April 29 with Jews in the Lotus. All programs are at 7:30 p.m. at Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd., Thornhill. 905-889-4975.

EMUNAH WOMEN DINNER

Emunah Women of Toronto annual Mother in Israel dinner, featuring **Leya Aronson**, Wednesday, April 24, at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue at 6:30 p.m. 416-636-0036.

YIDDISH CLASSES

Temple Kol Ami, in Thornhill, offers beginners Yiddish classes starting Monday, April 15 from 7:30-9:30 p.m. The 7-week course, held at 36 Atkinson Ave., is open to those with some knowledge of Yiddish. 905-731-4316.

TORAH IN TORONTO

United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, Canadian Region, its congregations and affiliated organizations, invite the community to join in a study program celebrating the newly published Etz Hayim chumash, Sunday, April 21, at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue. Registration 4 p.m., followed by 2 sessions and dinner. 905-738-1717.

BOOK REVIEW

Adath Sholom Sisterhood book review of *Paradise Park* written by **Allegra Goodman** on Monday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. at 864 Sheppard Ave. W. The book should be read prior to the program. 416-635-0131.

CLUB FOR THE BLIND

The Hebrew Club for the Blind, established almost 50 years ago, provides social programs for visually impaired members. Club meets first Monday of each month at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Club welcomes new members and volunteers of all ages. For membership, **George Kline** 416-633-3524. For general inquiries **Ben Bauer**, coordinator, 905-731-7447.

JF & CS GROUPS

Jewish Family & Child Service groups. Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. Information/registration **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800 ext. 215.

Couple Communication, starts Monday April 15, for 4 sessions; Bereavement: A Discussion Series for Younger Persons Who Have Recently Lost a Spouse, starts Tuesday, April 23 for 6 sessions; Parenting the "Challenging" Child, starts Thursday, April 25 for 6 sessions.

VENDORS WANTED

For Craft and Gift Show Monday, May 20, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Bayview Village Shopping Centre. Sponsored by Clubs Beersheba and Aviva, Na'amat Toronto. 416-636-5425 or 416-633-6538 evenings.

AUDITIONS

The Variety Players (formerly known as the Mel Lastman Players) is holding auditions on Monday, April 15 at 7 p.m. and Thursday, April 18 at 7 p.m. at Adath Sholom Synagogue, 864 Sheppard Ave. W. Looking for singers, dancers, comedians, seamstresses, stagehands.

FOR SENIORS

Beth Tzedec Congregation Senior Haverim meets on Monday, April 15, at 1:30 p.m. Topic is 2000 Years of Judaism in India, illustrated with slides with lecturer **Rochelle Carrady.** 416-781-3511.

LZA Seniors' outing Stage West Dinner Theatre June 26 to see *Joseph*. For information, **Libby** 416-782-2059 or office 416-630-9444. Seniors' Cultural Club meets Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 11, dinner out at Mandarin restaurant; April 18, bingo; April 29, Yom Ha'atzmaut party, music and supper; April 25, political lecture with **Gide Anavi**. For information, **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Saturday dance April 13 and 27, 7:30 p.m.; Casino Rama April 17; Sunday dance with live band. April 21; dancersize class with **Kitty Cohen** every Thursday, 10 a.m. Thousand Island trip, May 28-31. 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Going Down Memory Lane: Canada in the '40s, with **Sidney Soban**, Tuesday, April 16. 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Therapeutic Touch with **Sharon Mehl**, a therapeutic touch practitioner, Tuesday, April 16, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. ext. 126. Book an appointment at ticket sales desk.

Sleep/Wake Disorders Group Tuesday, April 16, when **Cheryl Jessop,** a sleep lab technologist, discusses Are You Getting Enough Sleep? 1:15-2:15 p.m. ext. 126.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speaking people meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. April 16, Yom Ha'atzmaut party; April 21, sing-along; April 30, Thornhill Band concert. Anna, ext. 110.

WAGMAN CENTRE

Wagman Centre, 55 Ameer Ave. 416-785-2500. .

Educational programs, spring session starting the week of April 15: bridge; computer lab; beginner computing, level 1 and 2; intermediate computing; Internet and e-mail. Call **Mara Swartz**, recreation co-ordinator, ext. 2275.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Tickets are now on sale for Rikudiyah 2002-Israeli Dance Festival for Children May 12 at 7 p.m. at York University, Tait McKenzie Building, 4700 Keele St. Co-sponsored by Koffler Centre of the Arts, the BJCC and Toronto Board of Education-UJA Federation. This year's theme is Tikvah L'shalom (Hope for Peace).

Sunday, April 14, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Yom Ha'atzmaut Event at Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum. A day full of Israel-themed activities.

Thursday, April18, annual Kallah Interactive Lecture series, co-sponsored by Koffler Centre of the Arts, Kolel and the JCCs of Toronto. Topic: God: Personal Thoughts. Check What's New for details under the date.

Sunday, April 21. Free bus tour to North York art galleries departing 1 p.m. from Ontario College of Art and Design, 100 McCaul St. and returning to OCAD at 5:30 p.m. To reserve, ext. 270.

Sunday, April 28, Stars of the 21st Century, an international ballet gala, one night only, at Toronto Centre for the Arts. For inquiries, ext. 269 or 271. For tickets, Ticketmaster 416-870-8000.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Toronto Jewish Film Society presents *Maelstrom: A Family Chronicle* (Netherlands, 1998) Sunday, April 14, 5:15 (Film Society members only) and 7:45 p.m. with special guest **Karen Shopsowitz**, Jackman Hall, Art Gallery of Ontario. For more information, call Miles S. Nadal JCC.

Miles S. Nadal JCC and Mount Sinai Hospital health and wellness program, Eat Well, Be Well presents Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus: Are You at Risk? with **Nuryt Raif** and **Debbie Ross** on Sunday, April 14, 1-2 p.m. Register.

Downtown Jewish Community School and Jewish Learning Council Sunday Morning Study Program, Sunday, April 14, 11:30 a.m., features **Rabbi Ed Elkin** of First Narayever Congregation speaking on Traditional Egalitarianism: Can We Reconcile Two Worlds?

Theatre Night Group is going to see the play *Adam Baum and the Jew Movie* at Canadian Stage on Thursday, May 9. Tickets must be booked by Friday, April 19.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 26

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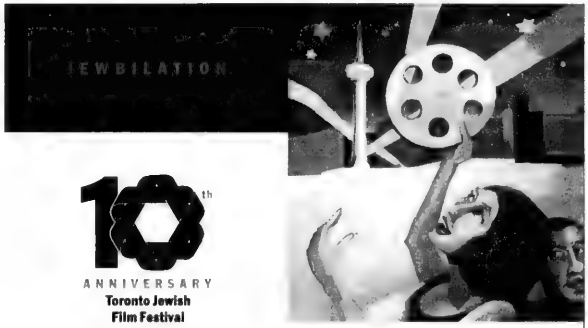
THE 10TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE



10th ANNIVERSARY
Toronto Jewish Film Festival

April 20-28, 2002

BLOOR CINEMA
506 Bloor Street West (@ Bathurst)

In advance
TJFF Box Office, March 19 - April 19
Call 416.324.9121 for info

During the Festival
Bloor Cinema Box Office, April 20 - 28

$18 Opening Night
Schmelvis: Searching for the King's Jewish Roots

$60/$125/$200 Passes
$9 General Admission
$5 Seniors & Students
$5 Weekday Matinees

Film Festival Web site:
www.tjff.com

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Saturday, April 20

8:00 pm - OPENING NIGHT FESTIVITIES
9:15 pm - SCHMELVIS: SEARCHING FOR THE KING'S JEWISH ROOTS
WORLD PREMIERE
CANADA, 2001, 76 min.
Writer / Director: Max Wallace

Was The King of Rock 'n Roll "kosher"? Following up on a Wall Street Journal story that Elvis' great-great grandmother was Jewish, leads a diverse group of Montrealers, including an ultra Orthodox Jewish Elvis impersonator, a Rabbi and the filmmakers, on a quest to Memphis to find out what Elvis' fans think of this revelation. A hoot!
Writer / director / producer Max Wallace, producer Evan M. Beloff and executive producer Ari A. Cohen will be in attendance.

Sunday, April 21

11:00 am - MOTL DER OPERATOR (MOTL THE OPERATOR)
USA, 1939, 88 min.
Yiddish with English subtitles
Director: Joseph Seiden

Newly restored version of a seminal Yiddish classic about a labour dispute in the garment district of New York City.

1:00 pm - FORGING IDENTITY: HISTORY UNDER COVER
FRANCE, 1999, 52 min.
French with English subtitles
Director: Jacques Faick

Adolfo (Joseph) Kaminsky was a real-life master forger who survived the Holocaust and saved thousands of Jews by forging their documents. Utterly compelling.
With the short film KIVNIK (23 min.)

2:45 pm - THE OPTIMISTS: THE STORY OF THE RESCUE OF THE BULGARIAN JEWS FROM THE HOLOCAUST
USA, 2000, 82 min.
Hebrew and Bulgarian with English subtitles
Director : Jacky Comforty

A heartfelt paean to genuine heroism. Why and how did the small country of Bulgaria manage to save all of its 50,000 Jews?

4:45 pm - KINKY FRIEDMAN: PROUD TO BE AN ASSHOLE FROM EL PASO
NETHERLANDS, 2001, 54 min.
Director: Simone de Vries

Kinky Friedman and the Texas Jewboys were a popular '70's country rock band, with protest-inducing ditties like "Ride 'Em, Jewboy", which dealt with the Holocaust. In the 1980's, Friedman remade himself as a murder mystery author and has 15 (to date) novels to his credit. A rich portrait of a true original.

With the short films THE NOSE JOB JEW (5 min.) and MORTIMER GRIFFIN & SHALINSKY (24 min.)
Kinky Friedman may be in attendance.

7:00 pm - THE BELIEVER
USA, 2001, 98 min.
Writer / Director: Henry Bean
Cast: Ryan Gosling, Summer Phoenix, Billy Zane, Theresa Russell

A stunning piece of work. A Nazi skinhead's virulent anti-Semitism disguises the fact that he was born a Jew. As a reporter from The New York Times begins to uncover his secret, he is forced toward a final resolution of his demons.
Warning: Brutal violence
Writer / Director Henry Bean may be in attendance.

9:30 pm - FLORENTENE III
ISRAEL, 1999, 137 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Arik Rothstein

The third and final season of Florentene, Israel's most popular television serial, chronicling the experiences of a group of gay and straight twentysomethings living and loving in Tel Aviv.

Monday, April 22

11:00 am - THE OPTIMISTS: THE STORY OF THE RESCUE OF THE BULGARIAN JEWS FROM THE HOLOCAUST
See Sunday, April 21, 2:45 pm

1:15 pm - KEEP ON WALKING
See Wednesday, April 24, 9:30 pm

3:00 pm - FIGHTER
USA, 2000, 88 min.
English, Czech with English subtitles
Director: Amir Bar-Lev

In the summer of 1988, two Czech-American Holocaust survivors, 72-year-old Arnost Lustig and 77-year-old Jan Wiener, took a trip back to the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Italy, accompanied by a camera crew. A profile of two remarkable men.

5:00 pm - TILL DEATH DO US PART
ISRAEL, 1998, 59 min.
English, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Nili Tal

In 1991, 19-year-old Einav Rogel was brutally murdered by her jealous boyfriend. Powerfully examines hidden domestic violence and asks how and why this case ended in death.
Director Nili Tal will be in attendance.

7:00 pm - LATE MARRIAGE
ISRAEL / FRANCE, 2001, 100 min.
Hebrew, Georgian with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Dover Kosashvili

Handsome, charming and talented, 31-year-old Zaza would seem to have it all, except a wife and children. A ribald, cutting and perceptive film. Winner of nine Israeli Academy Awards.
Warning: This film contains scenes of explicit sex and strong sexuality
With the short film EXPECTING (25 min.)

9:30 pm - SLUMS OF BEVERLY HILLS
USA, 1998, 91 min.
Writer / Director: Tamara Jenkins
Cast: Natasha Lyonne, Alan Arkin, Marisa Tomei, Lisa Kudrow, Carl Reiner

Tamara Jenkins' semi-autobiographical drama stars Alan Arkin as a shady, desperate Beverly Hills salesman, one step ahead of the law and the landlord. A unique, original road movie.
With the short films AVENUE AMY (12 min.) and GRRLYSHOW (18 min.)

Tuesday, April 23

11:00 am - THE BOMBING
ISRAEL, 1999, 59 min.
English, Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Simone Bitton

In 1997, three Palestinian suicide bombers blew themselves up in downtown Jerusalem. Among the five Israelis who died were three teenage girls. Simone Bitton interviews the families of the girls and also those of the terrorists. A hopeful cry for a peace that has yet to be.
With the short film AS IF NOTHING HAPPENED (47 min.)

1:15 pm - TAQASIM
ISRAEL, 2000, 43 min.
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Duki Dror

Israeli violinist Felix Mizrahi retains a strong attachment to his Egyptian roots. He's also haunted by the memory of his older musician brother. When Felix returns to Cairo, he discovers that music has no borders.
With the short film DUST (29 min.)

3:00 p.m. - BROTHER DANIEL – THE LAST JEW
ISRAEL, 2001, 57 min.
Hebrew, German with English subtitles
Director: Amir Gera

Brother Daniel is Oswald Rufeisen, who became Catholic during the war but still maintained that he was born and would die a Jew. His case before the Israeli Supreme Court rocked the nation.
With the short film THE SECRET (47 min.)

5:30 pm - THE ACCUSED
UNITED KINGDOM, 2001, 46 min.
English, Arabic with English subtitles
Producer: Aidan Laverty

In 1982, Christian Lebanese Phalangists massacred more than 800 Palestinian refugees in Israeli-controlled West Beirut. Ariel Sharon, now the Israeli Prime Minister, headed Israel's military at that time. How responsible was he for the bloodbath?
Producer Aidan Laverty will be in attendance.

7:15 pm - MAMADRAMA: THE JEWISH MOTHER IN CINEMA
US / AUSTRALIA, 2001, 73 min.
English, Yiddish, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Monique Schwarz

Why has the Jewish mother been portrayed the way she has, in Yiddish, American and Israeli films? The answers will surprise you. Among the interviewed experts are film critics Michael Medved and J. Hoberman, and directors Paul Mazursky and Larry Peerce.
Director Monique Schwarz will be in attendance.

THE 10TH ANNUAL Toronto Jewish Film Festival

FESTIVAL AT A GLANCE

9:30 pm - **LEO UND CLAIRE**
GERMANY, 2000, 105 min.
German with English subtitles
Director: Joseph Vilsmaier

Leo Katzenberger, a real-life prosperous German Jew, was condemned to death by guillotine in 1934 for an alleged affair with a Christian woman. The Nazis brought Leo to trial under the Nuremberg Laws, which forbade sexual relations between Jews and gentiles. His case became a cause célèbre.
With the short film SILENT SONG (6 min.)

Wednesday, April 24

11:00 am - **UNDERDOGS (TJFF Retro)**
ISRAEL, 1996, 85 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Directors: Doron Tsabari, Rino Tzror

A documentary look at religious divisions, societal expectations and Israel's obsessive sports culture, Underdogs is the fairy tale story of the Beit Shean soccer team, which has made it to Israel's National Soccer League.
With the short film THE WORST JEWISH FOOTBALL TEAM IN THE WORLD (9 min.)

1:00 pm - **LEO UND CLAIRE**
See Tuesday, April 23, 9:30 pm

3:00 pm - **"TERRORISTS" IN RETIREMENT**
FRANCE, 1983, 83 min.
French with English subtitles
Director: Mosco Boucault

Banned in France! The Nazis executed 24 mostly Jewish Resistance fighters in 1944, in France. Condemned as "Jewish, foreign–born communists and terrorists"—although they never targeted civilians—the men were abandoned and possibly betrayed by the French Resistance and the French Communist party.
With the short film 1939 (9 min.)

5:15 pm - **A BOMB IN THE BASEMENT: ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR OPTION**
ISRAEL, 2001, 79 min.
English, Hebrew, French with English subtitles
Director: Michael Karpin

A controversial and riveting documentary about secret contacts, skullduggery and personal infighting. It dispels the myth of Israeli nuclear confidence even as it lays out the urgency Israeli leaders felt about getting nuclear weaponry to stave off its hostile Arab neighbours.
Director Michael Karpin will be in attendance.

7:15 pm - **THE MAD ADVENTURES OF 'RABBI' JACOB**
FRANCE, 1974, 96 min.
French with English subtitles
Director: Gérard Oury

This uproarious comedy about a bigoted French businessman who is forced to pose as a Chasidic Rabbi stars Louis de Funès, one of France's most beloved performers. In its rarely seen subtitled version.
With the short film LA VIE, LA MORT ET LE FOOT (8 min.)

9:30 pm - **KEEP ON WALKING**
USA, 2000, 52 min.
Directors: Freke Vuijst, Tana Ross, Jesper Sorensen, Vibeke Winding

Joshua Nelson is a gospel singer, preacher and African-American Jew. Raised by his Jewish mother, he's managed to integrate his religion and profession as he travels from his home in Newark, New Jersey, spreading his word throughout the U.S. and beyond. It's a fascinating musical journey.
Joshua Nelson will be in attendance.

Thursday, April 25

11:00 am - **AUTUMN SUN (TJFF Retro)**
ARGENTINA, 1996, 103 min.
Spanish with English subtitles
Director: Eduardo Mignogna

Norma Aleandro stars as an independent but lonely Jewish single woman living in Buenos Aires. Anticipating a visit from her judgmental brother from Boston, she advertises for a Jewish boyfriend in the personals. A Movies 4 Mommies programme.

1:00 pm - **A JEWISH WEDDING (TJFF Retro)**
UK, 1997, 50 min.
Director: Stephen Walker

She's Jewish, he's not. Their impending nuptials provide a quirky window on one couple's inter-marriage experiences.
With the short film CHICKS IN WHITE SATIN (30 min.)

3:00 pm - **L'CHAYIM, COMRADE STALIN!**
USA, 2002, 94 min.
English, Russian, Yiddish with English subtitles
Director: Yale Strom

Twenty years before the birth of modern Israel, Stalin established the Jewish Autonomous Region of Birobidzhan in the Soviet Union's Far East. It survives to this day.
Director Yale Strom will be in attendance.

5:30 pm - **TED ALLAN: MINSTREL BOY OF THE 20TH CENTURY**
CANADA, 2002, 57 min.
Directors: Merrily Weisbord, Tanya Ballantyne Tree

The late Ted Allan was a renowned playwright, screenwriter and author. Footage of Allan's readings, and his own comments on his career and life, create a unique portrait of a unique individual in this director's cut.
Co-director Merrily Weisbord, a close friend of Ted Allan, will be in attendance.

7:15 pm - **CLEAN SWEEP (MARS TURKY)**
ISRAEL, 2000, 94 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Oded Davidoff

A salacious, offbeat and very twisted cop drama. Clean Sweep opens with two uniquely vicious murders and then segues into an explosive thriller. From the new generation of Israeli filmmakers.
With the short film JAILBIRDS (15 min.)

9:30 pm - **SOBIBOR, OCTOBER 14, 1943, 4 PM**
Co – presented with Cinematheque Ontario
FRANCE, 2001, 97 min.
French, Hebrew with English subtitles
Director: Claude Lanzmann

A story of genuine heroism. Jewish prisoners led by a Soviet Red Army officer killed 12 German guards at the Sobibor concentration camp, freeing 365 inmates, in October 1943. One of the rebellion's leaders, Yehuda Lerner, was interviewed in depth in 1979 by director Claude Lanzmann.

Friday, April 26

11:00 am - **A TICKLE IN THE HEART (TJFF Retro)**
GERMANY/USA, 1996, 84 min.
Director: Stephan Schwietert

Max, Willie and Julie Epstein, three elderly New York brothers, were once the top klezmorim around. Genuine characters and terrific raconteurs, the Epsteins play, sing and perform, nowhere more touchingly than in Berlin.

1:00 pm - **SOBIBOR, OCTOBER 14, 1943, 4 PM**
See Thursday, April 25, 9:30 pm

3:00 pm - **MY DEAR CLARA**
CANADA, 2001, 48 min.
Director: Garry Beitel

When Montrealer Clara Greenspan, director Beitel's aunt, died, he found a cache of letters written to her husband Chaim Blum, whom she had married in Berlin. Theirs was a love story via the mail, which told of a separation caused by Canada's stringent, sexist and anti-Semitic immigration laws.
Director Garry Beitel will be in attendance.
With the short film TSIPA AND VOLF (20 min.)

5:00 pm - **BLACKS AND JEWS (TJFF Retro)**
USA, 1996, 85 min.
Directors: Alan Snitow/Deborah Kaufman

Once staunch allies, the Jewish and Black communities in the US have undergone strains and tensions in their relationships. Shines a light on an underreported, occasionally shameful reality.

Saturday, April 27

9:15 pm - **TIME OF FAVOR (HAHESDER)**
ISRAEL, 2001, 94 min.
Hebrew with English subtitles
Writer / Director: Joseph Cedar

Director Joseph Cedar, an Orthodox Jew, does not ignore the perils of fanaticism. His award-winning Time of Favour postulates the unthinkable: a plot by religious Jews to destroy the fabled Al-Aqsa Mosque. One of the more original and acclaimed Israeli films of recent years.
With the short film QUESTIONS (17 min.)

Sunday, April 28

12:00 noon - **THE INNER TOUR**
Co-presented with Hot Docs
An Israeli-Palestinian co-production,
2001, 99 min.
Hebrew, Arabic with English subtitles
Director: Ra'anan Alexandrowicz

Before the current round of Israeli-Palestinian violence, the only way for ordinary Palestinians who didn't work in Israel to visit the country was to take a guided tour. A fascinating account of one such "sightseeing" trip undertaken in 2000. In the vein of Promises, an evocative plea for peace.

2:30 pm - **JE ME SOUVIENS**
CANADA, 2002, 45 min.
French with English subtitles
Director: Eric R. Scott

The hateful language of Quebec nationalist icon Lionel Groulx and scholar Esther Délisle's exposé of the man's racism, are among the touchstones of this probing film, which begins in the 1930's and moves to the present.
Director Eric R. Scott will be in attendance.
With the short film THE STREET (10 min.)

4:15 pm - **MINYAN IN KAIFENG**
USA, 2001, 73 min.
English, Chinese with English subtitles
Directors: Steven Calcote, Jonathan Shulman
Narrated by Leonard Nimoy

What is a Jew? In 1997, twelve young Jews from the USA, Israel and Australia, all living in China, decided to find out what remained of the ancient Jewish community of Kaifeng in northern China.
With the short film UNHEARD VOICES (11 min.)

6:30 pm - **STRANGE FRUIT**
USA, 2001, 57 min.
Director: Joel Katz
Narrated by Dorothy Thigpen

Few people know that singer Billie Holiday's "Strange Fruit", the controversial song about the shameful lynching of Afro-Americans, was written by a Jewish schoolteacher from the Bronx named Abel Meeropol. That's only one fascinating fact revealed in Joel Katz's illuminating look at one of the most disquieting and impactful songs ever to emerge from popular culture.
With the short film A RIGHTEOUS MAN: NELSON MANDELA AND THE JEWS OF SOUTH AFRICA (24 min.)

8:45 pm - **THE GREY ZONE**
USA, 2001, 108 min.
Writer / Director: Tim Blake Nelson
Cast: David Arquette, Steve Buscemi, Harvey Keitel, Mira Sorvino, and Daniel Benzali

Director/actor Tim Blake Nelson's ("O, Brother, Where Art Thou?") devastating film focuses on the 12th Sonderkommando unit at Auschwitz, which revolted against their Nazi masters in 1944, destroying half of the camp's ovens. Superbly acted, The Grey Zone is one of the finest, most humane and important Holocaust movies ever made.
Warning: This film contains scenes of brutal violence.

FREE 10TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAMMES

Saturday, April 27, 12 noon - 6:00 pm
"SATURDAY AT THE FESTIVAL" – storytelling, workshops, presentations

Sunday, April 28, 10:30 am
"A Century of Jewish Movie Posters" – Slide Presentation

check www.tjff.com for up-to-date information

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"Is Peace In Israel Possible with the Present Government?"

"Israel And Its Position"

Monday April 15th, 2002 8:00 p.m.

Featuring

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"Israel Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow and Forever"

Monday April 22nd, 2002 8:00 p.m.

Featuring

Professor Libby Garshowitz
Professor Emeritus, Department of Near and Middle Eastern Civilizations at the University of Toronto.

The Beth Tikvah Family and the Community are cordially invited to attend.

Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

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Deadline: Wednesday, 4 p.m.
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For rates or to place an ad, please call
(416) 391-8836
The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

Coffee, Tea & Film. Join Beth Tzedec and Intersynagogue Singles **Saturday, April 20** for a special showing of **OCEAN'S 11** starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts. 9:30 p.m., 1700 Bathurst Street, $7 at door. For all Singles — 416-781-3514, ext. 34.

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel
in conjunction with
the Intersynagogue Singles
presents
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At our Sunday Brunch for Singles 35+ at 11:30 a.m.
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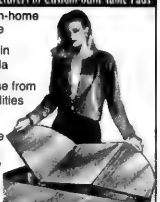

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On Campus

Small Jewish-Muslim group meets near U of T

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Two graduate students – one a Conservative rabbi, the other a Canadian-born Muslim – have created what they call a reading circle, in which a small group of Jews and Muslims study and discuss mystical texts from their respective faiths.

Rabbi Aubrey Glazer, 31, and Atif Khalil, 26, met – aptly – at the Centre for the Study of Religion at the University of Toronto.

Although they had discussed the possibility of some sort of dialogue group for a year or so after they met, they agree that it's likely the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 were the catalyst that kick-started their project.

But there is "an unspoken agreement that we never engage in politics. We're there to explore the religion of the heart," said Rabbi Glazer in a joint interview with Khalil at Hart House. "Our hope is that through engaging in the common path of these religions of the heart, we'll be able to come with new eyes to the political [aspect]."

The events of Sept. 11 "made us realize even more, how important something like this was," said Khalil, who has started his PhD in Medieval Islamic Philosophy and Sufism (Islamic mysticism). He added that he believes there was greater receptivity to the group in the wake of the attacks on the United States.

At the group's most recent meeting, held in March near the U of T campus, Khalil and Rabbi Glazer, who facilitate the discussions, were joined by two Jewish participants. The meeting was atypical, they said, both in size and composition. Past meetings have had up to 13 participants, with the majority of them Muslim. Most are graduate students, some are members of the community.

The meetings begin and end with a prayer and a prolonged moment of silence. As a rule, an hour is devoted to Muslim texts, and an hour to Jewish ones.

"I'm proud of this group," said Franci Williams, the senior participant of the small group by more than a decade. "I think it's a mitzvah. I'm extremely interested in mystical text. The political statement that we're making in terms of the closeness that we're achieving – we're expressing our humanity together."

"I don't know of any group in Israel that is like this," said Israeli-born Gur Zak, 26, a PhD student in medieval and renaissance studies.

Rabbi Glazer knew of one, but Zak found the idea hard to fathom because, in Israel, "religion is so connected with politics."

The Sufi texts and three from Rabbi Abraham Isaac HaCohen Kook, the first chief rabbi of Israel – which were the basis for that evening's discussion – examine concepts like love, good and evil. Participants spent the evening analyzing and discussing in a way that was almost palpably gentle. A sense of calm prevailed around the table.

Any conclusions relating to politics were implicit, not expressed aloud. But at the meetings, generally, there is "a sense that when you sit around a table together, drinking tea [and having this kind of dialogue], that this is the most real thing there is," said Rabbi Glazer.

CJN town hall meeting to address anti-Semitism on campus

TORONTO — Three speakers will address the issue of anti-Semitism on campus at a town hall meeting being sponsored by *The Canadian Jewish News* on May 7 at the Barbara Frum Library.

Michael Jankelowitz, Washington, D.C.-based director, of Campus Israel Affairs, Hillel and representative of the Jewish Agency of Israel, will deliver the keynote address at the Tuesday evening event titled Anti-Semitism on Campus: Helping our Students Cope. He will talk from a global perspective.

Joining him will be Zac Kaye, executive director of Jewish Campus Services of Greater Toronto, which is helping to facilitate the event. Kaye will focus on the local situation and the needs of Jewish students in order to respond. There will also be a student on the panel, and *CJN* editor Mordechai Ben-Dat will moderate.

"It's a devastating time," Kaye said in an interview last week. "Even though the campus year will be over [in May], the forum will provide us with an important opportunity to assess what has been happening on campuses worldwide and locally, and to evaluate what we as a Jewish campus community have been doing in a proactive manner, as well as reacting to the negative views on Israel. It will allow us to learn some lessons of this past year as we begin to prepare for the upcoming academic year."

Kaye, whose career as a Jewish campus professional dates back to 1983 and spans three continents, said the situation is not the worst he's seen. "In Canada there's still a semblance of equanimity – the Canadian sense of fair play – but it's diminishing."

In the year and a half since the intifadah began, the atmosphere on campus has become "more charged with overt hostility toward Jews, not just toward Israel," said Ben-Dat. The hostility is particularly pronounced in Europe, but Canada is not exempt, he added.

"It takes great personal courage and personal presence to be able to withstand that kind of hostile peer pressure on campus," Ben-Dat said.

The upcoming event will be the fifth in a series of town hall meetings and round table discussions initiated by the newspaper in October 1998.

– F.K.

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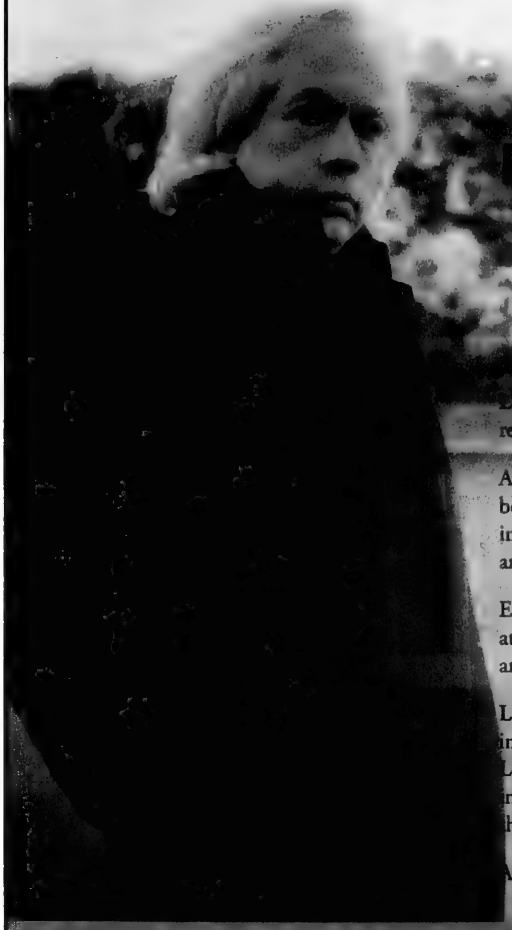

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BENI GESUNDHEIT, M.D.
Research Fellow in Hematology Oncology at the Hospital for Sick Children • Ph.D. Candidate Jewish Medical Ethics, University of Toronto

12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Learn
Stem Cell Research: Medical Miracle and/or Moral Meltdown
RABBI EDWARD REICHMAN, M.D.
Attending Physician, Montefiore Medical Centre, N.Y. • Assistant Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

2:00 p.m.
The Ethical Aftermath of 9/11: Risk Taking, Triage and DNA Evidence in Jewish Law
RABBI EDWARD REICHMAN, M.D.
AVRAHAM STEINBERG, M.D.

3:15 p.m.
Care, Consent and Capacity: The Treatment of Dementia
NATHAN HERRMANN, M.D., FRCP(C)
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Coast to Coast

Canada's Mideast comments under fire

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Canadian Jewish leaders expressed frustration, disappointment and bewilderment at last week's pronouncements by Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham on the escalating crisis in Israel.

Jewish officials are seeking an urgent meeting with Graham to clarify Canada's stand, which has become increasingly critical of Israel over the past 10 days, beginning with an April 1 policy statement from the Department of Foreign Affairs that condemned Israel for its "disproportionate use" of military force against Palestinians.

Jewish leaders say this country is not offering any alternatives to the violence, and is being hypocritical in its condemnation of Israel's fight against terrorism just as Canadian soldiers pursue terrorists in Afghanistan.

After a conspicuous period of silence, Canada weighed in on the violence.

First, Graham, in an April 2 conference call with reporters, including one from *The CJN*, said Canada backs a United Nations resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from Palestinian cities. At the same time, he accused Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat of sabotaging peace efforts for failing to stop, or even condemn, suicide attacks against Israeli civilians.

Graham's remarks were described as "baffling and contradictory" by the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC).

Two days later, Chrétien, while on an official visit to Morocco, bluntly called on Israel to pull its troops from Palestinian cities and towns and return to a "dialogue" with the Palestinians.

While acknowledging that the situation facing Israeli civilians is "terrifying," Chrétien rebuked Israel for failing to comply with UN Resolution 1402, which calls for a ceasefire by both sides, and the withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian cities, including Ramallah.

Said Chrétien: "There are a lot of civilians dying on both sides... If you live in Israel, and people come and blow themselves up in front of families and so on, it's extremely terrifying. But on the other hand, they have to [return to] dialogue and they should respect the resolution of the United Nations that has asked the tanks to go back on the other side of the border. The violence will lead nowhere."

The prime minister called on Palestinian authorities to "convince" potential suicide bombers that their actions will lead "nowhere." He also endorsed the establishment of a Palestinian state "eventually, as soon as possible."

Joseph Wilder, national chair of the CIC, told *The CJN* that while he's "appreciative" that Chrétien understands the plight of Israelis "and that he recognized [Israel's] initial need to respond," the prime minister's remarks are nonetheless "unfortunate and not going to be helpful."

Chrétien, said Wilder, doesn't take into account that should Israel leave Palestinian areas, "nothing would be achieved because the Palestinians would see it as defeat for Israel, just as they perceived Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon as a defeat."

Wilder suggested Chrétien "ought to be suggesting an alternative."

Keith Landy, national president of Canadian Jewish Congress, used blunter language.

"This is a clear-cut issue," he told *The CJN*. "There can't be any distinction between what any other other democratic country is obliged to do in the war against terrorism and what Israel is doing now. This is hardly the time for Canada to be seeking to play its traditional [even-handed] role."

Canada's Jewish community "needs its government to be forthright and give its full support to Israel. There's no room for hypocrisy or double standards. When you're dealing with 26 deaths at a Passover seder or 19 deaths in a discotheque [resulting from suicide bombings], all bets are off. At this point, Israel is obliged to do what any democratic country is obliged to do, which is hunt down murderers."

In his call with reporters, Graham warned that Israel's "disproportionate use of force and the reoccupation of Palestinian-controlled areas will lead to further violence." He did not define what a proportionate response would be.

Canada "totally condemns" suicide bomb attacks, which are "an affront to everyone and an affront to the attempt to make peace.

"I think the suicide bomber attacks make Israel naturally react to defend itself... and then that starts a process going again that makes it much more difficult to achieve peace."

(Later in the week, Graham came out in full support of U.S. President George W. Bush's call for an immediate Mideast ceasefire.)

Graham also accused Arafat of talking about peace in English, while refusing to tell his followers in Arabic that suicide bombings must end. "This is where we have a real dispute with Chairman Arafat," Graham said.

And he cast doubt on Israel's strategy: "I don't think Israel, by rooting out Mr. Arafat, is going to accomplish the end game of peace."

Responding to a question from *The CJN*, Graham said he was postponing his trip to the Middle East, tentatively scheduled for later this month, saying that "I would prefer to go when it can be useful."

In a statement, Wilder said he was "baffled by the inherent contradictions" in Graham's approach.

While Graham affirmed Israel's right to self-defence, "he then turns around and faults Israel for exercising this right of self-defence by going after the sources of terrorism in the same way that Canadian and U.S. forces are seeking to defeat terrorism in Afghanistan," Wilder said.

He added that Graham can't claim Palestinian suicide bombings are designed to destroy the peace process, and then blame Israel's presence in the West Bank – "meant only to stop these suicide bombings – for making prospects for peace impossible."

Coast to Coast

Canada-Israel trade doubles in last five years

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Two-way trade between Canada and Israel broke the $1 billion mark last year for the first time, recently released figures show.

Since the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement (CIFTA) came into force a little over five years ago, bilateral trade has doubled, while Canadian exports to Israel have jumped by more than 30 per cent.

Last year was a milestone. Canadian exports to Israel totalled over $350 million in 2001, while imports from Israel were valued at above $600 million. The free trade deal does not cover services, which were estimated at over $100 million last year.

According to a report entitled *The CIFTA at 5 Years: Celebrating a Quiet Success*, put out by Canada's department of foreign affairs and international trade, the free trade pact, in light of similar deals between Israel and the United States, and Israel and the European Union, "has created a more level playing field for Canadian exports."

Canada's major exports to Israel, the report states, have been machinery, electrical equipment, engine parts, aluminum, paper and paperboard, wood pulp, cereals, sulphur and asbestos, optical measuring and checking equipment, and wood and synthetic fibres.

Canada's imports from Israel, meantime, have doubled over the last five years. Diamonds, mechanical and electrical machinery and equipment make up the bulk of this country's imports from Israel.

Under the agreement, tariffs have been eliminated on virtually all manufactured goods. As well, 80 per cent of agricultural and agri-food products are duty-free or at a reduced tariff.

Certain dairy, poultry and egg products are excluded from the agreement, at Canada's request, while some textiles are not covered, at Israel's request.

"We are pleased but not complacent," Benjamin Noy, Israel's trade commissioner to Canada, told *The CJN*. "We see a lot of progress still ahead. We believe the potential is much higher," especially in joint ventures.

Noy added that the real trade figures are higher than those reflected in official statistics because they include exchanges of know-how and computer software.

The increased trade last year over the year before is all the more remarkable given the worldwide economic slowdown, Noy said.

Negotiations between the two countries continue to knock down more duties on agricultural and food products.

A major success story has been in the area of Canadian pet foods, which, as a result of free trade, have captured a large share of the Israeli market. Loblaws' President's Choice brand pet food has reached eight per cent penetration of Israeli private-label sales, and is the leading President's Choice product in Israel.

The federal report states that excellent opportunities for Canadian businesses in the Israeli market lie in information and communication technology, and transportation. Good opportunities also exist in aerospace, construction and the environment

Another success story between the two countries has been the construction of Israel's first all-electronic toll highway. In 1998, Derech Eretz Ltd., an international consortium, was awarded the $1.2 billion contract to design, finance, build and operate the 86-kilometre Cross-Israel Highway, with the Canadian Highways International Consortium (CHIC) as a one-third equal partner. CHIC built the world's first electronic toll road, Highway 407, north of Toronto.

The Israeli highway is slated to open in 2004.

Meantime, the Canada-Israel Industrial Research & Development Foundation (CIIRDF), established in 1994 to promote joint research and development, has invested more than $15 million in nearly 40 projects. Of those, seven have returned royalties totally nearly $1 million to the foundation.

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MONTREAL — The Israel Postal Authority is creating a special postmark to commemorate its participation in the Laval Stamp Expo April 19-21, sponsored in collaboration with the Canadian Stamp Dealers Association and the Philatelic Federation of Quebec.

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At that time, Israel released a special showcard that commemorated Canada Post's new Holocaust stamp.

The first 200 visitors to the Israel booth at the Laval Stamp Expo on Friday and Sunday will be given a free Israeli souvenir sheet. The booth will display the latest stamps issued by Israel, which may be purchased at face value.

Stamps will be cancelled with the souvenir postmark on the same days. The Israel booth will be closed on Saturday.

Older stamps from Israel will be on sale at the Judaica Sales Reg'd. booth, the largest Israel stamp dealer in Canada.

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Session 2 (5:40 – 6:40 p.m.)

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b) **Rabbi Aubrey Glazer:** When Water separates from Water – What happens when flood stories meet?
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One clarifying report amid many

According to Reports

By PAUL MICHAELS

With the flood of analyses and commentaries bombarding us about Israel at this perilous moment in its history, it is essential to sift through the torrent in order to find that rare gem that yields clarity.

Tom Friedman of the *New York Times* provided this insight in his March 31 column, "Suicidal lies." It should be required reading for everyone, especially those journalists who insist on spreading the blame evenly between Israelis and the Palestinian leaders for the horrific state of violence; who insist that there is a "cycle of violence," implying a moral equivalence between Palestinian terrorism and Israel's defensive actions; and who, having been influenced by the TV images of Israel's military operations in the territories, quickly forget the cause of the operations – terrorism – and end up placing the onus on Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon instead of on the principal culprit, Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Friedman's article offers a corrective to all the above distortions and more. It brilliantly sets the record straight: there is simply no excuse for the Palestinians to lash out with violence and terrorism, which is all too often rationalized by some members of the media romantically imbued with liberation struggles – even those led by corrupt autocrats – as "justified resistance to occupation."

As Friedman explains, in July 2000 at Camp David, then prime minister Ehud Barak offered Arafat the chance for Palestinian statehood in virtually all of the West Bank and Gaza. Arafat rejected the offer, made no counter proposal, and a mere two months later began a campaign of violence. The violence was not about "occupation" (except if that word means, as it does for an increasing number of Palestinians, "all of Palestine" including Israel).

Rather, as Friedman put it, "The world must understand that the Palestinians have not chosen suicide bombing out of 'desperation' stemming from the Israeli occupation. That is a huge lie. Palestinians have adopted suicide bombing as a strategic choice. This threatens all civilization because if suicide bombing is allowed to work in Israel, then, like hijacking and airplane bombing, it will be copied and eventually lead to a bomber strapped with a nuclear device threatening entire nations. That is why the the whole world must see this Palestinian suicide strategy defeated."

Today Arafat is doing to Israel what he previously did to Jordan and then to Lebanon – wreaking havoc and destruction and, through a strategic miscalculation of historic dimensions, leading his people, once again, into a black hole. Tragically, he's taking Israelis, including those who had once been prepared to compromise with him, down there as well.

Sadly, frustratingly, for many – even for those who admit Arafat is "untrustworthy" and a "liar" (as he lied to U.S. President George W. Bush about his involvement in the Karine-A heavy arms shipment) – Arafat is viewed as a victim rather than the architect of his own misfortune, and the cause of an incredible, totally unnecessary amount of suffering for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Paul Michaels is the director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

Modern anti-Semitism is largely an Arab phenomenon, says prof.

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — On the subject of modern-day anti-Semitism, there's good news and there's bad news, says Aron Rodrigue, professor of history and Jewish studies at Stanford University.

The good news, he said, is that in the western world, anti-Semitism is no longer a significant and dangerous threat. The bad news is that the Arab world has taken over that vitriol, and its anti-Jewish resentment may have a long and bitter future.

Rodrigue, an author and scholar of ancient and modern Jewish history, delivered this message last month at Vancouver's Temple Sholom as part of the community's Chicken Soup for the Mind lecture series.

"There are no easy answers [to modern-day anti-Semitism,]" he said, before delving into the history of the term and its evolution over time.

The disturbing fact about anti-Semitism in the Arab world today is that historically, it's been a western phenomenon with no Arab equivalent, Rodrigue said.

"The irony of the situation is that Europe, which manufactured anti-Semitism, has exported it to areas where before there was none," he said. "When countries as far away as Pakistan are buying the panoply of the Jewish conspiracy theories, it's dangerous."

The establishment of the State of Israel has everything to do with the transference of anti-Semitism to the Arab world, and that's ironic too, Rodrigue said, because Israel was created to solve the problem.

But Israel has become a scapegoat for the Arab world's troubles. The overshadowing of Arab culture by the West is one source of resentment, which becomes focused on Israel, Rodrigue said.

You don't have to look far to find manifestations of Arab anti-Semitism, he said. "Just look in the newspaper. They don't use the word Israelis, they use the word Jews."

Asked how anti-Semitism in its modern form can be reduced or eliminated, Rodrigue shook his head sorrowfully.

"There's no easy answer. The way to make anti-Semitism less acute in the Arab world is to reach a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli problem, to remove it from being a constant irritant," he said.

"Jews make a mistake by trying to use logic to untangle anti-Semitism," he added. "It makes more sense to realize that anti-Semitism exists in a spectrum, and it's not coherent."

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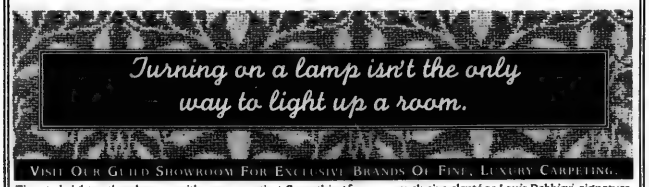

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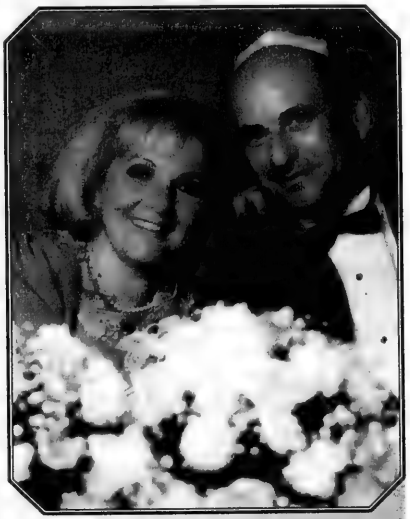


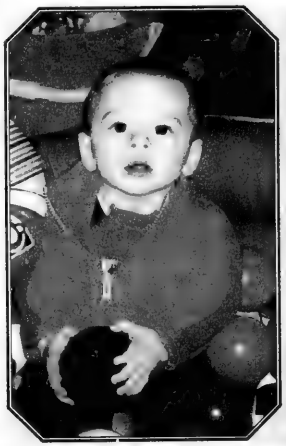
Mazel tov Joan & Barry Kofsky on their 25th anniversary. Love from Sherri, Pam & Steven, Karen & Jay, Lauren, Courtney, Ryan & Jordana.

Mazel tov to Robin & Steve on the birth of Jared Ryan Kagan. With love from Bubbie Marcia and Zaida Gary.

Mazel tov to Jennifer Shneer & Manny Maya on their engagement. Parents are Helen & Harold Shneer and Lea Maya.

Mazel tov to Karen and Rob on their engagement.

Mazel tov Shija & Janet Berger on your 60th wedding anniversary. With lots of love from your children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



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Sharon seeks summit with 'moderate' Arab leaders

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Ariel Sharon told a special session of the Knesset on Monday that he was willing to meet "moderate" Arab leaders at a summit to hold peace talks "without any preconditions," and that once the IDF's operation in the territories ended, the army would withdraw to "specified" border locations.

"I am ready to go at any time and to any place to negotiate peace without any conditions," the prime minister said.

Referring to the Saudi initiative, Sharon said it had a "positive element," but that it would remain "empty of content" without dialogue between the sides. "No one side can impose terms on the other," he said.

But Sharon, who said he would discuss his plan with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell, who arrived earlier this week in the region, made it clear Israel could not agree to the return of refugees to its territory.

Brandishing documents that he said linked Palestinian Authority Yasser Arafat to terrorist acts, Sharon began his address saying the Palestinian leader had created a "regime of terror" that systematically trained and dispatched terrorists to kill Israelis.

Sharon said the IDF's invasion of the West Bank was always intended to be "temporary," but that the operation would continue until the "terror infrastructure" in the territories had been dismantled. "We have no intention of permanently conquering the Palestinian cities. After the operation has been completed, the IDF will withdraw to specified buffer zones."

In a speech interrupted by stormy interjections from both left and right, the prime minister said Arafat was behind "gangs of murderers" that sought to drive Israelis from their homes, and that he was the dispatcher of the attacks that had rocked Israel for months.

Departing from Knesset practice in presenting documents before the parliament, Sharon said that, "What began as a fear and grew stronger into a suspicion, has turned into a solid fact that no one can deny: Arafat has established in the area under his rule a regime of terror, which in a governmental and organized manner trains terrorists... funds, equips and arms them, sends them into operations of killing across Israel."

He said one of the documents, which he said was captured in Arafat's office, showed the "price list of terrorism," with such listings as the cost of a suicide bombing operation.

Another document, Sharon said, was a letter addressed to "the fighting President, brother Abu Amar [Arafat]," asking for allocations of $1,500 for a number of Fatah militants, including at least one killed by Israeli forces. Yet another request for funds for fighters came from West Bank Fatah senior official Marwan Barghouti.

"The gangs of murderers have a leader... and the aim is to force us out of here," Sharon said. "The one who sends them is the head of the Palestinian Authority, Yasser Arafat."

(Arafat has repeatedly denied such accusations in the past, and has accused Sharon of using "terror tactics" as Israel tried to put down the Palestinian uprising.)

Addressing the Palestinian people, Sharon said: "We have no war against you and we do not want to control you. We want to live with you, side by side, with dignity and honour. [But] you must take your fate in your hands... You must reject the forces that have brought upon you catastrophe."

Toward the end of his address, Sharon announced his intention to add three new cabinet ministers, hardliners Effi Eitam and Yitzhak Levy of the National Religious Party and right-centrist David Levy of Gesher, a move which has sparked debate within Labor over whether to remain in the coalition.

Ron Arad had surgery in Lebanese hospital, court told

Ha'aretz Daily News Ltd.

BEIRUT — In the first indication in years that Ron Arad may still be alive, an alleged Israeli spy has provided information that the missing Israeli airman was operated on in a hospital, court documents show.

The reference to Arad, whose warplane was downed over Lebanon in 1986, came in a charge sheet demanding the death penalty for six Lebanese who are in military custody for allegedly spying for Israel.

Beirut newspapers published the full text of the charge sheet last week.

The charge sheet claimed that one of the alleged spies, Imad Hussein al-Rizz, who worked at the Middle East Hospital in south Beirut, had received information from a doctor at the same hospital that Arad was alive and had been operated on at Al-Ahly Hospital in eastern Lebanon.

Al-Rizz also allegedly learned that Arad had been transferred to the nearby Baalbek Hospital. Baalbek is a Hezbollah guerrilla stronghold.

Al-Rizz went to Italy in February and passed the information to an Israeli intelligence contact, receiving $3,000 (US) cash in return, the charges allege.

It was not clear when Arad was allegedly operated on or transferred or what surgery was performed.

But the claims marked the first time in years that specific information has been divulged about the Israeli airman, whose plane went down in southern Lebanon in October 1986 when a bomb on his jet went off prematurely. The pilot was rescued in a daring operation, but Arad was captured by Lebanese guerrillas, who reportedly gave him to Iranian agents.

The leader of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrillas, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, has said he has no details on Arad's whereabouts. He has previously promised to try to uncover Arad's fate so Hezbollah could trade him for Lebanese and other Arab prisoners in Israeli jails.

The charge sheet names the alleged members of the Israeli spy ring, which includes Hassan Hashem, a former prominent official of the Syrian-backed Shiite Muslim Amal militia.

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IDF decides on limited draft of senior reserve officers in north

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — The IDF decided late Sunday on a limited draft of senior reserve officers to provide reinforcement for soldiers on Israel's northern border.

Seven soldiers were injured by Hezbollah fire that day.

Senior Syrian and Lebanese sources in Damascus and Beirut said Sunday that they have no control over the militant Hezbollah organization, and rejected demands by the George W. Bush administration to restrain the group and thus prevent further escalation on Israel's northern border.

Lebanese leaders noted that they oppose actions currently taken by Hezbollah, including those in the Shaba Farms and Har Dov. Sources in Damascus said Syria is not interested in an escalation of tensions, and "does not control the situation."

A member of the U.S. administration estimated that Hezbollah had recently received large weapons caches from Iran, some of which Syria did not know about.

Seven IDF soldiers were wounded Sunday in two separate attacks by Hezbollah on Israeli military targets along the northern border.

Two were wounded in the afternoon – one moderately and the second lightly – when Hezbollah guerrillas fired mortars and anti-tank missiles at their IDF post in the Har Dov region. A short time later, five more soldiers were injured, two moderately and three lightly, when mortar shells were fired at an IDF outpost in Moshav Avivim, in the Upper Galilee.

The IDF troops replied with artillery shells, leading to a heavy exchange of fire. IAF helicopters were also mobilized in the area.

Hezbollah guerrillas have repeatedly fired at IDF posts over the past week. It claims that Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000 is incomplete and that the Har Dov area is Lebanese territory given to the country by Syria.

The United Nations, however, has recognized Israel's pullout from Lebanon after 18 years as complete and maintains that negotiations over the disputed region should be carried out between Israel and Syria.

Four Palestinians were detained by the Lebanese army for firing on an IDF post in the Arab village of Ghajar, Lebanese security officials said Sunday. When Hezbollah gunmen opened fire on the IDF post in Ghajar, five Israeli Arabs were injured Saturday evening. Three of the injured were members of one family, including a three-year-old boy who was taken by helicopter to the Rambam hospital in Haifa.

Hezbollah militants also fired on two other posts along Israel's northern border, one in the western Galilee area, and one in the Mount Hermon area. IDF troops returned fire.

For the first time since the IDF withdrawal from southern Lebanon in May 2000, the Lebanese army began to increase its presence near the border with Israel. Lebanese newspapers published pictures on Saturday of Lebanese soldiers patrolling near the Kila village close to the Fatma gate. The papers reported that 400 soldiers were deployed in areas close to the border.

The redeployment came after the Lebanese army arrested six members of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command in the Bekaa region on Friday. The six were charged with possession of surface-to-surface missiles and had a missile with them at the time of their arrest. Lebanese sources said security forces have arrested several other Palestinians in the past few days.

Lebanese state prosecutor, Adnan Addoum said Friday that Mohammed Alian, a Palestinian officer who is reportedly a member of Fatah, had been arrested en route to Tzur from the nearby Palestinian refugee camp of Ein el-Hilweh and that the security forces had found detonators for operating explosives on him.

Addoum said the Lebanese security and legal apparatuses would prevent hostilities of any sort from Lebanese territory.

The Lebanese defence minister, Khalil al-Hrawi said Saturday in Beirut that the "position of the Lebanese government is not to allow military operations over the blue line, which Lebanon recognizes."

Reiterating his country's support for Hezbollah's operations in the Shaba Farms area, however, al-Hrawi said Lebanon "reserves the right of resistance against the enemy army and the liberation of conquered lands."

Syrian troops in Lebanon pulled out from their nearest positions to the Israeli border on Saturday, continuing a movement apparently designed to minimize the threat of Israeli attacks. A Reuters correspondent said Syrian soldiers pulled out from their position on the al-Awali River at the entrance of the port city of Sidon, 40 kilometres west of Shaba Farms.

Attacks on rabbis shock German Jews

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — German Jewish leaders have been shaken by an attack on two visiting American rabbis and the vandalizinig of a Holocaust memorial here.

The incidents came after a string of violent attacks on synagogues and other Jewish venues in Belgium and France.

The Berlin attack, which occurred March 31, came after German officials said they would increase security at Jewish sites following the Belgian and French attacks, and following pressure from German Jewish leaders. But no steps to increase security have been taken yet.

To extend Middle East violence "to include all Jews shows the true, grotesque face of fanatical Islamists, who ultimately want to dump Israel in the sea and see Judaism as public enemy No. 1," said Michel Friedman, vice-president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

There has been an increase in anti-Semitic attacks here during the past year -and-a-half, but nothing comparable to the surge that has shocked the Jewish community of France.

The latest incident may have been a wake-up call. Berlin Inforadio reported last week that two young Orthodox rabbis visiting from the United States were attacked recently by a group of young men on the city's main shopping street.

One of the men was beaten and kicked so badly he had to be brought in an ambulance to the hospital, where he was treated for injuries to his face.

Berlin police reported that the rabbis had come out of a synagogue and were on their way to the home of Chabad Lubavitch Rabbi Yehudah Teichtal when they were accosted by six to eight men who appeared to be Arabs.

One asked the Americans, "Are you a Jew?" When the young man confirmed this, the attackers allegedly beat and kicked him to the ground.

State police said they have no trace of the attackers. They are looking for witnesses and have published a hotline number for information on the case.

"We were all shocked," Rabbi Teichtal told reporters last week. "Our guests were in Berlin for the first time. It is regrettable that they have to leave the city with such a negative impression."

Berlin's Jewish community of about 12,000 is the largest in Germany, with seven synagogues and several schools and Jewish cemeteries.

Security for Jewish venues there, already greatly increased after the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, has not been further strengthened, according to a Berlin police spokesperson.

Police with machine guns are already posted outside most Jewish venues, and some locations have double police barriers.

The Berlin community and the Central Council responded with shock that such an attack could take place in Germany's capital.

Alexander Brenner, head of the Berlin community, said unfair media reports on Israel were partly to blame for the anti-Semitic attacks.

The community's vice president, Moishe Waks, said the community is planning a demonstration of solidarity with Israel.

Friedman said the radicalization is "easy to see" in Germany. Jews used to have to protect themselves from right-wing extremists, he said, but now they also have to guard against "Islamic criminals."

The day before the rabbis were attacked, a Jewish Holocaust memorial in Berlin was vandalized. Police reported that their patrols found swastikas painted on the memorial shortly after midnight. The perpetrators have not yet been found.

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Thousands march in France to support Israel

Continued from page 1

Pro-Palestinian marches, which also took place in Belgium, Germany, Greece, Italy and Switzerland over the weekend, have been almost weekly occurrences in Paris for months.

The French Jewish community, however, has not staged a large rally since the early 1990s, after the desecration of a Jewish cemetery in Carpentras in southeast France.

The recent anti-Jewish attacks prompted Prime Minister Lionel Jospin to put police guards at Jewish sites.

On Saturday, arsonists threw petrol-filled bottles into a Jewish sports club in the southern city of Toulouse, a day after a homemade unexploded bomb was found in a Jewish cemetery in Strasbourg, which had already been a target of arsonists earlier in the week.

Attacks on synagogues have also occurred in recent weeks in Montpellier, Marseille and Paris.

In Marseille, a synagogue was firebombed over Passover despite the presence of two police guards posted there as part of the government's effort to stem the recent wave of violence.

No one was injured and the synagogue was not damaged. The two assailants got away.

The incident occurred while hundreds of families took part in an evening Passover ceremony across town beside the charred remains of the Or Aviv synagogue, which burned down after a nighttime attack earlier in the week.

The congregation erected a tent in the parking lot for prayers to mark the end of Passover and vowed to rebuild their synagogue.

"A blow was delivered against us, but it is not a mortal blow," said congregant Claude Guedj, 40.

In another incident over Passover, arsonists burned a pavilion in a Jewish cemetery in the eastern French town of Schiltigheim, causing the pavilion's roof to collapse and destroying most of its walls, police said. A flammable liquid was also thrown at the town's synagogue, with no damage reported.

As well, last week attackers threw several firebombs at the Jewish religious centre in the southern city of Montpellier, setting a nearby office on fire, and a bus was torched at a Jewish school in the Paris suburb of Aubervilliers. No one was hurt in either attack.

Last week, French President Jacques Chirac condemned the acts of violence against Jewish institutions.

Chirac told the head of the Jewish student association, Patrick Klugman, that "when one synagogue is burned, all of France is humiliated, and when one Jew is harmed, all of France is harmed."

Jospin, who is running for president against the conservative Chirac in upcoming elections in which crime has become a key issue, warned Sunday about letting the Middle East conflict play itself out inside France.

"If we want to talk about peace in the Middle East, we have to show first that we are capable of living peacefully together at home," Jospin told fellow Socialists at a rally in Paris. "We cannot accept that horrible passions and antagonism are imported to France."

Also Sunday, thousands of demonstrators in New York City filled a city block near the United Nations building to show support for Israel.

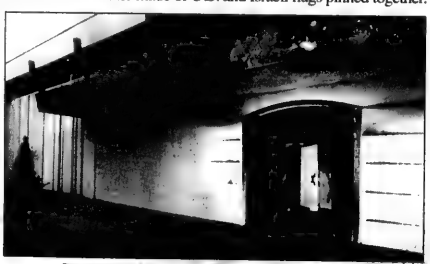
Police enforced extra-tight security that included removing backpacks and checking inside coats as demonstrators were admitted past metal barriers to the rally scene on East 47th Street.

"This is to show support to Israel and to demonstrate against worldwide terrorism," said Lenny Brafman, 46, who was holding one end of a banner made of U.S. and Israeli flags pinned together.

One sign read: "Arafat=Osama= Terror," equating Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat with Osama bin Laden, the fugitive leader of the Al Qaeda terrorist network.

The rally came a day after hundreds of people marched across the Brooklyn Bridge to city hall in lower Manhattan to demonstrate against Israeli actions in the West Bank and Gaza. Protesters carried signs and yelled chants that compared Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to Adolf Hitler.

The pro-Israel rally was organized by Rabbi Avi Weiss and the Coalition for Jewish Concerns, which holds frequent pro-Israel rallies, but rarely attracts so many people.



Synagogue arson in France. [RNS photo]

The Week in Israel

April 1

• Three Israelis were injured, one seriously, in a bombing in downtown Jerusalem. Police chief Mickey Levy said police at a roadblock asked a driver for his identification card when the car exploded. Levy said it was unclear if the blast had been caused by a suicide bomber or if the vehicle itself had been booby-trapped.

April 2

• Israel and Ukraine signed a deal in Kiev that lets them share missile, launcher and navigation technology.

• A car bomb at a roadblock north of Jerusalem killed an Israeli police officer, while one IDF soldier died and 15 were injured by gunfire in the territories. Two were in serious condition.

• Four more people injured in the Netanya seder suicide bombing died of their wounds, bringing the total dead to 25.

April 3

• Egypt suspended all contacts with the government of Israel, but it is keeping open diplomatic channels that could help the Palestinians, Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sherif said.

April 4

• Hezbollah guerrillas, using rifle butts and sticks, beat up four United Nations observers in southern Lebanon, injuring one seriously, the head of the UN military force in Lebanon said.

April 5

• Hezbollah fired anti-tank rockets at IDF outposts along the border with Lebanon, near Har Dov and on Mt. Hermon. This was the first time IDF positions on Mt. Hermon have come under Hezbollah fire. IDF artillery returned fire. *(An IDF soldier was lightly wounded from rocket fire at Har Dov earlier in the week..)*

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KOFFLER CENTRE OF THE ARTS

Saudi Arabia in the spotlight

By SHELDON KIRSHNER

Saudi Arabia's recently-presented peace plan, in addition to last September's terrorist attacks in the United States, has focused laser-sharp attention on Saudi Arabia, one of Washington's oldest Arab allies.

Mideast Analysis

Fifteen out of 19 hijackers who crashed commercial airlines into the World Trade Center in Manhattan and the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. were Saudi nationals. Furthermore, Saudi charities have channelled funds to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist network, while Saudi-funded seminaries in Pakistan and Afghanistan steered students into the arms of Al Qaeda.

Although Crown Prince Abdullah, Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler in place of ailing King Fahd, recently issued a warning to senior clerics not to dabble in or promote extremism, Riyadh has offered only tepid support for the United States' war against global terrorism.

Despite American pressure, Saudi Arabia – whose peace initiative offers Israel normal relations with the Arab world in exchange for a full withdrawal from the territories and a "just resolution" of the Palestinian refugee problem – has yet to announce measures to freeze the accounts of suspected terrorists. However, Saudi Arabia has stated it will not allow its charities to be exploited for non-charitable purposes.

In retrospect, the Sept. 11 catastrophe has had the unintended effect of shedding light on Saudi Arabia's conservative, autocratic, secretive, theocratic society.

Since few westerners, or non-Muslims, for that matter, are granted visitors's visas, Saudi Arabia has managed to insulate itself from external influences.

Many Saudis, some cosmopolitan, believe that Sept. 11 was conceived by the Mossad, Israel's secret service. Anti-Israel feelings run high in Saudi Arabia, which opposes Israel's current military campaign in the West Bank.

The world's biggest oil producer, Saudi Arabia is ruled like a fiefdom by two dominant forces, the House of Saud – an absolute monarchy – and the Wahhabi religious establishment.

The 5,000 princes and their relatives who compose the House of Saud are basically in charge of political and economic matters. The Wahhabi clerics attend to social and religious policies. They also ensure that the austere, xenophobic form of Islam known as Wahhabism – a kind of Islamic fundamentalism not so different than that championed by the Taliban– is preserved.

Under the strictures of Wahhabism, Islam is the only official religion, and all citizens must be Muslims. Non-Muslims who engage in overt religious activities are subject to arrest and deportation. Freedom of religion, as it is universally understood, is simply non-existent.

Western-style democracy, with its notions of free and unfettered expression, remains a mirage. Saudi Arabia's constitution is a mélange of the Koran and the teachings of the Prophet.

Saudi schools lay an inordinate emphasis on religious instruction and relatively little on mathematics and science. The government has talked about reforming Saudi schools, but nothing has come of the plans. In effect, the Saudi education system has produced a cadre of Islamic revolutionaries who may yet threaten the country's stability.

Oil revenues peaked in 1981 at $227 billion (US), but have fallen drastically since then. As a result, per-annum per-capita income has dropped by more than half, to about $7,000. This has forced the government to cut back social welfare payments – this at a time when poverty and discrepancies of wealth are increasing and unemployment is dangerously rampant among young people.

It is a breeding ground for Islamic radicalism, which has no special affection for the House of Saud. In general, the ruling class is widely regarded as self-serving and corrupt.

Saudi Arabia has a symbiotic, albeit touchy, relationship with the United States. The Americans – and their allies – require Saudi oil and depend on Saudi arms purchases running into the billions of dollars. The Saudis, in turn, need U.S. protection, as the 1991 Gulf War vividly illustrated.

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Baycrest program offers seniors in-home services

By LEILA SPEISMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Baycrest Home Care offers seniors such services as nursing, personal care, respite care, homemaking, cleaning or escorts.

Manager Terri Noy said that while there is a charge, the revenue goes to help fund various programs at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care.

The services are available seven days a week, she said, and can be tailored to provide as much or as little help as is necessary.

The program is not just for Jews, or those living at home, she said. It is also for those who need temporary assistance while waiting for placement in a long-term care facility, or those already in a facility, including Baycrest Terrace or the Apotex Home for the Aged.

The services are particularly needed since the provincial and municipal governments have reduced their funding, Noy said.

For instance, she said, in long-term care facilities, funding is only available to provide one bath a week. Someone might hire a caregiver to allow a person to bathe more often.

At Baycrest Terrace, she said, a caregiver may be hired per task. She could give three baths in one hour, or help several residents dress or prepare meals.

Because staff is bonded and trained, people can feel safe inviting them into their homes for personal care or for housecleaning.

Service can be instituted within three hours, if necessary, Noy said. If a person is in the hospital emergency room, someone can either go to stay with them there, meet them wherever they are going, or escort them home.

Dan Gilbert, a resident of Baycrest Terrace, receives foot care from Norma Rivera of Baycrest Home Care Services.

Someone might be hired, she suggested, to take seniors to and from medical appointments; or help them pack for a trip, take them to the airport, and then meet them on their return and help unpack.

Noy noted that Baycrest Home Care Services has both male and female staff. This is particularly important for their Orthodox clients, who might feel uncomfortable with being cared for by someone of the opposite sex, she said.

An innovative approach has Noy contacting bridal consultants and wedding and party planners. If parents (or relatives) are coming from out of town, someone can meet them and take them to their hotel.

Even if parents live in the city, she suggested, someone could be hired to help clients dress, prepare them to have photographs taken, take them to the affair, take them home early if necessary, and settle them down afterwards.

"Think how much more relaxed the hostess will be, knowing that she doesn't have to worry. You have to recognize that this service will let people come to a simchah who otherwise might not be able to."

Noy said that all travel must be in taxies, as there is no insurance to permit the staff to drive.

The program is provided in co-operation with Spectrum Health Care who supplies the staff, and those involved are oriented to respect the cultural issues and needs of the clients, she said.

If the situation is not an emergency, Noy said, a nurse determines exactly what is needed and how many hours of care will fulfill those needs. She will then create a care plan. There is no charge for the assessment.

For more information, call Baycrest Home Care Services 416-964-6402, or through the Baycrest Web site, www.baycrest.org, and click on programs and services.

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About Nutrition

By LISA WEINBERG

I have recently received many inquiries regarding organic foods. I have begun to address them before and will continue to discuss them in this and some upcoming columns.

Q. I have noticed a growing number of organic products in conventional grocery stores. What is your opinion on organics?

A. I have become a very big believer in organic products, some in particular. Raisins and peanuts are known to be "the most pesticide saturated foods" (*The Organic Gourmet*, edited by Tracy Kett). These are definitely two foods that I would *always* look to buy organic. Incidentally organic raisins, while slightly more expensive are significantly more plump and delicious. Some other foods that I personally feel strongly about are strawberries (because of their very high absorption of pesticides), milk, lettuces, grapes and apples.

Q. What does organic mean?

A. Organic foods are foods that have basically not been in contact with synthetic fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides, artificial preservatives or additives.

Q. Does it make sense to only buy some organic foods, or should I buy completely organic?

A. It definitely makes sense. Buy what you have access to and what is affordable and important. Foods that you consume a lot of are probably a good place to start. It is hard to find everything organic without running all over town to many stores, so if you are interested in adding more organic foods to your diet, find a store near you (there are many – most health food stores carry fresh organic produce, as do many supermarkets), and start trying out some things. As summer approaches, there will be an even better selection. Let me know how it goes.

Q. How do you know that a food is really organic?

A. Fortunately we now have standards in place in Canada to govern and certify organic foods. Organic foods will be marked that they are *certified organic*.

Q. Are organic foods safe for kids?

A. I believe so, and I feed a lot of organic food to my young children, particularly raisins, milk and produce. I think that a regular piece of fruit or a berry coated with pesticides, etc. is only magnified in concentration in a little body. Remember that even though a produce item is organic, it must be well washed.

Lisa Weinberg is a registered dietitian/nutritionist, specializing in pediatric and adult nutrition in Toronto. If you have any nutrition questions send them to The CJN.

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Playwright says Adam Baum *is 'good for the Jews'*

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

TORONTO — Asked if his play, *Adam Baum and the Jew Movie*, is good or bad for the Jews, Daniel Goldfarb hesitates for a moment.

"I think it asks some tough questions, but overall I think it is good for the Jews."

Goldfarb said the play, which runs at Canadian Stage to May 4, started out in 1993 as a 10-minute sketch. It's based on a real conversation between movie producer Samuel Goldwyn and screenwriter Ring Lardner, Jr. about *Soil in Utopia*, a film Goldwyn planned to make on how Jews liked the new world.

"My main character [movie mogul Samuel Baum] is a lot like Goldwyn, but he is out of my own imagination," Goldfarb says. "But there is something of Louis B. Mayer, another Hollywood producer at the time, in him. When the play is over, the audience will realize that the movie mogul and the writer are both incomplete, that they have something to learn about each other, that they are not dissimilar in a moral sense."

The playwright adds: "I think Jewish people will realize that they too have prejudices."

The 28-year-old Goldfarb, who was born and raised in Toronto, is excited that his three-character play is being produced in his hometown after a well-received run in New York at the off-Broadway Blue Light Theater with Ron Libman heading the cast.

In the Canadian Stage production, well-known actor Richard Greenblatt plays Baum, father of Adam (played by Dylan Rosenthal). In the play, the screenwriter (played by Rick Richards) attends Adam's bar mitzvah to get to know his subject.

For Goldfarb, who attended Claude Watson School for the Arts at Earl Haig Secondary School in North York before going on to New York University, *Adam Baum and the Jew Movie* is a dream come true.

"It's my first professionally produced play, even though I've been writing ever since I was in high school," he says. "My ambition is to become a first-rank playwright. In the meantime, I'm looking into writing for the screen and TV."

He considers himself fortunate that a lot of good actors took part in staged readings of his first play, *Oedipus Jew*, which was written while he was at NYU but was never staged professionally.

Goldfarb is hoping a theatre in New York will pick up his play, *Modern Orthodox*, which was put on by the Long Wharf Theater in Connecticut for five weeks last summer. He has also finished writing another play.

Goldfarb stressed that *Adam Baum and the Jew Movie* is based on a real event, though the play is fiction. "I didn't even realize that I should name the play so it sounded like the 'atom bomb' until I was well into it, and then everything clicked."

Goldfarb is the son of Martin and Joan Goldfarb (his father is founder and head of the market research and polling firm Golfarb Consultants). He has three sisters and a brother.

For tickets to *Adam Baum and the Jew Movie*, call 416 386-3110.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 47.

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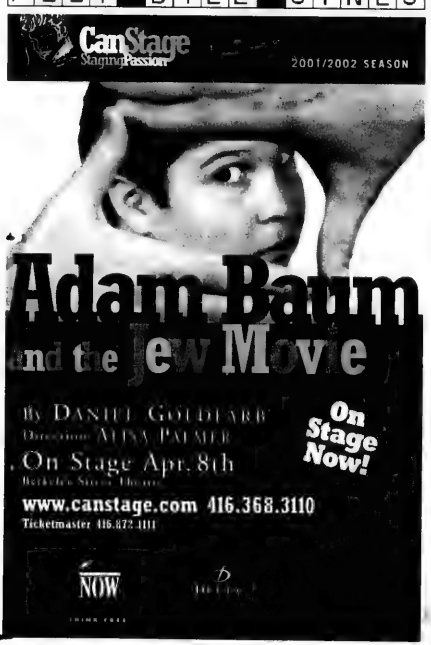

Timeless themes in Miller classic

By DAVID SILVERBERG
Special to The CJN

When a theatre production transports you to a terrifying period like the Nazi era, the entertainment can become a history and a therapy session. This is the case with *Incident at Vichy*, where issues of personal blame, sacrifice and anti-Semitism, set against the backdrop of World War II France, are highlighted by riveting dialogue.

The Arthur Miller play was recently performed by Stage Centre Productions at the Fairview Library Theatre.

Quickly, the lights black out in preparation for the opening scene. When the lights splash on, eight nervous men sit outside a detention centre in Vichy France, in September 1942. They have been mysteriously rounded up by French officers to see a police captain and German professor.

Confusion turns to desperation, strangers become enemies and anti-Semitism darkens the mainly Jewish group. The imminent interrogation upsets all eight men, from the intelligent Austrian nobleman down to the penniless 14-year-old.

The actors portray their anxiety with enough balance to steer clear of extremes. Each man may think aloud to his neighbour and find comfort in nuggets of advice exchanged, but suspicion still taints the unity.

The painter Lebeau (Will van der Zyl) asks, "What kind of crew is this?" The answers trickle out, as each man reveals the mental turbulence of living under the Vichy regime. Whether their response is political, religious or practical, the insights we get into all the characters' concerns reveal their major misgivings.

Miller breathes historical life into the *Incident at Vichy* by infusing his characters with determined conviction against Nazi brutality. The Austrian prince Von Berg (Roger Kell) shakes his fist in anger when he berates German vulgarity, and he delivers intelligent monologues on the cultural shame of German tyranny. The waiter (Scott Griffin) and the boy (Scott Newlands) deliver believable performances of despondent Jewish prisoners who handle their fate with quiet sorrow.

As each man is summoned into the questioning room, the tension mounts: Why are German personnel in the neutral zone of France? Are they truly just checking for forged papers?

The audience can sense the helplessness of the detainees, and the well-crafted dialogue highlights the pain each is suffering inside. The issues of personal blame and responsibility to one's fellow man of whatever religion become integral concepts that arise repeatedly.

And the idea of anti-Semitism within Judaism introduces a theme largely unexplored in mainstream theatre.

Under the direction of L. Garth Allen, who is also the artistic director of Stage Centre, the confused men accuse each other of treachery and cowardice. Even when an escape is shakily planned, the parties that don't get involved are insulted for their moral weakness.

The lighting, sparse set and mournful accordion music add their own flavour to this compelling Miller classic. Because of the timeless themes, the play should be revisited periodically to remind each new generation of what Jews went through in the 1940s, physically, morally and psychologically.

Stage Centre is an amateur theatre group that has staged over 130 different productions in its 25 years. The full repertory company's goal is to entertain audiences with theatre classics.

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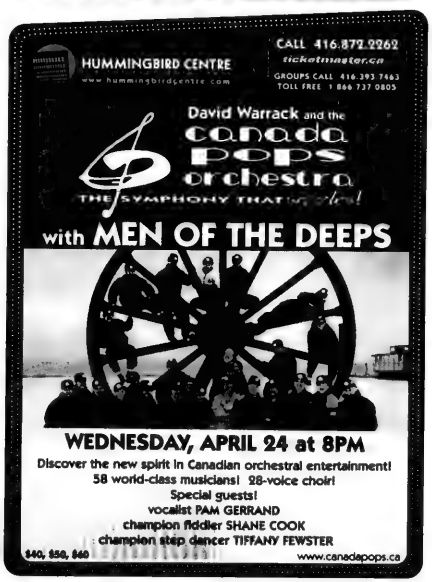

Visit a living and breathing museum in Prague

By MYRIAM SHECHTER
Special to The CJN

The "City of the Hundred Spires," the "Golden City" and the "Paris of the East" are just some of the names bestowed on Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic.

Although I came prepared to be blasé from having heard too much praise, the beauty and grace of Prague took me by surprise. Miraculously escaping destruction in World War II, each of its neighbourhoods contains an invaluable trove of Romanesque, Gothic, Baroque, Renaissance and Art Nouveau architecture.

The tombstone of Rabbi Low who is associated with the legend of the Golem. [Robert Shechter photo]

All of Prague is a living and breathing museum, but some must-see landmarks can be singled out: the 14th century Charles Bridge (Karlovy Most) with its 30 statues which – according to legend – talk to each other after the tourists are gone; the imposing castle that dominates the city; the Old Town Square that has witnessed happy and tragic events throughout the city's long history, and comes alive with musicians, vendors, cafés and a small army of people carrying signs advertising the city's many musical events. Prague continues the strong cultural and artistic legacy of Wolfgang Mozart – who was a frequent and much loved visitor – Anton Dvorak, Bedřich Smetana, Leoš Janáček, as well as Jaroslav Hasek and Franz Kafka, just to name a few.

Visitors to Prague face an embarrassment of cultural riches, all at very reasonable prices: opera in three splendid opera houses, concerts in practically all of the city's churches and concert halls, and the national Czech treasures of the Marionette Theatre, the Black Light Theatre and the Lanterna Magika.

Each of the city's neighbourhoods has its own attractions, but probably the Old Town – Stare Mesto – is the one where most visitors converge first, with the 15th-century Astronomical Clock Tower with its hourly procession of postles as a favourite meeting place.

Adjacent to the Old Town Square, the Josefov neighbourhood – the original Jewish Town – has changed beyond recognition during an urban renewal that, at the beginning of the 20th century, replaced the maze of streets, passageways, lanes and small houses with magnificent Neo-Renaissance, Neo-Baroque and Art Nouveau edifices along Parizska, Maiselova and Siroka streets.

Luckily, a number of the original synagogues have been preserved, some still functioning as places of prayer, and all of them together designated as the "Jewish Museum in Prague," a unique monument dedicated to the 1,000-year history of the city's Jewish community.

The first Jewish settlement in Prague appeared around the 10th century. In order to distinguish themselves from their Christian neighbours, the Jews were constrained in a closed community, later designated as the "ghetto," and had to wear pointed hats and a yellow badge.

Peaceful periods alternated with pogroms and persecutions, culminating with expulsion by empress Maria Theresa in the 18th century. Eventually, the situation improved somewhat, and the emperor Joseph II opened the gates of the Jewish quarter and accorded it administrative status; in gratitude, the Jews named their town Josefov.

During World War II, 80,000 Jews from Bohemia and Moravia were killed by the Nazis. The names of the Holocaust victims are remembered in one of the most touching memorials I have ever seen.

It is perhaps symbolic that this memorial is housed in the Pinkas Synagogue, which is adjacent to the Old Jewish Cemetery. Thus the turbulent history of medieval Jewry weaves its continuity into the terrible history of 20th-century Jewry: a cemetery of tombstones next to a cemetery of people with no graves.

At the entrance to the Pinkas Synagogue, a plaque reads: "The names of the Czech and Moravian Jews, victims of Nazi genocide between 1939 and 1945, are inscribed on the walls of Pinkas Synagogue… the synagogue where for centuries Prague Jews came to worship is now a memorial to some 80,000 innocent men, women and children who have no grave and would otherwise remain forgotten."

As I moved from room to room, I thought that the synagogue should also have a private crying place for visitors. All the walls are covered from floor to ceiling with names and dates of birth and death. The birth dates are all different, the death dates dreadfully similar. It is a wallpaper of death and destruction.

The cemetery next door dates from the 15th century; burials took place here until 1787. Because space was limited, the cemetery contains 12 levels superimposed on top of each other; as earth was brought in to add new layers, the older stones were lifted and placed alongside the newer ones.

There are about 12,000 tombstones in total, creating an unusual and eerie setting, a maze of stones of all shapes at crazy angles, practically on top of each other, with tall old trees punctuating their apparent disarray.

The most famous tombstone is that of Rabbi Liwa ben Bezalel, known as Rabbi Low, the creator of the mythical Golem who, according to legend, was put to rest in the attic of the Old-New Synagogue (Staronova Synagogue).

Built in early Gothic style in the 13th century from broken stones of the Jerusalem Temple – or so another legend goes – the Old-New Synagogue is one of three Prague synagogues, together with the High and the Jerusalem synagogues, that still hold services today.

Facing the Old-New Synagogue is an interesting sight. Two clocks grace the building of the Renaissance-style Jewish Town Hall, the seat of the Jewish Council since 1577: the top one is a traditional clock, while the bottom one revolves counter-clockwise over Hebrew letters used as numbers.

A few more synagogues, all within walking distance of each other, contain the exhibits of the "Jewish Museum in Prague." Visitors get the benefit of viewing the invaluable historical displays as well as each structure's architectural beauty.

Today, not many Jews live in the Jewish Town. But when the bustle of the tourists, cafés, shops and souvenir stands dies down, when darkness descends and the street lamps light up mysterious corners, the old legends come alive, the Golem walks the dark alleys and the past blends into the present.

Contact: The Jewish Museum in Prague, 11000 Praha 1, U Stare Skoly 1; phone direct: 011 420 2 24 81 94 56; fax: 011 420 2 23 81 94 58; e-mail: office@jewishmuseum.cz; [www.jewishmuseum.cz.]

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The sound of music on the mighty Mississipi

By WOLF ARNOLD
Special to The CJN

NEW ORLEANS — In the history of jazz, it was the city of New Orleans and the "Old Man River," the Mississippi, that witnessed the birth and growth of a musical expression.

Through the years, people of all races have lived together in the melting pot of New Orleans, a centre controlled at various times by the Spanish and the French, which later saw Irish, British and German immigrants and fortune seekers stream into the city.

The ragtime played by Scott Joplin and the country blues sung on the banks of the Mississippi lay at the roots of jazz as African rhythms, European instrumentation and elements of European harmonics fused into an American musical form that has captured the world.

Even before World War I, New Orleans-style jazz blasted from the city's taverns. Coronet, trombone and clarinet carried the melodic parts, while tuba or bass, drums and banjo, and sometimes the piano, created the feverish two-beat rhythm. Kid Ory, who played trombone, founded a band in 1911 and enlisted people such as Louis Armstrong and King Oliver, and the group became the most-noted exponent of two-beat jazz.

It's little wonder that the Mississippi was the conduit of this new craze, as paddlewheelers, their bands on board, took the music northward. Jazz classics such as the *Basin Street Blues, St. Louis Blues, Beal Street Blues, Memphis Blues* and *Kansas City Shuffle* got their names from places where the steamers moored, including New Orleans.

The city's beating heart is the Vieux Carré, the French Quarter. Bordered by Canal Street, North Rampart Street, the Esplanade and the riverfront, it is alive with music, impromptu gatherings, street parades and the occasional funeral procession.

In the French Quarter, there are still places where jazz is being played as it was during the early years of the 20th century. Passed on from generation to generation, today's musicians have learned from some of the greats: Armstrong, Buddy Bolden, King Oliver, Kid Ory, Armstrong and Sidney Bechet.

The French Quarter is alive with music, impromtu gatherings and street parades.

One landmark is Preservation Hall at 726 St. Peter St. Always crowded, this rundown shell of a venue is a must for the serious jazz fan. Oldtimers congregate there, playing traditional New Orleans-style jazz, while the audience, sitting close to the tiny stage, is in intimate contact with the musicians.

Another landmark, Miss LuLu White's Mahagony Hall at 309 Bourbon St., was once the most famous jazz spot in town. In the 1950s it was turned into a warehouse, then went through a brief revival in the '80s and '90s, but today it is no more.

During the French Quarter Festival in April, followed by the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, the whole Vieux Carré explodes to the beat of jazz. Jackson Square near the river turns into a huge outdoor party, as bands and solo players blow their stuff under the southern sun.

While the crowds mingle, a Mississippi paddlewheeler glides by. Perhaps it is the Natchez, a typical small-size steamer on its way upriver, or one of the other boats, such as the Cajun Queen or the more authentic-looking Creole Queen.

Among the stern wheelers departing from New Orleans is the oldest and proudest, the Delta Queen. Built in 1926, it has an illustrious history. Its steel hulls were made at the Isherwood Shipyards in Glasgow, Scotland, while its wheel shafts and cranks came from the Krupp works in Essen, Germany. The superstructure was manufactured in America from oak, teak, mahagony and Oregon cedar.

The Delta Queen first saw service as a river steamer on the Sacramento in California, then was taken over by the U.S. Navy during World War II and used to ferry sailors to their ships in San Francisco Bay. After the war, the ship was bought by its present owner, the Delta Queen Steamship Company. It was towed down the Pacific coast, through the Panama Canal to New Orleans, and continued under its own steam to be refitted in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Today the Delta Queen is again a floating palace. Designated as a national historic landmark, it's the only authentic, fully restored steamboat in the United States. Its interior recalls the legendary time when "steamboatin" was a part of life along the grand old river. Rich hardwood panelling, gleaming brass, a Tiffany crystal chandelier above the grand staircase and stained-glass windows create an atmosphere and warmth rarely found anywhere on a Mississippi steamer.

But there is another "Queen" in the fleet of the Delta Queen Steamship Company: the stately Mississippi Queen. Mark Twain once said that "somebody... someday... will build the biggest [Mississippi] steamboat the world has ever known... and that one shall be the Queen of the Mississippi!"

Built in 1976, the Mississippi Queen, at 116 metres long, 21 metres wide, is the largest Mississippi stern wheeler ever built. With a giant paddle that weighs 70 tons, seven decks, a gym, a sauna, a cinema, elevators and room-to-room telephones, it is truly an extraordinary ship.

Naturally, it moves at a snail's pace, as it churns along at 12 km/h past the plantations with their grand houses and formal gardens, and the old South comes alive.

CJN Giveaways
10 PRIZES

Win a pair of reserved seating tickets to

Zadie's Shoes

The CJN is giving away 10 pairs of tickets!

The tickets are for the performance on
Sunday, May 5, 2002 at 2:00 p.m.
at The Winter Garden Theatre (189 Yonge St.)

Rules: To be eligible to win a pair of tickets to **Zadie's Shoes**, please print your name, address and daytime phone number on a piece of paper along with the answer to this question:

Who Authored the play Zadie's Shoes?
(Hint: the answer is printed elsewhere in this newspaper!)

All correct answers received by 1 p.m. on Mon., April 22/02 are eligible. The winning entry will be randomly selected from all correct answers received at *The CJN* offices on Tues., April 23/02 at 10 a.m. The winners will be notified the same day. Odds of winning depend on the number of entries received. *The CJN will not enter into any correspondence with contestants.*

Send your response to: Zadie's Shoes Contest, The Canadian Jewish News, 1500 Don Mills Road, Suite 205, North York, Ont. M3B 3K4 or fax to: Zadie's Shoes Contest, 416-391-0949.

Employees and family members of The Winter Garden Theatre or *The CJN* are not eligible to enter.

APRIL 17 TO JULY 7, 2002

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

ISRAEL MUSEUM COLLECTION OF DADA AND SURREALIST ART COMING TO TORONTO

The Schwarz Collection of Dada and Surrealist Art is coming from Israel to Toronto for an exhibition at the Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO) that opens June 14.

The Israel Museum received the Arturo Schwarz Collection as a gift in 1998. It includes more than 700 works of art assembled by **Arturo Schwarz**, a poet, art historian, scholar, art collector and dealer. The museum has arranged some 200 pieces as a travelling exhibition, representing the work of such artists as **Marcel Duchamp**, **Man Ray** and **Max Ernst**.

The exhibition, Dreaming With Open Eyes, includes the full range of media: painting, sculpture, objects, drawing, prints, collages, photographs, artist's books and other publications and ephemera. It is sponsored by Aecon and runs to Sept. 8.

As a companion exhibit, the AGO is presenting a display of prints and illustrated books of surrealist **Andre Masson** (1896-1987). The Masson exhibition is drawn from gifts of works from **Sondra** and **Allan Gotlieb**, and also runs June 14 to Sept. 8.

* * *

The Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band

Flying Bulgars in Concert: The **Flying Bulgar Klezmer Band**, those well-known purveyors of neo-Yiddish music and song, bring their unique and passionate sound to their first Toronto concert appearance in more than a year.

Joining them is special guest **Jane Bunnett**, an award-winning musician acclaimed for her contributions to Afro-Cuban music and jazz. According to a press release, the concert will feature "new compositions that explore the places where the music of Jews, Gypsies and Cubans intersects."

Isabel Bader Theatre, 93 Charles St. W. Adults $20. Saturday, May 25, 8 p.m.

* * *

Foundation Supports Jewish Studies: Steven Spielberg's Righteous Persons Foundation has awarded Brandeis University $500,000 (US) in support of Genesis, a summer program for high school students that integrates Jewish studies, the arts, humanities and social action.

The Boston-area school met the foundation's three-to-one challenge, raising $1.5 million before the foundation made its contribution. The Genesis program, which began in 1997, is renowned for educating and training "the next generation of Jewish leaders," said Brandeis president **Jehuda Reinharz**. It serves 75 students each year.

* * *

For Children

• The Lorraine Kimsa Theatre for Young People presents **The Children's Trio** production of *The Happy Prince*, a one-act musical adaptation of a short story by **Oscar Wilde**. 165 Front St. E. $14 all seats. Sundays, April 21 and 28 and May 5, 11:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. 416-862-2222.

• **Solar Stage Children's Theatre** presents *Pure Water, Pure Heart*, a musical adaptation of an Inca folktale. Madison Centre, 4950 Yonge St. $9.50. Saturdays and Sundays through May 5, 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. 416-368-8031.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• The Workmen's Circle and the Jewish Labour Bund present ghetto songs and readings at a Memorial Meeting to mark the 59th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising. 471 Lawrence Ave. W. Thursday, April 18, 8 p.m.

• The Mikvah Project, a photography exhibition exploring the Jewish ritual bath, is on view at the Spertus Museum in Chicago, April 21 to Oct. 31.

• Toronto Jewish Folk Choir's 76th spring concert celebrates Yiddish songwriter **Mordecai Gerbirtig**. Adults $18. Havergal College, Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m. 416-489-7681 or 416-444-2332.

• The Civic Light Opera Company presents Some Enchanted Evening, the **Rodgers & Hammerstein** revue featuring segments from many famous musicals, including *Oklahoma!*, *Carousel*, *South Pacific*, *The King and I*, *Flower Drum Song*, *State Fair* and *The Sound of Music*. Fairview Library Theatre. Adults $17.50. May 23 to June 1. 416-469-8450.

• Toronto author **Manny Drukier's** recent book *Duty and Passion* has been optioned for a feature film by **Julian Marks**, producer of Power Pictures Corporation.

The Canadian Jewish news

presents an important

Town Hall Meeting

Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.

The Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Road

on the subject of

Anti-Semitism on Campus: Helping our Students Cope

Keynote Speaker will be:

Michael Jankelowitz

Director, Campus Israel Affairs, Hillel and Representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel

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From condos to castles. Michael gets results

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BIRNBAUM, Olga – on March 22, 2002.
ROSS, Louise – on March 25, 2002, late of 199 Berkley St.
GOLDMACHER, Marvin – on March 25, 2002.
ROODY, Harold – on March 25, 2002.
MARGOLIS, Herbert – on March 26, 2002, late of 1 Sunbeam Ave.
TARNOVSKAIA, Riva – on March 26, 2002.
GORDON, Gerry – on March 27, 2002, late of 4003 Bayview Ave.
KORANYI, Elizabeth – on March 30, 2002.
COPELAND, Allan Ingram – on March 27, 2002, late of 343 Clark Ave. W.
MIROCHNIK, Yakov – on March 28, 2002.
ABRAMS, Estelle – on March 30, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BLUWOL, Helen – on March 28, 2002, late of 333 Clark Ave. W.
KOZLOV, Lillian – on March 30, 2002.
HERZOG, Paul – on March 27, 2002.
OSTERREICHER, Ann – on March 31, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
BILL BELA ZALAI ז"ל
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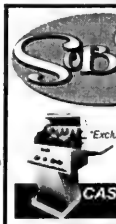

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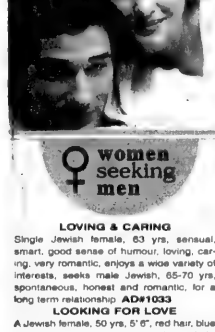

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women seeking men

LOVING & CARING
Single Jewish female, 63 yrs, sensual, smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, enjoys a wide variety of interests, seeks male Jewish, 65-70 yrs, spontaneous, honest and romantic, for a long term relationship **AD#1033**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere **AD#1230**

LONG TERM LOVE
Single female, classy, smart, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, kind, seeks Jewish male, 65-70 yrs, active, thoughtful, loving, romantic, ready for a committed relationship **AD#1441**

SPRING ROMANCE
Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5' 5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys **AD#1017**

HUMOUR & HONESTY
Single female, 56 yrs, non smoker, enjoys sports, dining out, long walks, movies, rides in the country, medium weight, 5' 4", divorced short brown hair, two grown children, strong sense of integrity, great sense of humour, searching for a single white male 60-65 yrs, with a great sense of humour and honesty Honesty is very important I'd like you to give me a call **AD#1209**

LOVER & BEST FRIEND
Single female, warm, caring, intelligent, passionate, slim, fit, outgoing, adventurous, creative, good sense of humour, enjoys nature, horseback riding, movies, travel, skiing, seeks male, handsome, affectionate, intelligent, non smoker, non over weight, successful and ready for romance **AD#1131**

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR
Single Jewish female, 64 yrs, smart, spontaneous, compassionate, good sense of humour, seeks male, 65-75 yrs, active, handsome, loving, kind, ready to share loving relationship **AD#1135**

SPRING ROMANCE
Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5' 5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys **AD#1017**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match. Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch. **AD#1290**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Single female, 55 yrs, outgoing, loving, fit, sincere, good sense of humour, enjoys the theatre, movies, long walks, seeks male with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1221**

FABULOUS FIFTIES
Single female, mid fifties, professional, enjoys music, sports, long walks, travel, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, caring, compassionate, seeks male, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1090**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single Jewish female, sincere, smart, romantic, passionate, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, theatre, seeks male, Jewish 65-80 yrs, thoughtful, loving, with a wide variety of interests **AD#1392**

LOVING & CARING
Single mom of one 6 yr old child, attractive, 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests **AD#1026**

TAKE A CHANCE
Widowed female, early 60's looks 50 yrs, kind, caring, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys travel, the theatre, dining and dancing, seeks caring, honest, non smoker, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1283**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests This outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling. She works in science and engineering **AD#1546**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Single female, sensuous, witty, musical, shapely, sweet, sassy, stylish, warm, loving and caring, wonderful sense of humour Seeks male 42 yrs to 52 yrs mature loving, honest, good sense of humour, similar qualities and interests **AD#1364**

LET'S DINE OUT
Single female, 56 yrs, enjoys dining and dancing, the theatre, a very popular oriented person, loving, caring, honest, warm hearted Seeks male 45-65 yrs with similar qualities and interests to share life's joys with **AD#1412**

FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances, into the arts, fit, non smoker. Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality. Wants a best friend, lovers later. Looking for a soulmate. Please respond **AD#1232**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature. **AD#1285**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match. Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature. **AD#1285**

DINING ART
Young female, pretty, Jewish, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys dining, art, schlid outings. Desires man, 43-53 yrs, professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker, for nature relationship **AD#1301**

MONTREAL LOVIN'
Single female, 58 yrs, in Montreal, slim, fun loving, classy, enjoys aerobics, travel, art, music, dancing. Seeks male, sincere, stable, traditional, kind and affectionate Let's share travel between Toronto & Montreal. **AD#1338**

FULLY LOADED
Blonde bombshell with brains. No surprises, seeks same type of guy who is secure. Submit photo. Must be a professional. Time is limited, so hurry! **AD#1025**

SEEKS YOUNG AT HEART
Sexy, classy, attractive, slim, talented, intelligent, secular, non-smoking, multi-faceted lady who is fun, easy to be with and highly evolved seeks a man between 51-60 yrs who is young at heart and loves life She likes the arts and working out. **AD#1408**

HONEST PROFESSIONAL
Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, honest, professional, easy going, down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, travelling. Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship **AD#1312**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Friendly, down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady, seeks a sincere, attractive, hard working man for a committed future She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

SEXY SIREN
Sexy siren (LOL). Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together Dancing, dining, etc **AD#1355**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests. **AD#1381**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-76 yrs old. **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
"The key is compatibility." Looking for someone who mutually clicks. Our personalities have to mesh Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs See if our voiced blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

CHAIN
Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life. **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female,35 yrs old, 5' 2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke. **AD#1198**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also She is looking for an honest relationship. **AD#1139**

HAS BEADY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship. **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions. Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship. **AD#1028**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship. **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me. I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1136**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature She is shy, mature and keeps busy, with a job and family. Please reply **AD#1642**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1147**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call. **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life. **AD#1041**

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men seeking women

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Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys. **AD#1179**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 30 yrs, never married, handsome, loving, passionate, enjoys ports, camping, outdoor activities, dining and dancing, movies, seeks female, 22-36 yrs with similar qualities and interests for long term loving relationship. **AD#1424**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship. **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tail, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family **AD#1086**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with. **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 1", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale. Attention car buffs: '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes: move going, travel and humour Seeks Caddy circa,62 - 72, mid size, shapely and pretty interior warm, easy going, and charming. Performance: Let's have a wonderful life together. **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

CUDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditional, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, drives with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969. Waiting for you call. **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous. "Where in she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have slayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight. She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done. And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus be our love and our bondship surely as the sky is blue." **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-36 yrs, who is kosher, and lives in Toronto. Must not possess and baggage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship. **AD#1288**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel. Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy. He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile. **AD#1195**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks similar female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic. **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, fun, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour. **AD#1364**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors A traditional male, works as a financial consultant. Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female. **AD#1203**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking, Seeks female, for long term relationship. She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wars glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention **AD#1427**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc... seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1329**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outgoing and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 36-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday **AD#1369**

FRIENDS FIRST
Jewish male, 73 yrs, 5' 6", honest and true, enjoys movies, sports, seeks same lady, 65-73 yrs, with similar interests, for friendship first. **AD#1035**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me. **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally, fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking. **AD#1267**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sense of humour, enjoys dancing, movies, travelling, and quiet times, seeks female, who is affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1208**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour. **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5' 9", 165 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

CALL ME
Single male, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, handsome, 6', 185 lbs, enjoys the finer, things in life, emotionally and financially, stable, seeks female, with similar qualities **AD#1618**

GIVE ME A CALL
Single Jewish professional male, 41 yrs, 6' 0", lives in the Northern part of Toronto, seeks female, 30-38 yrs, looking for committed monogamous, relationship, eventually leading to marriage and children **AD#1502**

BIG DARK EYES
Single white male, 30 yrs, 178 lbs, 5' 5", black hair, big dark eyes, professional, down to earth, easy going, good sense of humour, passionate, warm, loving, caring, seeks female, with similar qualities and interests. **AD#1242**

GOOD CONVERSATION
36 yrs, 6' 0", slim, handsome, enjoys movies, dining, concerts, festivals, travelling, seeks single or divorced Jewish female, 32-36 yrs, 5' 5" or taller, similar interests, attractive, easy going, is a good conversationalist, and keeps up with the latest news, hope you like what you see **AD#1546**

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Fines, shmines; Cuban shakes off $500,000 penalty

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — For Dallas Mavericks owner Mark Cuban, life has never been better. The fact that his basketball club was off to its best-ever start and sat in first place in the NBA's Midwest Division had nothing to do with it.

The dot-com billionaire, who bought the team and a half-interest in their new arena from Ross Perot Jr. for $280 million (US) two years ago, said work these days is all about doing the best he can for his customers and employees. If he does that well, everyone benefits personally and financially and has a lot of fun in the process.

Cuban tried to take that message to the NBA brass when he recently spent a day working at a Dairy Queen outlet in Texas following his latest criticism of the league.

Cuban was given a league-record $500,000 (US) fine on Jan. 8 for saying he wouldn't hire Ed Rush (head of officiating) to manage a Dairy Queen. It was the latest in a string of incidents between him and the NBA.

Last season, he was fined seven times for a total of $505,000 (US) for criticizing the officiating, making a derogatory gesture, running onto the court to break up a fight and sitting on the edge of the court instead of in a chair. He matches all his fines with a donation to charity.

"I don't have a problem with the refs," said Cuban via e-mail, citing the fines as a cost of doing business. "I have a problem with their manager and the way the league is run. I think the league should be run as a for profit organization that is *always* trying to improve every part of its business, rather than as a kingdom."

In an attempt to deal with what he says is a lack of consistency among the league's officials, Cuban hired a statistics expert in December to track their calls in all NBA games. He believes the evaluation of every official will reveal tendencies that can be used to his team's advantage. Cuban's initial findings indicate there has been almost a nine per cent drop in the number of fouls called.

Mark Cuban

Born in Squirrel Hill in Pittsburgh, Cuban grew up in what he calls "about as Jewish a neighbourhood as you could find," and remained involved in the Jewish community after going away to college. He said Judaism plays a calming influence that underpins who he is.

"I have a special connection to those who have lived and died to allow me to become who I am today," said Cuban.

"I have the opportunity and the obligation to pass that on to my family and those close to me. Our place in the world is defined by who we are, no matter where we are."

Cuban, who acquired his wealth through MicroSolutions without even knowing how to use a computer, stressed he is saying and doing the same things he's done in every other business venture, but is getting attention now because the media puts sports under a microscope.

"When I was saying what was on my mind, and working on the same principles in the Internet or technology industries, no one wrote about it," he said.

"There is no good reason to change my approach just because it is now being written about. It's worked well for me in the past, no reason to change now."

After graduating from Indiana University with a business degree, Cuban founded MicroSolutions and developed it into one of the leading systems integration firms in the United States. Just seven years later, he sold the company to CompuServe for $5 million (US).

He later dreamed of being able to listen to every Indiana Hoosiers basketball game while in Dallas, where he moved after finishing college in 1982. From that idea, Cuban co-founded Broadcast.com, the leading provider of multimedia and streaming on the Internet, which was later sold to Yahoo! at a profit of more than $1 billion (US).

After selling MicroSolutions, he split the proceeds with his employees. And when he sold Broadcast.com, all 300 of his employees became stock option millionaires. Cuban is now investing in HDNet, the world's only national television network broadcasting all high-definition content.

His piles of money not only bought him the Mavs, but two years ago he purchased a 14-seat Gulfstream V jet – at $41 million (US), it was the largest single online purchase made to date. He lives in a 10-bedroom, 10-bathroom, 24,000-square-foot, $15 million (US) mansion in Dallas.

Cuban says he had no inkling at the outset that his business ventures would turn out to make him one of the richest men in America today.

"I was just as afraid as any entrepreneur starting their business," recalls Cuban. "I remember celebrating every month MicroSolutions was in business with a sigh of relief. It was like, 'Wow, made it through month three,' 'Wow, made it through month 14.'

"I never take anything for granted. I always work from the premise that there is some 13-year-old kid that just got their bar or bat mitzvah money that has a great idea and is going to put me out of business."

Lithuanian appeal against Israeli skating medal rejected

Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

NAGANO, Japan — Just when the International Skating Union (ISU) thought the coast was clear, another judging controversy came along to cast an ugly shadow over the world figure skating championships in Nagano.

Never mind that Russian Alexei Yagudin skated brilliantly to add a fourth world title to his Olympic gold medal, and compatriot Irina Slutskaya won her first world championship gold after so many years as bridesmaid.

Already struggling to salvage the reputation of the sport after a judging scandal that dominated the first week of the Salt Lake City Olympics, the ISU has been hit by fresh allegations of "pre-determined" results in ice-dance.

As the world championships closed with an exhibition watched by the Japanese Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako, the ISU rejected a Lithuanian protest against the result of the ice dancing competition.

The Lithuanian delegation protested against the decision to award the bronze medal to Israeli couple Galit Chait and Sergei Sakhnovski ahead of Margarita Drobiazko and Povilas Vanagas. It was Israel's first medal ever at a world championship.

Five of the nine judges had voted for the Israelis over the Lithuanians in the free program, prompting Vanagas to accuse Israel of "buying" the bronze medal and some members of the ISU of mafioso-type behaviour.

Chait called Vanagas and Dobriazko "sore losers" as the mud-slinging continued, overshadowing the achievement of Irina Lobacheva and Ilia Averbukh, who won their first world title, and silver medalists Shae-Lynn Bourne and Victor Kraatz of Canada.

More than 30 skaters and coaches from the ice dancing competition – including American champions Naomi Lang and Peter Tchernyshev and French coach Muriel Zazoui – signed a petition in favour of Lithuania's protest.

In another twist, a German reporter told Reuters that an Israeli skating official had told him in a phone call before the world championships that they would finish on the medals podium.

Judging in figure skating has been controversial for years, with reports that order of finish is predetermined by the judges.

At the Salt Lake City Olympics, Russians Elena Berezhnaya and Anton Sikharulidze "won" the gold despite an obvious slip by Sikharulidze and a clean skate from Jamie Sale and David Pelletier of Canada.

Afterward a French judge claimed she had been "bullied" into voting for the Russians, and after a furious row that badly damaged the reputation of the sport, the International Olympic Committee (IOC) awarded the Canadians a duplicate gold medal.

The judge in question, Marie-Reine Le Gougne, has since been suspended by the ISU. In a press conference in Nagano just hours before the ill-fated ice dancing free program, ISU's president warned judges to "respect the rules."

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ספרותנו

יעל זליגר

לכבוד יום העצמאות

הימים כל-כך קשים. התחושה היא של חוסר-אונים, של פחד ואי-וודאות. על מה אכתוב לקראת גליון יום העצמאות? על תפילתי לשלום? מחאה של שמאל או ימין? דתי או לא דתי? ממש לא. הרהרתי וחשבתי ואז ידעתי שאני רוצה לבחור בספר שנכתב לילדים וכן משהו שיעורר גאווה וגם חיוך ושנשמח קצת. וכך בחרתי בספר: סבא עולה לכיתה א' מאת: חנה זהר, הוצאת הקיבוץ המאוחד.

זהו ספרה הראשון של זהר ונקווה שלא האחרון. (איורים מקסימים של שירה שכטר). הספר מספר על משפחתו של אלכס שהגיעה מרוסיה. "סבא סרגי וסבתא מרוסיה, אבא הוא מישקה ואמא אירינה ותינוק נחמדת ששמה הוא מרינה." הכל הם עושים ברוסית; מדברים, צוחקים, קוראים, כותבים ומתווכחים. כדרכם של ילדים, אלכס שסיים את הגן למד את השפה העברית בקלות. הוא לא רק מדבר ושר בעברית אלא כבר חושב בעברית. אמא ואבא מאוד מופתעים, יוצא מן הכלל, ממש מצוין, הילד לא צריך שום אולפן! רק סבא סרגי מחייך ושותק. לבסוף, סבא מתוודה בפני סבתא שגם הוא רוצה ללכת לבית ספרו של אלכס ללמוד עברית. סבתא צוחקת ומזכירה לסרגי שהוא כבר מזמן לא היה בן שש, אך סבא בשלו. בבוקר, השכם, סבא כבר ער, הילקוט החדש תלוי על גבו, בידו תיק אוכל ועם מבט שובבי בעיניו, צועד סבא עם נכדו לבית הספר.

בחצר בית הספר, תלמידי כיתה א', כולם מאחד נרגשים. קצת צפוף לסבא ליד השולחן, אין מקום לרגליים, אבל ממש לא חשוב. נכנסת המורה רות ואיננה יודעת מה בדיוק לעשות עם סבא סרגי והיא מציעה שבהפסקה יפגשו עם מנהל בית-הספר. נכנסים למשרדו של המנהל והפלא ופלא, מי המנהל? הרי זה סאשה, חברו של סרגי ממוסקבה! סבא סרגי וסאשה המנהל "מתנשקים ברוסית, מתחבקים ברוסית, מדברים, צוחקים, מתרגשים ברוסית, טופחים על השכם היטב ברוסית, ובסתר חומקת דמעה ברוסית..."

המורה רות נרגעת, אלכס מרוצה וסבא סרגי מאושר ומבטיח להתנחג יפה בכיתה ובהפסקות לבוא לשתות קפה עם סאשה המנהל. וכך מתחילה שנת לימודים טובה ומוצלחת.

סיפור פשוט, כתוב ללא יומרנות ומדבר אל לב כולנו. ההקבלה בין שלב המעבר עבור הילד בן חשש שעולה לכיתה א' ולבין המבוגר, העולה החדש לישראל, ברורה. בשני המקרים שלב המעבר אינו קל ואף מפחיד. אך לגבי סיפורו של סבא סרגי אין כמובן מקום אחר בעולם שבו ניתן לספר סיפור שכזה ולקבלו בתום לב ובאמון. אז אולי לא רואים במציאות הרבה סבים לומדים עם ילדי כיתה א' אך הסיפור אינו בדיוני מפני שהוא מתרחש בישראל. מדינה שהחיים והמוות בה הם מפיגוע לפיגוע אך ממשיכה לתפקד כמפלט ובית לכולנו. אוהבים אותך, ישראל.

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2 small zucchini, diced	1/4 cup sliced toasted almonds
2 plum tomatoes, diced	2 tblsps. fresh basil, chopped
10 chopped kalamata olives	1 tsp. fresh thyme
1 red pepper, diced	1/8 cup olive oil
1/2 onion, diced	1/8 cup balsamic vinegar
1/2 cucumber, diced	salt to taste
1/3 cup crumbled feta cheese	fresh ground pepper to taste

rolls, pita or bread of choice for sandwiches

Chop all vegetables in a bowl. Crumble feta into bowl, add almonds & herbs and mix. Mix together oil & vinegar, pour over vegetable mixture and toss well. Serve as is as a salad or stuff in a pita, roll or other bread for a delicious sandwich. Serves 4.

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About Food

Dear Norene

On my media tour for my latest cookbook, *The Food Processor Bible*, I did cooking classes in kitchens across the country, autographed cookbooks, was interviewed by the media, did cooking segments on TV and was a guest on several radio talk shows. I was even invited for dinner by several brave souls!

One of the highlights of my trip was meeting Susan Mendelson, owner of The Lazy Gourmet in Vancouver. Her latest cookbook bears the same name as her bistro and catering company. *The Lazy Gourmet* (Whitecap Books, 191 pp, $19.95) is filled with scrumptious recipes and wonderful colour photos. Although her book is not kosher, many recipes can be adapted easily.

Here are two tempting recipes that were "on the menu" when I visited The Lazy Gourmet. They will be perfect for your Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations. Enjoy!

GRILLED SEASONAL VEGETABLES

1 bulb fennel, cut in half
1 1/2 cups zucchini, cut diagonally into 1/4-inch slices
2 1/2 cups red, orange and yellow bell peppers, cut in half
1 1/2 cups Japanese eggplant, cut diagonally into 3/8-inch slices
1 1/2 cups portobello mushrooms, cut into 6 wedges and gills removed
1/4 cup olive oil
salt and freshly ground black pepper to taste

Preheat barbecue or broiler to hot. Toss vegetables in olive oil. Grill over high heat till tender but not mushy. The zucchini will only take about 3 minutes, followed by the peppers, eggplant and portobello mushrooms. Fennel will take the longest to grill, about 7 to 8 minutes.

Remove vegetables to a serving platter. When cooled, season with salt and pepper and toss lightly with a balsamic vinaigrette, using 1 part vinegar to 4 parts olive oil. Serve at room temperature. Serves 8.

ROCKY ROADS

1 cup butter
2 lbs. semi-sweet chocolate, melted
1 10-oz. (285-g) bag mini-marshmallows
1 1/2 cups hazelnuts, toasted (see below)
2 cups whole almonds, toasted (see below)

Preheat oven to 350. Lightly grease a 9 x 13-inch baking pan.

Melt butter and chocolate in the top of a double boiler. Let cool. Stir marshmallows and nuts into cooled chocolate mixture. Spread into prepared pan. Refrigerate for 2 to 3 hours. Cut into small squares. Makes 20 squares.

Toasting Nuts: Toast on a cookie sheet in a preheated 375 F oven to a light golden colour, about 6 to 8 minutes. To ensure all pieces are toasted, do not pack them too tightly on the sheet. For hazelnuts, cool slightly, then place in a towel and rub vigorously. The skins will remain on the towel.

Norene Gilletz is a Canadian author of kosher cookbooks, including MealLeaniYumm! (All That's Missing is the Fat). She gives lectures and cooking demonstrations throughout North America. Submit cooking questions to The CJN. *Contact Norene at goodfood@gourmania.com.*

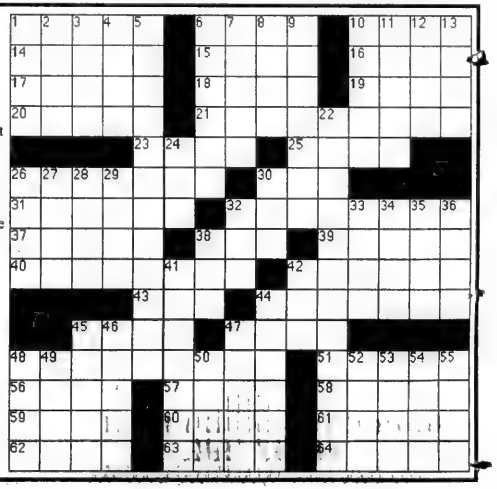
The Canadian Jewish news CROSSWORD PUZZLE

(Answers to the crossword are on page 38.)

Spring in Israel
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Famed Heights, beautiful in spring
6. Clan of the Cave Bear heroine
10. A cpl. of sizes
14. Modern Persian (Heb.)
15. What a nudnik gives you in the neck
16. In ____ of
17. Neck backs
18. Ancient port city of Asher
19. Soon, to Shakespeare
20. Where Jonah was lost
21. Giborim, in English
23. Descript. of missing dimension in fictional Flatland
25. Mrs. Chaplin
26. Cups and saucers, etc.
30. Before Gross Domestic Prod.
31. Pillage and looting
32. Native of north Syrian city
37. ____ as the (Galilean?) hills
38. For
39. Sounded off, puppy style
40. Beautiful hill wildflower of Israel
42. Dog or wolf
43. Medic for 42 Across
44. Adam and Eve's first digs (Heb.)
45. ____ Hu, Passover song of praise
47. Ayn ____
48. Their city is named for spring (Heb.)
51. The Zionist _____ made it all happen
56. Russian mountain range
57. Ment preceder
58. The Lubavitcher was a great one
59. Ceremony
60. Before, before
61. Girl's name (for tree, in Hebrew)
62. Ten toes
63. One steeped in color stain
64. Trig functions

Down
1. Little garden, to Chana
2. Either here ____ another place
3. Where grandchildren love to sit
4. "Give me a dee, give me ____!"
5. Two Hebrew names for spring's first month
6. Helicopter named after formidable Native Americans
7. Nice big boat
8. Israel's note, before modern shekel
9. Beautiful spring flower of Israel
10. "___ upon your heights" (David's over Jonathan and Saul)
11. Ancient state whose descendants served in David's royal guard
12. ___ Trotsky
13. Uzis and others
22. Two beautiful spring flowers of Israel
24. Bauxite, for example
26. Brand shaver
27. A snap
28. Maccabees, other non-Biblical bks.
29. "If you ____ it, it shall be"
30. Commercial slang for radiant
32. Prince Valiant's son, or Scotch alder
33. Tree widely planted by the J.N.F.
34. Disease break-out (abbrev.)
35. Endangered Hawaiian goose
36. British P.M., goes with 44 Across
38. Dog, cat, or guppy
41. Earned
42. Hoosegow
44. Reproductive cell
45. Winged
46. Fourth Hebrew letter
47. Washer cycle
48. Territory
49. Pennsylvania city
50. M'od, in English
52. Zabar's is one
53. Abba ____
54. ___ gate (renounce)
55. Meadows



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This Week

National

Congress pulls out of interfaith meetings. *Page 3*

El Al going to L.A.: El Al announces direct flight from Toronto to L.A. *Page 16*

Popular Vaughan mayor remembered as a *mensch*. *Page 22*

On Campus

Black student faces campus anti-Semitism. *Page 27*

Arts & Travel

Jewish film festival kicks off April 20. *Pages 48*

Don't get *tsabrochen*, Jackie Mason's back in town. *Pages 51*

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Heading into battle

IDF soldiers waved as they drove last week toward Bethlehem at the Gilo checkpoint south of Jerusalem. The photo was taken before news broke of the deadly fighting and heavy casualties in house-to-house combat in Jenin. *[RNS/Reuters photo]*

Canadian had pivotal role in creating Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

John Ross

TORONTO — Most Jews with an interest in Israeli history are familiar with the story.

In November 1947, the United Nations General Assembly gathered for a historic vote. Presented with a report from the UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), the General Assembly voted by a two-thirds majority to accept the committee's recommendation to partition British-controlled Palestine into two states, one Jewish, one Palestinian, with Jerusalem retaining independent status.

Despite the war waged against it by its Arab neighbours, the State of Israel was born almost six months later. This year, it celebrates its 54th birthday.

Today it seems inconceivable to consider anything other than a two-state solution for the Middle East conflict. But what if the General Assembly had not voted the way it did? What if, instead of contemplating a recommendation to partition British mandate territory, it had been presented with a recommendation for a unitary state with a permanent Jewish minority?

Continued on page 26

Please see related story on page 9

Leaders meet Graham

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — As *The CJN* went to press Monday, Jewish communal leaders held their first-ever meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham, partly to discuss recent statements Graham made about the escalating crisis in Israel, but also to show appreciation for a perceptible shift in Canadian voting at the United Nations.

Only a few weeks ago, the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC) was stinging from Graham's speech to its annual policy luncheon, at which the minister rebuked Israel for its conduct in the current crisis. Now, the Israel lobby has some praise for Canada's voting at the UN, even speaking of a "mini-breakthrough" when it comes to votes affecting Israel.

That shift is being seen in Canada's voting at the annual meeting in Geneva of the UN's Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), and in other language Canada has adopted over the past few weeks.

Community officials believe that Israel's plea to Canada prior to the start of the Geneva meetings – asking Ottawa to vote against anti-Israel resolutions and to force votes on them – may be affecting overall Canadian policy in the region.

Continued on page 25

Greater Toronto Area
Shabbat Acharei Mot/Kedoshim
Candlelighting: 7:47
Havdallah: 8:52

A report from inside the Jenin refugee camp — please see page 42

The News in Brief

CANADA

Day Named Critic

OTTAWA — The appointment of former Canadian Alliance leader Stockwell Day as his party's foreign affairs critic has been welcomed by the Canada-Israel Committee. Day, who has been a strong supporter of Israel and critic of the Palestinians, "has been very straightforward and very forceful in his support of Israel and I'd be surprised if he was to enunciate any other position," said CIC national chair Joseph Wilder. Day's appointment was blasted by Canadian Arab groups. However, Alliance MP Rahim Jaffer, a Muslim who advocates a balanced approach to the conflict, was named deputy foreign affairs critic for the Middle East.

Caplan Criticized

THORNHILL, Ont. — The Canadian Alliance riding association in Thornhill has taken Liberal MP and cabinet minister Elinor Caplan to task for failing to speak out on the Middle East. Riding association president Dan Samson challenged Caplan to denounce recent government statements on the Mideast crisis. "I am outraged that our very own member of Parliament and a representative of the Jewish community does not have the strength or moral principals to denounce such blatant appeasement of terrorists and terrorism," Samson said in a statement.

Survivor Dies

MONTREAL — Chaike Spiegel, one of the last survivors of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, died here recently at age 81. Spiegel joined the Jewish underground in Nazi-occupied Poland and fought in the ghetto uprising that began in April, 1943. She and her husband, Boruch, were among some 50 Jewish resistance fighters who escaped the ghetto in May, 1943.

ISRAEL

Bibi's Back

JERUSALEM — Former Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has agreed to serve as a spokesperson for the Israeli government, to "help clarify and present Israel's positions," an official said. Netanyahu's assistance was sought by Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, despite the fact Netanyahu will likely challenge Sharon eventually for the Likud Party leadership.

France Singled Out

JERUSALEM — The current wave of anti-Semitism in Europe is the worst since World War II, according to Avi Becker, secretary-general of the World Jewish Congress. Becker last week presented the findings of an annual report on anti-Semitism, conducted by Tel Aviv University. The report singled out France, saying there were more than 50 major anti-Semitic attacks there in 2001 involving the use of weapons.

Aid For Reservists

JERUSALEM — Hebrew University is offering financial aid to students called up for reserve duty in combat units. Students called up for three weeks or longer will be eligible for grants of up to $350 (US) to help cover costs of tutors, photocopying notes and other expenses incurred while trying to catch up on studies missed during reserve duty.

WORLD

Arrests Made

PARIS — More than 35 people have been arrested in France for recent attacks against Jews. Nine of those were arrested in connection with the recent firebombings of three synagogues; the others for verbal or physical abuse. Fifteen of those arrested are minors, most of whom, said an official, had been in trouble with the police before.

Agunot Meeting

NEW YORK — L'Maan B'nos Yisrael International, dedicated to helping the plight of agunot, is holding its third annual conference, Approaches to Dealing with the Agunah Crisis, on April 28 at Yeshivah of Flatbush, in Brooklyn. Private meetings can be arranged with participating rabbis, or with Mattie Klein, president and founder of the organization. For details, call 718-338-0833.

Calling Massadniks

NEW YORK — Camp Massad is planning a reunion to coincide with its 60th anniversary, to take place April 21 at 60 East 78th Street, N.Y. Former Massadniks are urged to contact Minahel@Camp Massad.com or write to Camp Massad Reunion Committee, 60 Cutter Mill Road, Suite 512, Great Neck, New York, U.S.A., 11021.

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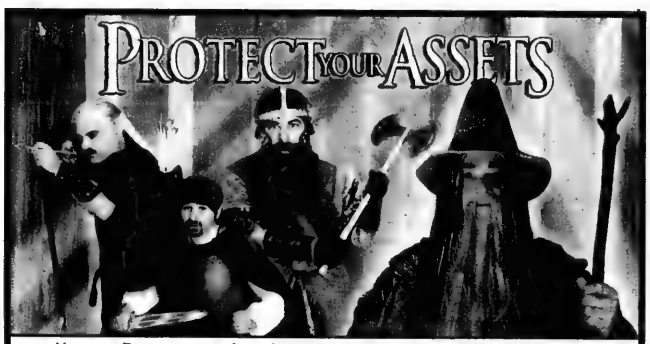

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Congress pulls out of interfaith meetings

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A spring meeting of the Canadian Christian-Jewish Consultation (CCJC) has been cancelled because Canadian Jewish Congress has refused to participate.

Keith Landy, CJC national president, said in a statement that Congress has suspended its participation in the CCJC – an interfaith liaison committee that includes the Anglican, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, United and Lutheran churches and has met about three times a year for the last 30 years – because CCJC does not support Israel in its fight against Palestinian terrorists.

Landy said he is also disappointed by the silence of the churches on the incidents of anti-Semitic violence in Canada.

"The last straw," Landy said, was a statement by Archbishop Michael Peers, primate of the Anglican Church in Canada, on the increasingly bloody battles between Palestinians and Israelis.

The archbishop's message, which was posted on the church's Web site, said that Israel is occupying Palestinian areas illegally and that the plight of Palestinians has been overlooked by the world.

Landy called the statement "which purports to be a call for peace with justice, a one-sided indictment of Israel, blaming the plight of the Palestinian people and the current crisis solely on Israel's so-called illegal occupation of the disputed territories.

"There is nothing in this message that holds the corrupt and despotic Palestinian Authority accountable for the misery of its own people."

PA not being held accountable for 'misery of its own people'

The archbishop's statement completely ignores the perspective of Israel and the Jewish people, who seek peace with security, Landy said.

"The Archbishop makes a complex series of issues into a facile zero-sum game in which support for the Palestinian people must be matched with harsh, unjust and unfair condemnation of Israel.

"Although caustic criticism of Israel appears forthcoming, we wonder why the churches are so silent in the face of the suicide terrorism that Israel experiences on a daily basis. Why have we not heard a single condemnation of the global wave of Middle East related anti-Semitism resurgent since the autumn of 2000, not only in Europe and elsewhere but right here in Canada?"

Archbishop Peers could not be reached by *The CJN*'s deadline. His office said he was was attending church meetings overseas.

Rev. Bruce Gregersen, the United Church of Canada's scretary for interfaith relations, said he is saddened but not surprised by Landy's announcement.

"I know that we have had profound disagreements in interpreting what is actually going on in the Middle East, and particularly what the pathway is to a just peace."

Rev. Gregersen said his church continues to be comitted to dialogue and is available to resume conversation at any time.

In his statement, Landy said it is "sheer hypocrisy for the rest of the world to declare war on terrorism, but not when it's being brought into the homes and seder tables of the Israeli people."

Christians need to express compassion for the Palestinians without slamming Israel, he said in an interview. "Clearly, the plight of the Palestinians is in the hands of the Palestinian leadership.

"Why do [Palestinian leaders] feel the need to arm the Palestinians when they could be spending the money to improve their living conditions?"

CJC has decided to suspend its participation in the meetings until further notice, Landy said. "We will continue to engage in interfaith dialogue with all people of good will in the hope of sharing a vision of the Middle East that truly represents peace for all peoples in the region with justice and security."

In the beginning I was jealous that Shoshi was killed and I survived ...

Like other victims of terrorism, Michal Ganon's life has been changed permanently as the fight for freedom continues and as Israel's very existence is being threatened.

"November 22, 2000, was just another regular day at the drug store in Hadera where I worked. My best friend and co-worker, Shoshi Reis and I decided to go for some pizza after work. This was the fatal decision!

I was paying for our pizza and suddenly was thrown to the ground by an enormous explosion. Everything around me turned hazy. Chaos surrounded me.

My body was riddled with pain but I knew that I was alive. I kept calling out for Shoshi, yet never heard her voice again. The suicide bomber had killed her.

My left leg was blown off my body and my right leg had to be amputated. Being 23 years old and having to spend the rest of my life in a wheelchair made me jealous of Shoshi. She, at least, did not have to suffer like I did.

I felt very disoriented as I no longer belonged in the able-bodied world but could not come to terms with being disabled.

It was only at Beit Halochem in Tel Aviv where I started to feel comfortable and discovered that there was a place where I could fit in and be accepted.

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Am Yisroel Chai

From the editor's desk

One of the great blessings of being associated with *The CJN* is the relationship it confers with the paper's readers. Our readership is widely diverse, encompassing the spectrum of religious observance, age, education, economic background, cultural, institutional, geographic and other affiliations. Generalizations about our readers, therefore, are somewhat risky. But it is not stretching truth to say that, as a group, they are well-read, well-informed, opinionated, critical, articulate, passionately committed to Israel and the Jewish people, and of course, highly demanding of the paper.

The staff at *The CJN* receive many phone calls from our readers.

Generally, they call to offer opinions; to seek clarification on items they may have read in our paper or in other news media; to seek information about events happening in the community; to suggest story ideas; occasionally, to praise, but more frequently, to criticize; but always to find out about things happening in Israel.

Last Wednesday, I received a number of phone calls, the gist of three of which I record here.

It was the day after Yom Hashoah. It was also the day after 13 IDF soldiers died in the ambush in Jenin, the horrible details of which were just then emerging.

Emotions in the community were closer to the surface than normal. There was a palpable feeling among some people that their sense of personal security, even here, was being undermined.

The first caller was a man, who, it became clear, was at least in his mid-to-late seventies. Had I seen a recent telecast in which Barbara Walters had discussed with a Saudi Arabian official the nature of the Saudi educational curriculum, he wanted to know.

I told him I had not.

He then advised me, politely, in some detail, of the crude anti-Semitism that infuses Saudi schools, that permeates Saudi society at all levels – on the street, in the market places, in the media and in the universities.

I told the caller that I was generally aware of the anti-Semitic nature of Saudi society, of the anti-Jewish blood libel that appeared recently in a leading newspaper there, and of the fact that Saudi officials recently, and perhaps still, distributed copies of the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion* to visitors.

He asked me if *The CJN* knew what was being taught about the Jews in the private Muslim schools in Toronto. I responded that I did not. He suggested it might be a good project for *The CJN* to find out. I agreed, and said we would try.

His voice began to trail off somewhat and I understood our conversation was about to end. Then he said, as much to himself as to me, that the things he was reading in the newspaper these days reminded him of the things he had read in the newspaper before World War II.

The second caller was a younger man, of a generation closer to mine, born after the war.

He wanted to know if I could help him refine the contents of a letter he had written to his member of Parliament, Elinor Caplan. He was unnerved, shaken and worried by events unfolding in Israel and in Europe. He could no longer abide the feeling that there was nothing he could do to help. He had to do something, he said, in addition to praying, to reciting Tehillim, to calling family and friends in Israel, to rallying the emotions of others.

He needed to convey to the government his anger and deep disappointment at their policies, which he felt were equivocal and drew false parallels between the Palestinians' acts of terror and Israel's acts of self-defence.

We talked about the one-sided, media reporting against Israel, which in the main was now deluged with images of menacing Israeli tanks and pitiable Palestinian rubble. He was in mid-sentence when I heard his breath catch, his voice crack and his emotions break down. He began to cry. He tried to speak but could not. Then, just as quickly as his emotions overcame him, he caught his breath and apologized, unnecessarily, for the breakdown in conversational decorum.

I thanked him for the call, commended him for his resolve, wished him well and bade him *chazak v'amatz*, that he be able to find strength and courage.

The third caller was a teenager. She wanted to know if we had any details of the upcoming rally being planned in Washington. I shared with her as much information as I knew.

It was important that I commend her as well, merely for contemplating joining the rally. As I was in mid-sentence, she too began to cry. With all the ache and fear that poured from her soul, she sobbed, "We are going to lose Israel."

Straining to hold on to the composure that was now slipping away from me, and holding back the tears that were welling in my eyes, I assured her that "Israel would never be lost."

There are forces at work in heaven and beyond protecting Israel, I told the young caller, that are far greater than mere human forces and that the Jewish people would surely be rewarded for the concern, commitment and love that young people like her felt for the Jewish State.

Three callers, three generations.

Israel lives in us all.

* * *

The reflections that will appear in this space next week will be written from Israel.

— MBD

SeeJN

HABER GETS ADVOCACY AWARD: Shirley Anne Haber of Toronto, second from left, received the Canada-Israel Committee's LIAT Award for Israel Advocacy at the CIC conference last month. Presenting the award to Haber were Prime Minister Jean Chrétien (left) and (to Haber's right) Israeli President Moshe Katsav and his wife Gila. LIAT – Local Israel Action Teams – is a series of workshops started last year by CIC to teach advocacy skills and co-ordinate pro-Israel activities. [Andrew Balfour Photography]

STAND WITH ISRAEL ON PARLIAMENT HILL!

On **Sunday, April 21st** at **11:00 a.m.** members of **Canada's Jewish community** will rally in **solidarity with Israel**.

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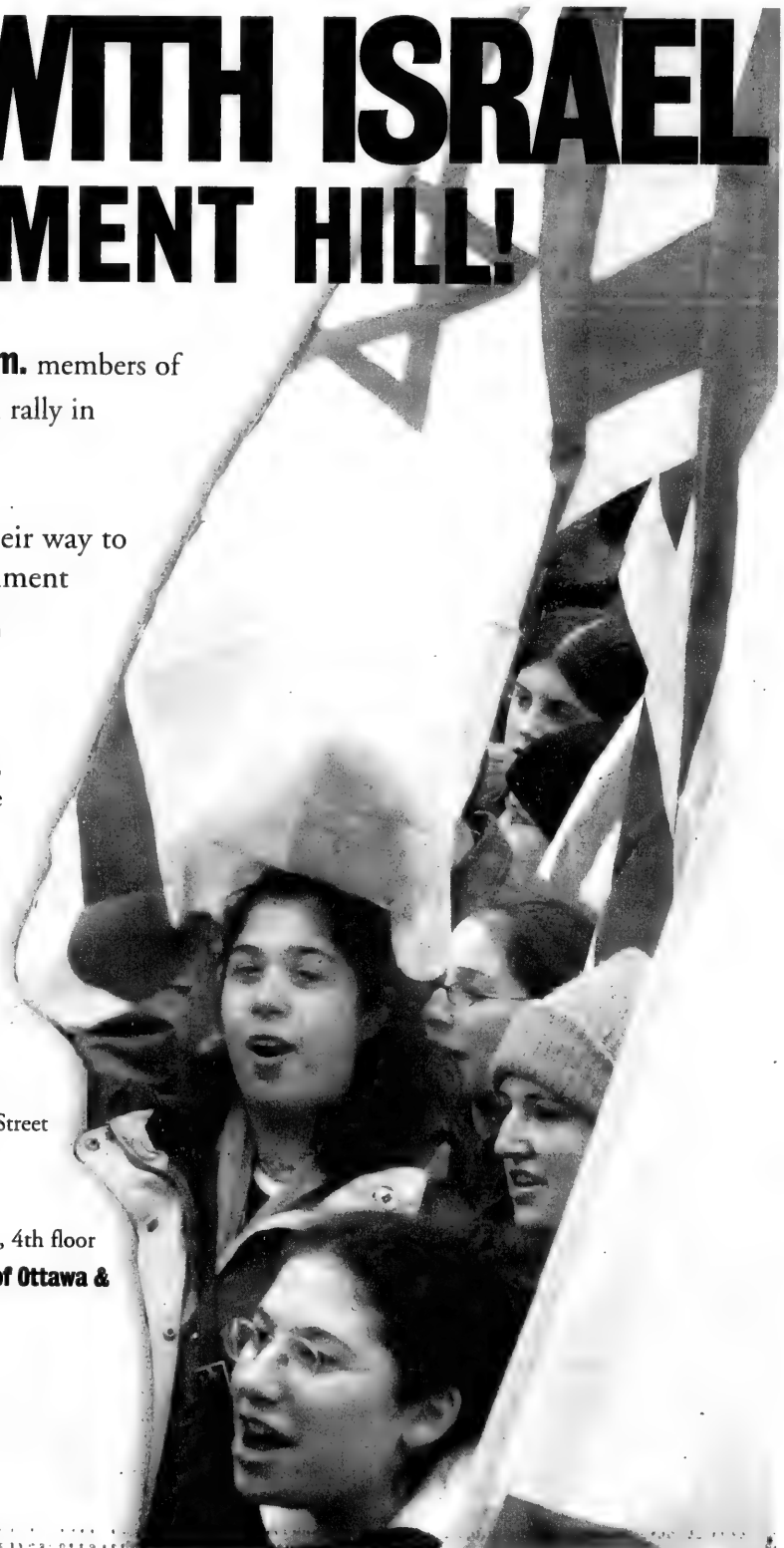

- **Buses will be leaving for Ottawa at 5:00 a.m.** on April 21st from the lower parking lot of the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst Street and returning immediately after the rally.
- **Cost is $25.00**, and includes the round-trip bus fare and a Kosher box lunch. This low rate is made possible by a subsidy provided by **UJA Federation of Greater Toronto**.
- No reservations accepted.
- Tickets can be picked up at:
  - Negev Book & Gift Store, 3509 Bathurst Street
  - Israel's Gift and Judaica Centre 441 Clark Avenue W., Thornhill
  - Canadian Jewish Congress Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street, 4th floor
- Rally sponsored by **Jewish Community Council of Ottawa & Canadian Jewish Congress**

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IsraelNOW

The Israel Now consortium is made up of community organizations united in solidary with Israel, under the auspices of UJA Federation and The Consulate General of Israel.

UJA FEDERATION

Walk TALK

Israel, We're With You!

UJA Federation's Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 is now underway and one of the best ways to participate is by joining the Walk with Israel on May 20.

Israel's situation is so urgent that **UJA Federation** is starting **Campaign 2003** four months earlier than scheduled to raise funds for social services that are strained to the limit.

The Campaign includes many programs designed to let you – members of our concerned community – say, **"Israel, we're with you!"** That's why this year's **UJA Federation Walk with Israel** on **Monday, May 20**, starting and ending at **SkyDome**, is so crucial.

"There's no doubt that this year's Walk with Israel is absolutely vital in terms of showing our support for Israel. People who want to make a difference in the lives of Israelis should come out for what promises to be an incredible event," says **Abe Glowinsky**, Chair, along with **Elyza Polsky**, of the **Walk with Israel**.

"Due to the situation in Israel, this year's Walk takes on a different tone. It will still be a great way to spend a day with friends and family, but most importantly, it will let the people of Israel know **'we're with you!'**" says Polsky.

Rain or shine, this year's **UJA Federation Walk with Israel** promises to be the biggest and the best. We're expecting at least 10,000 participants.

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Palestinian-backed tour concerns Liberal MP

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO – A Liberal backbencher well-regarded in the Jewish community fears his fellow MPs will be used as propaganda pawns when they take part in a Palestinian-sponsored trip to the Middle East next month.

Joe Volpe, MP for Eglinton-Lawrence, which has a sizeable Jewish population, downplayed reports that the trip has caused a rift in the Liberal caucus. But he says the mission does "underline the fact that there are differences in our caucus when it comes to Israel and the Palestinians."

Joseph Volpe

Last week, Volpe made headlines when he said that a decision by nine MPs, including four of his fellow Liberals, to accept a visit to the West Bank paid for by Palestine House in Toronto, was wrong.

Volpe said the MPs would be used in the Palestinian propaganda war.

"I can't believe that serious-thinking men and women wouldn't see the dangers of being used as propaganda tools," Volpe told *The CJN* in an interview.

"You're in the middle of a war. One side calls you over, and you go, at their expense. Give me a break. How can you do that? What parliamentarian would go? It's problematic."

Volpe said it's highly unlikely that participating MPs will get an even-handed view of the situation from their Palestinian sponsors.

He said that's the main difference between the mission and the annual trip for Canadian parliamentarians sponsored by the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC).

"The CIC trip is an ongoing one to sensitize people. They try to give everyone a complete flavour of what's going on. I can't think of one occasion where an MP was denied an opportunity to go anywhere."

On one past CIC mission, two Liberal MPs visited the Palestinian territories, Volpe said.

On the Palestine House-sponsored trip, "I don't know what [MPs] will accomplish by going into refugee camps, or where the violence is taking place. Precious little will be accomplished."

He noted that a recent high-profile trip to Palestinian areas by NDP MP Svend Robinson was "set out to ensure that the media would focus on Svend. And the media complied."

Volpe acknowledged that the invitation from Palestine House came before Israel launched its offensive in the West Bank. "But my problem is that it will actually take place, now."

He said the issue has been raised at "senior levels," including with foreign affairs minister Bill Graham and with the Prime Minister's Office. "This is not just a caucus issue," Volpe said.

He described MPs planning to go on the trip as generally even-handed on the Middle East. But he conceded that none is known to be pro-Israel.

Fellow Liberal MP and human rights expert Irwin Cotler, the representative for Mount Royal, said he has no objection to the mission "as long as it's organized around guidelines of fairness and openness and gives a plurality of views. I would hope members would hear all perspectives."

Participating Liberal MPs are Colleen Beaumier, Dan McTeague, Roger Gallaway, and Carolyn Parrish.

Also slated to attend are Bloc Québécois MPs Réal Ménard and Stéphane Bergeron; Alliance MP Art Hanger; Libby Davies from the NDP, and Quebec Independent Jean-Guy Carignan.

Beaumier was quoted last week as saying that she cannot be bought with a $3,000 trip to the Middle East. "That's not my price… It's a cheap shot," she reportedly said, while McTeague said he plans to visit the region with an open mind.

ISRAEL AT 54: Associated Hebrew Schools students and teachers at the Posluns campus celebrate Israel's 54th birthday with dancing, singing and flag-waving.

Associated Read-for-a-Need raises $85,000 for ambulance

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

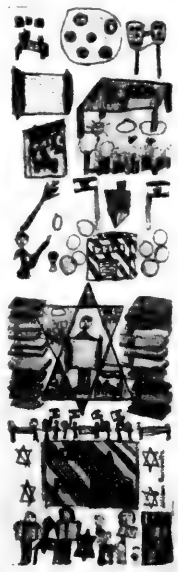
TORONTO — At Associated Hebrew Day Schools, reading books can save lives.

In an integrated fund-raising project, Associated launched a Read-for-a-Need program in January to encourage students to support Israel by working towards the purchase of an ambulance.

The program raised close to $85,000, surpassing the initial goal of $71,000 needed to purchase a Magen David ambulance, said Randy Spiegel, director of development and public relations at Associated.

Over the past few months, 78 ambulances have been lost in Israel and a March 21 *Jerusalem Post* article noted that Magen David Adom is currently in debt.

Vice-principal Judy Cohen developed the Read-for-a-Need program in an effort to promote literacy and, at the same time, to encourage community support for Israel, Spiegel said.



Students prepared bookmarks as part of their read-a-thon.

Students were taught that the Jewish people are the people of the Book, he noted, and that reading fosters intellectual and social growth. They were encouraged to pursue creative fund-raising projects around the theme of books and reading.

Initiailly, the kids prepared bookmarks that were given out to sponsors and supporters.

"Over 30,000 bookmarks were printed," Spiegel said.

Older students were asked to get pledges for pages or chapters completed and parents were encouraged to read to their younger children.

As the program went on, a Grade 4 class put together a cookbook on fruit that sold out, Spiegel said.

In the end, over one million pages were read by the kids at all campuses over the month.

Students embraced the project because it was about ambulances and human lives, not politics or religion, Speigel said.

Seated in front of Magen David Adom mural at Danilak Middle School are (from left), Brian Cohen, Chaim Lax, Justine Katz, Sherri Tobias and Melissa Tayar.

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Annan's dangerous falsehoods

As a result of the many unfair, morally inverted, hypocritical responses to Israel's war against terror, Jews around the world are feeling an increasing sense of existential isolation. For example, demonstrators in European capitals protest against the "apartheid" state of Israel; marchers rally against the "racist" Jewish state.

The use of such terminology is as false as it is deliberate and mischievous. Israel is neither apartheid nor racist. Indeed if the term "apartheid" can be used at all, it is appropriate to do so in reference to such "moderate" states as Saudi Arabia or Jordan, where it is forbidden for a non-Muslim even to own land, let alone to enjoy any other of the political and legal rights incidental to Israeli and other western societies.

In the campaign against Israel, however, falsehoods, are the norm. We expect them, although we bridle no less when we hear them from spokespeople of the totalitarian, despotic regimes aligned against Israel. We expect them, too, from the rabid ideologues on both the far right and far left, for whom Jews (as embodied by Israel) are the avatars of world domination and economic conspiracy.

But we do not expect falsehoods to be propagated by world leaders, by persons having important international responsibility. Yet falsehoods have also spilled, alas, from the secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, even as they have from the secretary general of the Arab League.

Last month, Annan denounced Israel's occupation of the lands it seized in the Six Day War as "illegal." The use of the term by the secretary general was not only infelicitous and inaccurate, it was dangerous. For, as the Canada-Israel Committee pointed out in correspondence it sent to Annan, such "characterization... may encourage continued Palestinian violence against Israel as 'justified resistance.'"

Others too have pointedly called the secretary general to account for his careless use of language. Columbia University law professor George Fletcher wrote in the *New York Times*: "Using the term 'illegal' [in reference to the occupied territories] is destructive and dangerous. For the uninformed, the discussion will start with the secretary general's labelling of the occupation as a violation of law... Those who pay attention to the details of history know better."

In a subsequent letter to the editor of the *Times*, Annan's spokesperson, Frederic Eckhard clarified that the use of the term "illegal" referred to "Israel's failure," according to the secretary general, "in the five years that have since elapsed, to accept the legal obligations that the status of an occupying power carries with it" and not to the occupation itself.

It therefore leaves one to ask why the secretary general would have been so careless with his language in the first place as to leave on the public record a falsehood regarding Israel's occupation of the disputed territories, and why he has not publicly corrected the record since.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dismayed at Robinson

I was dismayed to watch Svend Robinson try to visit Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat in the midst of the war in Israel. Was this an appropriate time to go for a stroll in Ramallah? Robinson could have knocked on Arafat's door any time in the past 18 months of violence. Together they could have demolished pizzas and lattés before the Passover massacre, each keeping an eye on the door.

Robinson got televised coverage at the expense of his dignity. The NDP are all but forgotten today and his stunt was a misguided attempt to put them back into the consciousness of the Canadian public.

I have supported the ideals of the NDP since I was able to vote more than three decades ago. I always admired Robinson for his outspoken courage in the fight for gay and human rights. But the way he stuck his nose in a place, manner and time where it does not belong has shaken my belief that the NDP can lead this country.

Jake Peters
Toronto

* * *

It's time to act

As the war in the West Bank and Israel gets worse, it is time for bold black headlines in *The CJN* demanding, in very strong terms, that the Canadian Government denounce suicide bombers and anti-Semitic, Middle Eastern, government sponsored media. Only when the suicide bombers stop can Canada say that Israel's use of force is excessive. Only when publishing hatred is stopped will there be peace. The Canadian government must choose whether they are for or against the existence of Israel. There is no middle ground. As U.S. President George W. Bush said, they are either for us or against us. If they are for us, that is fine; if against us, we must determine how to act.

The CJN must also strongly encourage its readers to write to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien and Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham and local newspapers demanding that they stand for a truly peaceful solution, and not waver in their support for Israel. It is not enough for Jews to mumble platitudes of support for Israel. Now is the time to act decisively by writing or doing other supportive actions. Inaction is not sufficient. If we are not for ourselves, who will be for us?

Jonathan Usher
Toronto

* * *

Two-state solution necessary

We deplore the many barbaric terrorist attacks against Israelis and mourn with our friends and relatives in Israel. We realize Israel must defend itself against such brutality, as would any nation. Yet we fear that military responses without serious political initiatives – the stick without the carrot – will not bring peace. At best, military strikes will produce a lull in the violence. At worst – and we have seen the situation worsening over the past 18 months – they invite revenge and escalation. As has been said, the "terrorist infrastructure" is in the hearts of Palestinians, not just in the minds and basements of a few groups. Changing the Palestinian public's support for suicide bombers seems impossible right now, yet Israel must try.

This can only be done if Israel declares its readiness for a two-state solution that offers the Palestinians a viable homeland. True, former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak offered that at Camp David and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat foolishly rejected it. But Prime Minister Ariel Sharon also rejected the terms of the Clinton plan and his stance has not significantly changed.

Most Israelis support a two-state solution and an end to the occupation (albeit not a return to the exact 1967 borders). Though Jews should demand action against terrorism, we should also welcome, and promote, every initiative toward a two-state solution.

Av Sohn, Co-President
Canadian Friends of Peace Now
Toronto

* * *

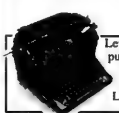
Annan should have resigned

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan is under judgment.

The United Nations Security Committee recently passed Resolutions 1402 and 1403 relating to Israel's military operations against the terrorists in the West Bank. On April 8-11, there was a conference in Jerusalem called "The Legacy of Holocaust Survivors: The Moral and Ethical Implications for Humanity." Annan was invited, but did not come. Had he attended, he might have protested the resolutions and resigned.

In fact, Annan should have resigned with the Palestinian "uprising." In 1967, the Security Council passed Resolutions 242 and 338, which demanded that Israel "withdraw from occupied territories." It did not say "the," let alone "all the" occupied territories. It clearly was Annan's duty to enforce these resolutions or, if unable to, to resign. Had he done so, there might have been no war.

Emil L. Fackenheim
Jerusalem



Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Ivan Rand and the UNSCOP papers

This is the first part of a two-part article. Part 2 will be published next week.

By JOHN ROSS

Last December, I found myself disturbed by comments made by Liberal Senator Marcel Prud'homme who, as quoted in *Hansard* (House of Commons daily debates), gave a particularly vicious diatribe against three of Israel's prime ministers (Ariel Sharon, Menachem Begin and Moshe Sharett). He also directed his fellow senators to look back to the United Nations (UN) and the General Assembly resolution of Nov. 29, 1947, in order to find the reason for the current difficulty in the Middle East.

To the applause of his senate colleagues, he said, "A great man... [former Canadian prime minister] Lester Pearson helped implement a report written by another great Canadian from the Supreme Court, which called for two states in the land of Palestine, one for the Jews, one for the Palestinians – of course, with no consultation from the Palestinians."

The intent of Prud'homme's revisit to the past was clearly twofold. Firstly, he wanted all Canadians to believe that as early as 1947, Israel has been acting in defiance of the UN's wishes by preventing the establishment of a Palestinian state. Secondly, he wanted Canadians to take the failure of the creation of a Palestinian state as a personal affront to the memory of the two pre-eminent Canadians who supported the rights of the Palestinians.

I have always been aware of the fact that while at Flushing Meadows on Nov. 29, 1947, Pearson, who was then under-secretary of state for external affairs, helped Israel obtain the two-thirds majority vote required to pass the resolution in favour of the partition of Palestine. The Arab nations had sought a unitary independent Palestinian state in which the Jews would have no more than a one-third representation in an elected government, and so it was clearly recognized that a vote in favour of partition was an outright rejection of their position.

Furthermore, the historical record confirms that the Arabs had been consulted and were invited to appear before the UN or its committees. Therefore, I knew Prud'homme was quite wrong in his interpretation of events and that he gave a misleading "spin" on the partition resolution.

But what piqued my interest was the reference to the other Canadian referred to by Prud'homme, Supreme Court Justice Ivan Rand, who drafted the original recommendation that was the basis of the UN resolution. Although the details of his prestigious legal and judicial career were well known, little information has been available about his involvement in making the report. This is because the committee that he served on, the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), deliberated in secrecy; their meetings and discussions were never made public.

I wanted to find out more about Rand and his position on Palestine for two reasons. My first objective was to determine if his reasons for partition would either hinder or help present-day Canadian Jewry in combating the countless UN resolutions that attack Israel's legitimacy.

The Honourable Ivan C. Rand

My second reason, which was more personal, arose from the fact that Rand founded the University of Western Ontario Law School upon his retirement from the Supreme Court of Canada in 1960, the same law school that I attended.

I first looked for the government-published volume *Documents on Canadian External Affairs* (1947), which contains all formerly classified memorandums and correspondence of the External Affairs Department of the federal government. In the section on Palestine, I found several interesting telegrams and documents between Pearson, minister of external affairs Louis St. Laurent and prime minister Mackenzie King, which indicated that Canada tried strenuously not to be nominated as a member of UNSCOP, and that it lobbied both the United States and the United Kingdom to be kept off the committee.

Only after arm twisting by the United States did Canada reluctantly agree to be one of the 11 "neutral" states (Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, India, Guatemala, Iran, Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia) that would immediately visit Palestine and render a report outlining a solution for the problem by Aug. 31, 1947. But in order to diminish the anticipated political fallout from having been forced to make a decision on the touchy subject, the Canadian government decided that its representative on UNSCOP would be completely independent and not be given any instructions.

Out of a list of seven prominent Canadians, King selected Rand, who departed for Palestine via New York in June 1947. The Department of External Affairs provided Rand with a historical background paper as a guideline, but this memorandum must have been intended to neutralize him from making any decision on Palestine as it spoke of "two great historic tragedies... one Arab, the other Jewish."

The report also advised of the "futility" in determining which people have suffered the worst "catastrophe," and included a Jewish position paper that argued for one unitary Palestinian state and said that partition was not in the best interests of the Jews.

I then decided to call Western's law school to find out if Rand had left behind any memoirs or articles about the time he served on UNSCOP. The library staff said they doubted there would be anything, as Rand never wrote an autobiography, but that they would conduct a search. I was surprised to hear back from the senior librarian a few days later, and quite excited when she told me that she had located an old box marked "Palestine" containing UN papers marked "classified and confidential." I drove anxiously to London to examine the box's contents, and was overwhelmed to see that it contained the complete record of the UNSCOP hearings and deliberations.

Not only did the box also have copies of the position papers of the submissions presented by all of the various local and religious groups in Palestine, but it also contained the confidential reports of the British high commissioner, the verbatim reporting of all meetings and discussions, the individual position papers of each member of UNSCOP and the working drafts of the final report together with handwritten notes and amendments.

Also kept in the box were two important and interesting files. The first contained Rand's personal correspondence from government officials and various individuals living in Palestine, while the second contained the entire briefing report from External Affairs. No one could have dared imagine a more valuable treasure chest of information pertaining to Palestine in 1947 and so revealing of the world's attitude towards Jews and Zionism.

The material revealed that the UNSCOP delegates were completely divided on what they envisioned for Palestine. On Aug. 27, 1947, only four days before the report was due, the chairman realized they had "too many different proposals" and that "the upshot would be a disjointed, incoherent, and from the point of view of the assembly, largely unintelligible report." The only majority viewpoint at that time was of India, Iran, Yugoslavia and Peru, who announced that they were in favour of a unitary state.

The most gratifying for me, however, was reading that it was Rand who recognized the need for consensus in order to arrive at a single solution that would benefit the Jews. He rose to the forefront in the deliberations and forced his fellow delegates to reconsider their personal positions. By using his great ability as a conciliator, he proceeded to work on a draft final report that would eventually gain the majority support of seven of the 11 delegates.

When the delegate from India chided the other delegates favouring partition for not having specifics on partition boundaries, Rand kept his group working together, saying that it was more important to complete the report with a strong recommendation for partition, and only afterward would it be necessary to settle this issue. When the delegates finally had to delineate the boundaries for the two states, he persuaded his fellow members to give the Jewish state control over the Negev, a decision later opposed by many countries, including the United States. On Aug. 30, he argued and debated with the Indian delegate to ensure that the background reasons set out in the report were supportive of the historical right for a Jewish national homeland.

The UNSCOP papers clearly demonstrate that without Rand, there would not have been a final report that so thoroughly and persuasively recommended partition as the only viable way of helping the Jews in Palestine and the Diaspora. Without it, it is extremely unlikely that Israel would have obtained the two-thirds majority vote of the General Assembly on Nov. 29, 1947. Our debt to Rand, both as Jews and as Canadians, is immeasurable and should proudly be recorded in the history of Zionism and Israel.

John Ross practises law in Hamilton, Ont.

Opinions

Golden age for Canadian Jews?

Someone was good enough to send me a copy of an article that appeared in the *National Post* back in November, a piece I had not seen before. Written by Bob Harvey, it carried the headline of this article and a subheading: "Jewish life in Canada, second only to Israel, author of book says." The book Harvery is referring to is Prof. Morton Weinfeld's *Like Everyone Else But Different* (McClleland & Stewart, 2001).

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

Weinfeld has taught sociology for many years at McGill University; his specialty is the sociology of North American Jews. The book's main point is simple but, as far as I know, it has not been made with his clarity and strength before. American Jews are far larger in number than those in Canada but, says Weinfeld, the latter excel in religious observance, identity and strength of their communities.

To support his thesis, Weinfeld quotes the following statistics: "One-third of American Jews have visited Israel; two-thirds of Canadian Jews have been to Israel. Canadian Jews are more likely to fast on Yom Kippur, and are more likely to be able to converse in Hebrew and Yiddish."

According to the author, one of the reasons for this difference is the fact that most American Jews were born in the United States, with only 10 per cent having been born abroad, while in Canada, the latter figure is 30 per cent. Also, he says, ethnicity is a greater part of Canadian Jewish life. In Canada, Jews see themselves as a people, a group, more than just a religion. In the United States, on the other hand, many Jews view being Jewish as belonging to Judaism and worshipping as Jews, and not necessarily as being part of a Jewish grouping.

Furthermore, our Jewish community is the sixth largest in the world and the only one, Weinfeld says, that is growing. It attracts Jews from around the world, including Israelis. The World Jewish Congress is cited as saying: "The most impressive and consistent growth [of Jews] occurred in Canada, which in about three decades increased its Jewish population by 50 per cent."

Having lived for many years in the United States, and for the last 40 years in Canada, I find the distinctions that Weinfeld cites to be accurate and worth considering.

Maybe that is that is why I found Toronto and Canada easy to live in and to pursue my profession. It is a good land and one of its great features is the fact that it allows us to live our Judaism with intensity and in a climate of total freedom. Unfortunately, we do not always take full advantage of this great and unique opportunity.

New voices in the security debate

Ariel Sharon's support among Israelis will be put to the test halfway through his term as prime minister. The date of Israel's next election is related not to his election as prime minister in February 2000, but to the date of the last national election in 1999. As a result, even as the battle against Palestinian terrorism continues, the political wheels are already in motion for a return to the polls in the spring of 2003. That election will mark a return to Israel's old one-ballot system, in which there is no distinction between a vote for a party and a vote for prime minister.

Shira Herzog in Toronto

The most interesting developments are taking place in the centre of the political map, in the vacuum left by Labour's participation in Sharon's government. This is fuelled by a dissatisfaction with Sharon's apparent lack of a meaningful political strategy vis-a-vis the Palestinians (as distinct from focused military action to weaken the terrorist infrastructure), and doubts about the capacity of Labour head Binyamin Ben-Eliezer for national leadership.

Political pundits are placing early bets on three individuals, without a sense, as yet, of what role they might play, or within what kind of party framework. All come from a military or security background – a key asset in Israeli political life – and have dealt directly with Palestinians in combat and negotiations. All have publicly taken issue with elements of Sharon's approach thus far.

Ami Ayalon, a former commander of the navy and head of the General Security Service (GSS), is currently active in the corporate and community sectors. He has stressed the need to act with as much restraint as possible in military action that involves contact with Palestinian civilians. He also favours a unilateral Israeli withdrawal within the West Bank to defensible lines that Israel will determine.

Amram Mitzna, mayor of Haifa for the last nine years, is viewed by many as one of the few generals who have made a successful transition to politics, albeit at the municipal level. Mitzna is thoughtful and tacitum, and known for his low-key, but firm, style. He was seriously wounded in the Six Day and Yom Kippur wars and received the highest military awards for bravery after both.

Mitzna is best known for his resignation from his IDF post as chief of the Central Command during the first intifadah due to disagreement with tactics employed. He, too, calls for a withdrawal to defensible lines. In the long run, says Mitzna, there is no military solution to the conflict with the Palestinians.

"The Palestinians have nothing to lose," he says. "We have a lot to lose. The country has to understand that Judea, Samaria and Gaza are a burden that will lead us downhill."

Yaacov Peri, head of the GSS from 1988 to 1995, and currently CEO of Cellcom, a successful telecommunications company, has recently announced his resignation from Cellcom and is considering a political career. He is articulate and opinionated, and he has met Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and other Palestinian leaders on numerous occasions.

Peri believes that, as the stronger party, Israel has to take the first step to move back to a political process, in a cautious, considered manner that will break the current deadlock. He believes there is potential to rebuild relations with Palestinian leaders around Arafat. Finally, he, too, believes that eventually Israel will have to leave the territories and to evacuate settlements.

Many view Ayalon, Mitzna and Peri as potential leaders on a national scale in the necessary debate over "the day after" the current military action. For the moment, they have been meeting informally with a group of corporate, academic and public figures and have refrained from taking the plunge into national politics.

By bringing the National Religious Party and its new, extreme leader, Effi Eitam, into the government and by also bringing back the National Unity party headed by Avigdor Liberman, Sharon has reinforced his position on the right and has re-ignited the debate over Labour's continued participation in cabinet. Either way, whether in or out of cabinet, the challenge to both Sharon and Labour's leadership from voices such as those of Peri, Mitzna and Ayalon will not go unnoticed.

What is the endgame?

I write this as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell prepares to visit Israel. It is hard to know what the situation will be like next week. We live from newscast to newscast, often swamped by competing claims on our attention.

Morton Weinfeld in Montreal

One of the more recent short-term questions has arisen as part of the critical chorus directed against the incursions by the IDF into the Palestinian territories, after the Passover massacre in Netanya. But anxious supporters of Israel are also concerned. The question is usually posed using an overworked chess metaphor: What is the endgame? Specifically, when and how will Israel withdraw its troops, and how will the military campaigns translate into some lasting peace, or at least lasting security, for Israel?

Regardless of what one thinks about the morality or efficacy of the incursions, this question relies on a metaphor that is inappropriate.

Chess is usually played and analyzed as a three-part process involving an opening, a middle game and an endgame. In chess, there is no single endgame which can be predicted or anticipated for each and every opening. Rather, there are a large number of possible strategies, tactics and moves that may make sense, given how the game has unfolded. How the game unfolds is a product of an infinite array of combinations of moves.

The endgame refers to basic options, or principles of play, dealing with how to maximize advantages when many pieces are gone and the game has become analytically simpler. Just because a chess player knows how she will begin a match or why she selected a line of play does not mean she knows what the endgame will be. Indeed, much of chess involves reacting to the moves of an opponent. For both players, how to play the endgame depends on the pieces available and their position.

It is not a failure of Sharon's campaign that he may – or may not – have a clear sense of ultimate outcomes. In fact, there is every evidence that there are indeed well thought-out objectives. Israeli intelligence seems to have prepared the ground well. Weapons have been seized, suspected terrorists detained, relevant documents found. Even an alleged organizer of the Passover massacre has been killed.

But most decisions to wage war are made amid much uncertainty and unpredictability. After Pearl Harbor, the Americans declared war on Japan and Germany with little debate on any endgame. But things worked out. They did not in Vietnam.

There are never any guarantees, especially in the long run. Does anyone know the precise endgame the United States and its allies will use to conclude the campaign in Afghanistan? In the short run, at least, the Israeli incursions seem to have succeeded in cutting down suicide bombings. After the Passover massacre, there was little choice, and little doubt, that Israel would respond militarily by taking the war against terror into the Palestinian heartland. This is precisely what America has done in Afghanistan.

Early in the 20th century, America was faced with another case of international terror. The Mexican bandit Pancho Villa began stopping trains in Mexico and shooting Americans on board after the United States supported his political opponent. In 1916, Villa and his men raided Columbus, N.M., and killed 18 Americans. Gen. John Pershing led a U.S. expedition into Mexico. All Mexicans resented the incursion, and, in any event, Pershing failed to apprehend Villa.

In fact, a clear sense of a mythical "endgame" may be one of the least important factors in deciding whether or not to undertake military action.

There are existential and psychological imperatives that force nations to act, especially in self-defence. These actions can boost the morale of a besieged nation, and can serve to rally the population. They are often effective in the short run and can buy time as longer term options are worked out. They can also serve to change a static and blocked situation – such as may have existed in the Middle East prior to the incursions.

True, there is a risk that these incursions may so inflame Arab passions that talks become impossible. But other options, like the status quo or unilateral Israeli withdrawal from all or most of the West Bank and Gaza without any negotiated agreement, also carry risks. There are times when one has to act.

The Kirshner File

Palestinian terrorism forced Israel to react

A country has a right, indeed an obligation, to defend itself. This is elementary and beyond debate. Operation Defensive Shield, Israel's sweep in the West Bank, is designed to destroy, or at the very least, to disable the insidious and destructive terrorist infrastructure spawned by Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority (PA). Viewed in this perspective, Operation Defensive Shield is justifiable on both moral and military grounds.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

During the past month, the bloodiest episode of the second Palestinian uprising, Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade – an offshoot of Arafat's Fatah faction – unleashed an unprecedented reign of terror in Israel and the territories in which scores of Israelis died.

These atrocities, capped by the destruction of the Moment Café in Jerusalem, the Passover massacre in Netanya and the bombing of an Israeli Arab restaurant in Haifa, needlessly claimed the lives of 126 Israelis in March alone, a staggering death toll no self-respecting nation can tolerate. That is why Israel was forced to go to war.

The Palestinian suicide bombers who wreak havoc in Israeli cities have several objectives in mind, but, first and foremost, their malevolent goal is to disrupt the normal ebb and flow of life in Israel.

To a great extent, they have succeeded. My friend in Tel Aviv, a teacher and a devotee of la dolce vita, sent me this grim, heart-breaking, understated e-mail last week: "Most Israelis prefer staying at home rather than going out to restaurants at d cinemas. Many even do their shopping via the Internet. Imagine that last night all our friends came to us to watch a movie rather than going out as usual. This is bad, and has to change soon."

The pernicious campaign by the Palestinians to sow fear, despair and uncertainty in the hearts of Israelis, aided and abetted by Arab regimes, is but one facet of their crusade to terrorize and demoralize Israel.

Even pragmatic Palestinians who still push for a two-state solution believe that violence – a brazen breach of the late Oslo accords – is "the shortest road" to end Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, to quote Marwan Barghouti, a leading Fatah militant.

This is a questionable thesis, given Israel Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's refusal to reward terrorism with political concessions, the corresponding hardening of Israeli public opinion concerning a fair and realistic resolution of the conflict, and the collapse of mutual trust.

More ominously, Israel continually faces the spectre of a rejectionist, racist wing of the Palestinian national movement that unalterably rejects Israel's rightful place in the region and, in Nazi-like fashion, contemptuously describes Jews as the descendants of monkeys and apes. Make no mistake. The despicable Islamic fundamentalist bombers from Hamas and Islamic Jihad, coddled far too long by the PA, are not merely fighting to wrest the West Bank and Gaza Strip from Israel's grasp, but to exterminate Israel as a Jewish state. Israel cannot compromise with such fanatics. It will not sign its own death warrant. This is clear.

Considering all these factors, Israel had no alternative but to launch Operation Defensive Shield on March 29. *Ein breirah*.

Lest we forget, the Palestinians resorted to violence after rejecting their best ever chance for statehood. Had they not squandered the opportunity presented at the Camp David summit, flawed though it was in their eyes, the situation today in the Middle East could have been rosier.

Rather than presenting a reasonable counter-offer and continuing negotiations until a deal was done, the Palestinians opted for a strategy of violence – blood and fire – to win statehood. In doing so, they helped shatter the promise of Oslo (Israel is also at fault here), betrayed the Israeli peace camp – which correctly understands that peace and occupation are intrinsically incompatible – and ensured Sharon's election as prime minister.

Alarmed by the spiralling bloodshed and chaos – which threatenes to spin out of control and engulf the Mideast in a regional war, as well as destabilize moderate Arab governments, spike up the price of crude oil and erode support for unseating Iraq's Saddam Hussein – the United States dispatched special envoy Anthony Zinni to the Mideast last month.

Prior to his arrival, Israel was reeling from a spate of bombings and shootings, the frequency of which shocked Israelis. To counter this wave of terrorism, the worst in Israel's history, Israel attacked PA bases and buildings and Palestinian refugee camps – incubators of suicide bombers – and tightened the cordon around Arafat's headquarters in Ramallah. Then, in deference to Zinni's mission, Sharon virtually halted the offensive.

Try as he might, and despite Sharon's belated decision to abandon his insistence on seven days of complete calm before entering into ceasefire talks with the PA, the hapless Zinni, for the third time since last year, failed to hammer out a truce. The Palestinians demanded a so-called political horizon, ceasefire talks held in tandem with parallel political negotiations aimed at bringing the prospect of Palestinian independence closer. Israel, however, was loath to discuss strictly political issues without nailing down a viable truce.

Israeli officials comb the wreck of the bus bombed on April 10.

The result? A frustrating impasse that has yet to be broken. U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell is now attempting to untie this Gordian knot.

In the wake of the Passover massacre on March 27, with columns of Israeli tanks and 20,000 reservists ready to storm into the Palestinian autonomous areas once more, Arafat suddenly expressed a willingness to implement "an immediate ceasefire." But it was too little and too late, Sharon already having declared Arafat an "enemy" and ordering Operation Defensive Shield, long advocated by Israeli forces on the right.

Sharon, having characterized the current offensive as "a battle for survival of the Jewish people [and] of Israel," believes that the Palestinians cannot be coaxed to the negotiating table unless they are "hit hard" and brought to the realization that "terrorism will achieve nothing."

Although this philosophy is questionable and may only deepen Palestinian antagonism, the vast majority of Israelis rightly support the basic aim of Operation Defensive Shield: the eradication of Palestinian terrorism. As my Israeli friend, a liberal, put it in her e-mail: "I am not sure whether this fighting will change anything, but it had to occur for the morale of the Israelis."

It stands to reason that if the United States could react militarily to Al Qaeda terrorism in a country thousands of kilometres from the ruins of the World Trade Centre in Manhattan, Israel has an identical right to crush terrorism in its own backyard. This is all the more true when you consider the fact that Israeli casualties have been proportionately much higher than those of the United States.

In the interests of maintaining its security and preserving its deterrent posture, Israel could not – and cannot – afford to sit on folded hands while its citizens were ruthlessly shot and blown to bits in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Netanya, Kfar Saba, Hadera, Nahariya and Umm al-Fahm.

Yet a military solution, favoured by Sharon and the Likud, has its limits, as we have plainly seen, and as Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer himself has suggested. Israel's incursions into the West Bank and Gaza since late February, its biggest raids in 20 years, did not squelch Palestinian terrorism. Nor, lamentably, has Operation Defensive Shield deterred suicide bombers, judging by the March 31 and April 10 bombings in Haifa and the April 12 bombing in Jerusalem.

Only a political solution – based loosely on Ehud Barak's and Bill Clinton's proposals, the Tenet plan, the Mitchell recommendations, Shimon Peres' and Ahmed Qureia's blueprint and Saudi Arabia's peace initiative – offers the best hope of mercifully ending the bloodletting and paving the way for an endgame.

Sharon's advocacy of long-term interim accords, his aversion to settling core problems, his devotion to settlements beyond the Green Line and his resistance to a nearly full withdrawal, are grave impediments on the march toward real peace. Similarly, Arafat's refusal to combat terrorism seriously, his calls to incitement, his idealization of "martyrs," and his fixation on the "right of return" are also formidable obstacles to a genuine rapprochement.

By now, both sides should know that peace can only be achieved through painful, historic compromises. Ultimately, Israel's bitter, draining dispute with the Palestinians cannot be settled by force.

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Holocaust survivors, victims remembered at CHAT

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Holocaust victims and survivors' individual stories were remembered at this year's Yom Hashoah ceremony at the Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto.

In various scenes, the performers delivered messages of hope, prompting the audience to remember but not allow the Holocaust to define who they are as Jews.

The program, which was written, produced and performed by students, addressed the issues of the day – Holocaust denial, the manipulation of history and the importance of speaking out during difficult times.

"We wanted every member to feel the connection with the victims," said Noah Zatzman, one of the play's co-ordinators.

The stories included the one of survivor Helen Schwartz, who told about her personal experiences, as well as dramatic excerpts that described the horrors faced by homosexuals and Jews during the war.

"It's our responsibility to remember everyone – Righteous Gentiles, homosexuals, Romas, all the Nazi victims," Zatzman said.

"But it's our duty to remember the Jewish victims," he added.

CHAT Headmaster, Paul Shaviv, told the audience that all post-Holocaust Jews are survivors.

As Israel faces challenging times, Shaviv told the audience that it's as if each one of them received an army draft call asking them to stand up and be counted.

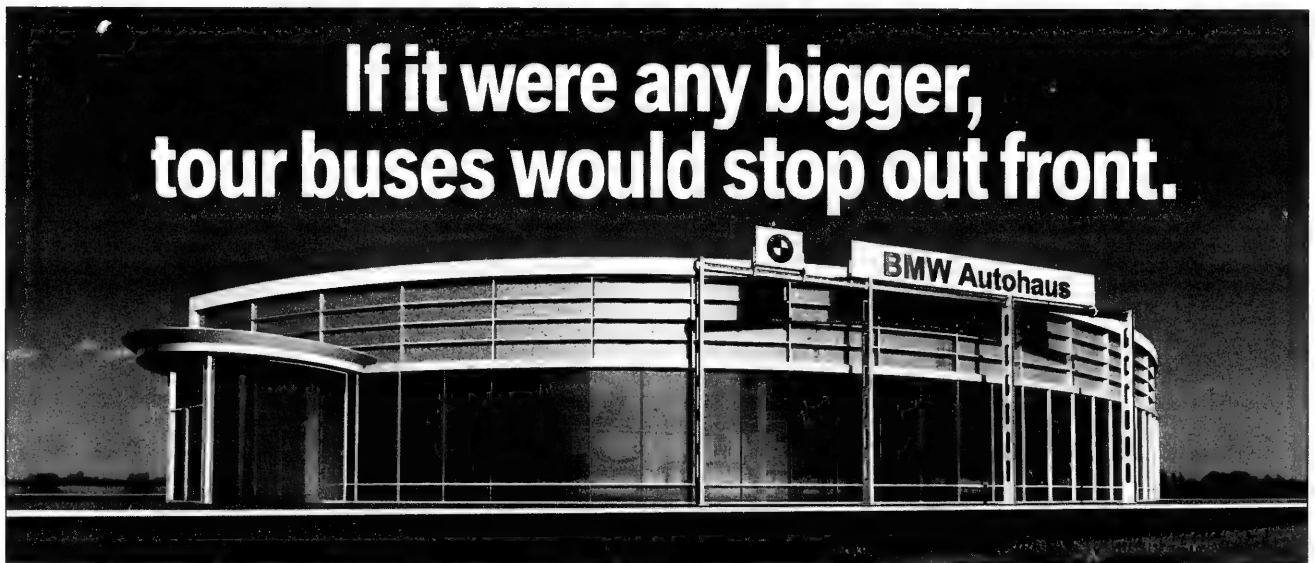
Am Yisrael (the nation of Israel) is made up of individual survivors and "if we don't stand up, Am Yisrael will end with us," Shaviv said.

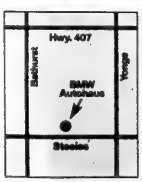
"We identify with the State of Israel, but we must also always remember that every human being is created in the image of God."

"We are commanded to defend ourselves, but not to hate our enemies," Shaviv said.

From left, Lisa Feinberg, Sara Greenwood, Noah Zatzman, Yona Malerovitz and Chaim Cutler are seen in front of a Holocaust mural.

From left, Rachel Cooper, Jonathan Klein and Ricky Tollman.





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A time to remember...

YOM HASHOAH: More than 2,000 people gathered at Earl Bales Park for the recent Holocaust community commemoration, the largest outside of Israel. The program, titled Voices of the Survivors: Reflections on the Future, featured talks by Zahavit Ben Hillel, Consul, State of Israel, Toronto and Western Canada; and survivors Sally Wasserman and Max Eisen. In a candlelighting ceremony in memory of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust, six candles were lit by survivors, their children and their grandchildren. The assembly opened and closed with a reading of the names of those who died, and with a March on the Colours by General Wingate Branch 256 Royal Canadian Legion and Jewish War Veterans of Canada. Also featured were readings and songs by Hebrew day school students.

The commemoration, co-chaired by Lou Greenbaum and Craig Rimer, was sponsored by the UJA Federation Board of Jewish Education and the Holocaust Centre of Toronto, UJA Federation; B'nai Brith Canada; Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association; Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region; Canadian Society for Yad Vashem; Consulate General of Israel; General Wingate Branch 256 Royal Canadian Legion; Jewish Campus Services; Jewish Holocaust Survivors of Canada; Jewish War Veterans; Toronto Vaad Haraboneim. A second community Holocaust remembrance assembly at Beth Radom Congregation was sponsored by the Canadian Holocaust Remembrance Association. It featured Ben Hillel, Rabbi Steven Schonblum of Beth Radom Congregation and Cantor Rudi Bromberg. [Photos by Carolyn Blackman]

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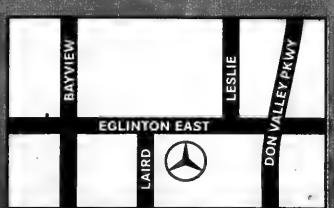

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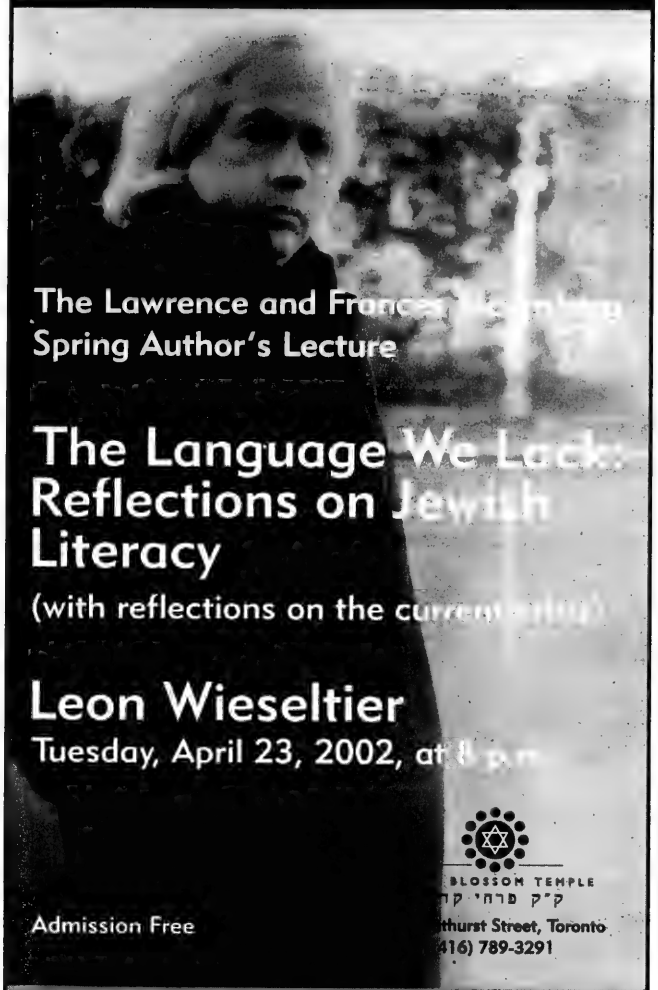

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Greater Toronto Area

From El Al to L.A.

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — These have been trying times for El Al, Israel's national airline. As tourist traffic to the Jewish state has declined, so has the carrier's financial well being.

Still, the Toronto office of the national air carrier has been holding its own and last week it announced two developments designed to increase the airline's traffic.

On April 7, "fifth freedom" aviation rights took effect, allowing El Al to offer direct flights between Toronto and Los Angeles, without any ties to an Israeli destination. In addition, a new Platinum seat class – replacing business class – was introduced for all 747-400, 777 and 767-ER aircraft. The Platinum class offers business travellers a more comfortable flying experience with more comfortable seats and other amenities, said Stanley Morais, director of sales and marketing in El Al's Toronto office.

The U.S.-destination flights are part of a larger route, Tel Aviv-Toronto-Los Angeles, which the airline has been flying since December. The added non-stop flight allows El Al to compete for traffic to the popular Southern California destination, Morais said.

Under the spring schedule now in effect, El Al offers three flights per week to Israel, departing on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday around 10:30 p.m. A fourth Wednesday night flight will be added for the summer season, which runs from June 23 to Sept. 1.

The airline's announcement comes in the midst of difficult times for the aviation industry in general, and El Al in particular, due to the violence that has been raging in Israel for 16 months.

Morais acknowledged the airline has taken a hit from the drop in tourist traffic, but said it has held up well compared to other airlines.

What's more, El Al's percentage of occupied seats on the Toronto-Tel Aviv route has actually risen to 85 per cent in the first two months of 2002, compared to 80 per cent the year before. That's due in part to the substantial number of American passengers from Los Angeles now flying through Toronto, Morais said.

In 2001, passenger traffic on the Toronto-Tel Aviv route declined by 15 per cent compared to 2000, from 45,000 to 38,000, he added.

The airline has worked hard to reduce expenses, consolidate routes and improve service in a bid to retain and reclaim market share, Morais said.

Despite the improvements on some routes, El Al is in the red because of the violence in the Middle East.

The airline lost $45 million (US) in its most recent fiscal year as a result of the intifadah, but that figure could have been much higher, Morais said. At one time, analysts expected the airline to take a $90 million (US) hit, but "a combination of smarts, utilizing our aircraft properly, being competitive on costs and security after 9/11 have played a role" in limiting the airline's losses, he said.

Prior to the outbreak of the intifadah, the carrier's prospects appeared bright. "El Al was in the black, the situation was very good and the outlook was very good."

With the onset of the violence, sales to Christian groups visiting Israel, once a key part of the airline's passenger load, fell dramatically, though Jewish groups made up some of the shortfall. Prior to the intifadah, 80 per cent of the airline's passengers were Christians visiting Israel, while 20 per cent came from the Jewish market. Since the intifadah began, those figures have reversed, Morais said

More Israelis are flying to Canada since the intifadah began, he said. Business trips, vacations and family visits account for some of the traffic, as does Canada's low dollar, which makes it an attractive destination for Israeli vacationers.

In addition, "people realize that El Al is the airline of Israel and when you travel El Al, you're supporting Israelis," Morais said.

El Al has also competed on service, improving dramatically what had always been considered one of the airline's major weaknesses, he added.

In late March, El Al introduced the Boeing 777 to the LA-Toronto-Tel Aviv route. The aircraft is the newest in the fleet and accommodates 288 passengers, compared to the 767's 195. The 777 features six first class seats (at a fare of $12,140 Cdn each), 40 Platinum seats (around $3,000) and the remainder in economy class.

Under the new Platinum service, passengers will be allowed to check in an extra piece of luggage, enjoy a more spacious cabin, have greater seat pitch (allowing them to recline), receive a power outlet for laptop computers and be offered a wider meal selection.

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Israel is on the line. It's an emergency.

Sunday, April 28 is **Israel Emergency Sunday**, when a UJA Federation volunteer will be calling on behalf of **Israel Emergency Campaign 2003**.

The severity of Israel's crisis has compelled us to initiate our campaign four months earlier than we originally planned. Increased gifts to **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003** will be designated directly for social service programs to meet current emergency needs on behalf of Israel's vulnerable, including victims of terror. These are specially earmarked funds over and above our normal allocations to Israel.

A steady stream of terror is dealing a devastating blow to Israeli society, as the government is forced to shift funds from social programs to defense. We need to mobilize every member of our community to assist Israel during this emergency.

You can help by volunteering to call community members on Israel's behalf from Sunday, April 28 to Thursday, May 2 and by responding generously when contacted by a UJA Federation telethon volunteer.

Join hundreds of thousands of Jews across North America who have made an unprecedented commitment to provide hope for the people of Israel during these difficult days.

To volunteer for Israel Emergency telethons, please contact Donna Draycott, ddraycott@ujafed.org or 416.635.2883, ext. 320.

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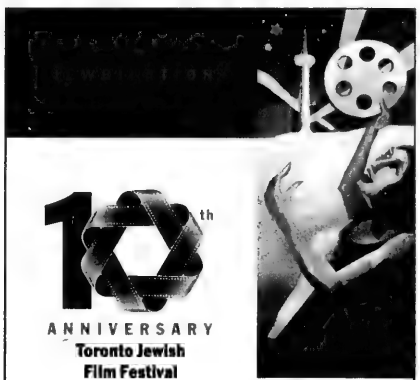

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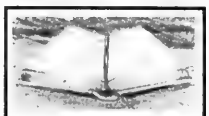
Jewish Life

A different kind of homelessness

By RABBI DANIEL KOMITO GOTTLIEB

Every other Sunday night, my congregation, Temple Kol Ami of Thornhill, Ont., sponsors and helps staff the StreetHelp Van, which roves the streets of downtown Toronto on a nightly basis, offering assistance to the city's homeless. The project is a joint endeavour of Ve'ahavta and The Native Men's Residence (Na-Me-Res), and we have been proud to be in partnership with them for the past three years.


Rabbinic Reflections

But there is different kind of homelessness crying out to us these days that requires a greater level of personal commitment if we are going to respond. It is not something that everyone can do, but in every community there are people who can, and I am writing today in search of such people.

At present, there are Jewish children who cannot live in the homes of their parents. They must be removed, temporarily, from their homes for any number of reasons, including parental neglect or abuse.

These children are in desperate need of foster homes where they can find safe haven in a healthy and stable environment. While children in foster care may range from newborn to 16 years of age, there is a particular need right now for foster homes for children between two and six, and for teenage children.

There are simply not enough Jewish homes available in our communities at the present time to meet the needs of these Jewish children in crisis. Group homes and non-Jewish placements are being called upon to meet the immediate need, but we know that this is not the answer.

Jewish children in need ought to be placed in the care of loving families in Jewish homes. Anyone who loves children and can provide a loving home can be a foster parent. Couples with or without children, singles and single parents can be foster parents. There are both long-term and short-term placement needs. Successful candidates are provided with training and ongoing professional and financial support.

As we learn in the Talmud:

• "One who teaches another's child is as though they had given life to that child;" and

• "One who saves a single soul is as if they had saved the entire world."

Maybe you can be the one.

Jewish Family & Child Service in Toronto has begun a campaign called One Shul, Two Homes, which aims to recruit new foster parents from among members of synagogues in the Greater Toronto Area.

If you think you might be able to make a difference in the life of a Jewish child in need by becoming a foster parent, please call Jewish Family & Child Service or the Jewish family service agency in your community.

Rabbi Komito Gottlieb is spiritual leader of Temple Kol Ami in Thornhill, Ont.

March of Living organizers faced hard choices

By ELI RUBENSTEIN & RALPH LIPPER

Guest Voice

At this time, in a normal year, 350 Canadian Jewish teens, joined by about 60 adults, would be taking part in the March of the Living, which takes participants to sites of Nazi concentration camps in Poland and then to Israel for Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

Sadly, in light of current hostilities in the Middle East, no Canadian students will be visiting Israel in the coming weeks.

Less than 40 Canadian students will be attending the March of the Living for the Poland portion of the trip only, but most Canadian communities (including Toronto and Montreal) have decided not to take part in the March of the Living at all this year. On the international scene, most countries have chosen to visit Poland only (with a trip to Israel at a later date), although, as in Canada, different decisions are being made in local communities.

Since these decisions have been made public, much ink has been spilled in making harsh criticisms of one position or the other, sometimes using inflammatory language.

Some ask how Jewish organizations could cancel a trip to Israel at this time. Some wonder how other Jewish organizations could participate in the March of the Living without Israel. One writer referred to a trip without Israel as the "march of the dead" and argued that organizers had "failed miserably."

What was the background for each community's decision? Almost unanimously, trip leaders felt they could not take responsibility for participants' safety in Israel during this difficult period. The organizers made the decision with a great degree of sadness, but their primary concern was for the well-being of the students and the trip's future.

When considering the Poland-only option, a difference of opinion emerged in Jewish communities around the world, Canada included. There were those who felt the March of the Living, by definition, should not be held without a trip to Israel immediately after visiting Poland. Others felt that focusing only on the Shoah would give the wrong educational message and would also be emotionally difficult, since the trip would not have closure – that is, the hopeful and uplifting experience that Israel provides.

Furthermore, the symbolism of not going to Israel during its time of distress but still carrying on with the Poland part of the program was troubling for many. Organizations with a specifically Zionist mandate (such as the national sponsor of the March, UIA Federations Canada) had great difficulty in agreeing to cancel the main Zionist part of the program and continuing with only the Shoah element.

On the other side, some did not want to disappoint students who have been preparing for this program for six to 10 months, who have bonded with their accompanying survivors and each other, and who could still gain valuable educational messages from a Poland-only trip.

It was also noted that about 1,500 Israelis are expected to take part in the March of the Living regardless of decisions made in the Diaspora, and programs with Israelis, Righteous Gentiles and local Polish Jews could be organized during the visit to give the program more balance. Heavy penalties for cancelling bookings for the Poland portion of the program (airlines, hotels, kosher food, etc.) were additional considerations.

Two sayings from our tradition apply to this debate. The first is *Derech eretz kadmah laTorah* – civility is even more important than Torah. The second, made with reference to Talmudic debates, states *Eilu va'eilu divrei Elokim chaim* – these and these are the words of our living God. In other words, even positions diametrically opposed to each other may yet still share in the same search for truth.

Let us respect the decisions taken by each community on this difficult matter. And, even if we disagree with their positions, let us understand that like us, they too may share in aspects of the truth.

Eli Rubenstein is national director and Ralph Lipper is national chair of March of the Living Canada.

Jewish Life

Buying Israeli on the Web

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Israel's economy is hurting.

Between the world-wide meltdown of high-tech stocks and the huge decrease in the tourism industry, the country's retailers and exporters are looking for business.

The Internet gives you the opportunity to window shop and purchase some of Israel's best exports from almost anywhere in the world. (And if you are an investor, the web is an excellent first step for investigating business opportunities in Israel.)

Please note that shopping via the Internet can be quick, easy and enjoyable. But you should always take a few precautions. Any page asking for credit card or other private information should be "secure" – that is, it should have a web address that begins with **http://**. If you are still nervous about ordering through the Internet, try fax, phone or mail. Always note duty and shipping costs and the Web site's privacy and return policies. And if you still have any doubts, ask the business for references.

Don't be afraid to comparison shop, either. That same book or coin or CD may be offered by several online retailers at different prices.

Please note that I have not had commercial dealings with the Web sites mentioned in this column, so my mention of a site should not be interpreted as an endorsement.

Let's shop! In the real world, shopping means going to the mall. Things aren't very different online. These virtual malls are actually huge sites that carry many products from several retailers. At Israeli Wishes, you'll find an assortment of Elite chocolate, kosher spices and children's videos. And if you have someone special in Israel, you can send them flowers or a cheesecake **[http://www.israeliwishes.com/_private/store/]**. At the Judaica webstore, you can purchase etrog boxes, computer software and for a relaxing bath, Ahava Dead Sea products **[http://www.judaicawebstore.com/]**.

If you are crazy about Israeli soccer, you can show your loyalty by sporting a Beitar Jerusalem knapsack available from the Israeli Scent Web site. But don't worry. They also carry Maccabi Tel Aviv and Hapoel Haifa souvenirs, too... plus a huge selection of books, videos and Judaica **[http://www.israeliscent.com]**.

When you're done with the malls, don't forget to visit some of the smaller sites run by local businesses. The Farkash Gallery is a lovely art gallery located in the old city of Jaffa. In addition to works by Israeli artists, Farkash carries rare Judaica and wonderful old photographs of Israel. If you're not planning a trip to Jaffa in the near future, you can still marvel at their online exhibit of historic Israeli political, military and tourism posters. They'll will give a taste of Israel's early years that you'll never see in any history textbook **[http://www.farkash-gallery.com/exihibitionPosterIndex.htm]**.

For more large and small retailers, check out the links at Maven Shopping and Gifts **[http://www.maven.co.il/subjects.asp?S=204]**, Google **[http://shlk.com/51]** and Yahoo **[http://shlk.com/52]**.

If you are considering investing in Israel, take a look at the Ministry of Industry and Trade's English language Web site **[http://www.moit.gov.il/tamas_en.asp]**. This large site has information about business development in Israel, the country's economy, research and development, the Israel Export Institute, and many ministry publications. Investors will also be interested in reading "Israel's Business Arena," the English on-line version of Israeli financial daily "Globes" **[http:// www.globes.co.il]**.

And finally, let's visit one last mall. Israel Direct will sell you everything from handpainted ceramic tiles to goose liver paté **[http://www.israeldirect.co.il/shop.htm]**. But if you ever lived in Israel or if you are an Israeli living abroad, you'll appreciate their "Israeli Care Package." Who could say no to a gift package of Elite halvah, Osem Bomba Peanut Puffs, Za'atar spice, Telma falafel mix, Osem soup almonds and of course, half a kilo of chocolate spread?

Happy shopping.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

How do we respond?

To my fellow Jews:

I sincerely hope this note finds you all well, safe and secure. Unfortunately, I know that it does not. Personally, I find myself struggling with childlike confusion at all that I see around me. I do not know which issue to begin to fight... there are suddenly so many.

Like you, I have sat in front of the television, watching the news stations and listening to the reports. As I have felt my anger rising, I have begun to understand that news reporters have turned into news commentators.

I have watched respected journalists bemoan the fact that Israelis are responding as Jews and not as Christians. In one instance, a Jewish newscaster asked a panel of theologians how the world can teach the Israelis to "turn the other cheek." Her subtle message became clear: if only the Jews of Israel could behave like Christians, the world would be spared this problem.

Do I respond to the anti-Semitic sentiment I heard from the Jewish newscaster? Do I yell bias? What do I do with this feeling of betrayal?

In the midst of the suicide bombings in Israel, a young Jewish child asked me why they just don't stop. I was silent for a long time as I realized I could not answer that question without teaching the child about hatred and racism and injustice. I chose not to "educate" that child. I don't have a lesson ready for those concepts. In defeat, I quietly responded, "I don't know."

Are we ready for what lies ahead? We are no strangers to conflict, but I fear we are strangers to its response. As Jews, we value all human life; it is not within us to cause needless suffering. Are we ready to stand loudly and proclaim that in this instance there is a need?

I stood at a rally recently in support of Israel. Several times during the event, the crowd sang prayers of peace and I found myself beginning to tear. There are too many issues, too many fronts to fight. Westerners are trying to separate anti-Israeli sentiments from anti-Semitic ones. We know that is not possible.

Do we split our focus? While rallying to support Israel, should we likewise be protesting outside European embassies demanding that they curb the anti-Semitic occurrences within their countries? Which Jew do I protect first?

To my fellow Jews: I sincerely hope this note finds you all well, safe and secure. Unfortunately, I know that it does not. We feel confused, angry, frustrated and betrayed. That is because we were not prepared. We momentarily forgot our own history. The midrash tells us that when Jacob was on his way to meet his brother Esau, a man who had sworn to kill him, Jacob sent a clear message: "If you are prepared for peace, I am with you; and if for war, I am ready for you."

With much love, Rachael Turkienicz.

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Nadal JCC mourns death of Bill Emery

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Bill Emery could shmooze with the best of them and talk *tachliss* – get down to brass tacks – when it came down to it.

He was often the first person you saw as you entered the front doors of the Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre (JCC) at Spadina Avenue and Bloor Street, and chances are he'd know you by name and engage you in a casual conversation.

Obituary

For many, he was the public face of the JCC.

JCC members and staff were shocked to hear that Emery died of a massive heart attack late last month. He was only 45.

In his 14-year tenure at the JCC, Emery touched many hearts. He will be remembered for his ever-present smile, his dynamic, can-do attitude, his concern about others, his far-sighted approach to the centre's financial health and his devotion to the future well-being of the downtown Jewish community.

As executive-director, Emery helped steer the centre through trying times and was a strong advocate for its independence – since attained – when suggestions were floated a few years ago to sell it to pay off the debts of the larger Jewish community centre organization that it was part of at the time.

Conscious of the central role of the centre in the life of the downtown Jewish community, Emery fought for its continued existence and proudly pointed to the financial surplus the it was able to generate even while the larger organization teetered on the verge of bankruptcy.

Emery always pushed the vision of a vital JCC that would serve as the main "address" of the growing downtown Jewish community. He was also conscious of its role serving the broader community. He would not turn his back on local street people who would find a respite from the cold and a warm cup of coffee in the centre's lobby.

Charles Novogrodsky, president of the centre, said the board and its members "are in shock. He will be missed in every possible way. He was a deep practitioner of community development by getting people to participate in community organizations. He was an equitable boss, an empowerer of people and organizations."

Eleanor Levine, a fitness instructor at the JCC and a past board member, said: "What I loved about Bill was that he was always available, always willing to try new ideas. He was flexible and available to everyone in the community. He was passionate about the JCC. He loved it. We loved him for that."

Rabbi Ed Elkin of the First Narayever Congregation, remembered Emery as "the kind of person who very much cared about nurturing all kinds of different Jewish expression downtown. He was a big booster of a varied and vital Jewish community downtown with its own distinctive character within the wider Jewish community."

Bill Emery

Rabbi Elkin, who spoke at Emery's funeral, met Emery through their participation on the Downtown Jewish Community Council. It was almost a year after they began working together that someone casually mentioned to him that Emery wasn't Jewish.

"You could have knocked me over with a feather," he told mourners at Trinity St. Paul's United Church on April 5. "So closely did I identify him with the JCC and the council and all the myriad efforts to make the downtown Jewish community the best it could possibly be that it never occurred to me that he wasn't Jewish."

Emery exhibited a "generosity of spirit and the determination to help those in need."

What's more, he possessed "an extraordinarily personal, emotional connection with the fortunes of the community and an infectious confidence in its growth and success," Rabbi Elkin said.

Novogrodsky called Emery a "selfless individual. You don't meet many people like that."

Mark Sarner, past president of the JCC, remembered Emery as "the heart and soul of the JCC and the downtown Jewish community – really the cornerstone.

"He consistently did the right thing in the most selfless and ego-less manner, and the amazing thing about him is that from many small things, a big impact was made."

Sarner said it was tragic that Emery would not live to see the realization of his dream, the long-awaited redevelopment of the JCC that is currently under way.

Emery is survived by his wife, Maureen, and children Caitlin, 16, and Nolan, 6.

The centre has announced creation of the Miles Nadal JCC Bill Emery Family Trust Fund to benefit Emery's family. For more information, call 416-925-3755 ext. 24.

UJA campaign starts early due to Israel situation

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — UJA Federation of Greater Toronto is launching Campaign 2003 four months ahead of schedule and will hold an "Israel Emergency Sunday" telethon on April 28 to launch a week of campaigning by phone.

The efforts are part of a new $300-million North American emergency fund-raising campaign for Israel.

"We're moving [the start of the campaign] up because Israel needs it," said Ronnie Appleby, who is co-chairing the drive with Howard Sokolowski. Appleby said that Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon is requesting the help of Diaspora Jewry, as he did last summer, to support Israeli social programs that face reduced government funding because of money diverted to anti-terrorism efforts.

The new campaign is already under way. "We're going to ask people to dig as deep into their pockets and their hearts as they possibly can," said Appleby. "We're asking that people increase their gift by 50 per cent."

The overall campaign goal is $60 million, an increase of $10 million over last year.

All increases by donors above the amount they gave to last year's campaign will go directly to Israel. Of the remainder, about 40 per cent will go to the Jewish Agency for Israel, while the rest is used for local needs.

Any first-time donations will be treated as increases and will go directly to Israel.

"Their economy is so battered," Appleby said. "We have to help. We have a great need to help, and it's not just financial. It's political advocacy and moral support. A dozen Torontonians are there now [on a UJA Federation mission], and we're going to take as many missions as we can."

This year's Walk With Israel, on May 20, will also be part of the campaign, as is this week's Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration at Earl Bales Park.

"It's unusual to move a campaign up, but it's not unprecedented," said Howard English, UJA Federation's director of communications. "We did it for the Yom Kippur War."

English said the federation receives approximately 25 calls and e-mails per day from people "almost pleading to do something on Israel's behalf. The decision to advance the campaign was based not only on the situation in Israel, but on strong community motivation."

In the first three days of last week alone, he said, $2 million was raised.

Canadian lawyers to investigate human rights in Israel

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A blue-ribbon collection of human rights lawyers, including former Ontario Premier Bob Rae, is set to embark on a fact-finding mission to Israel.

The lawyers will investigate the current state of human rights in Israel by meeting with members of the Israeli Knesset, advocacy groups, prosecuting attorneys, defence lawyers, judges and academics, said Ed Morgan, a human rights lawyer and law professor at the University of Toronto.

Morgan, who is organizing the trip, said the group will include Toronto lawyers Eddie Greenspan, Neil Finkelstein, John Rosen, Rae and perhaps others.

Bob Rae

"I wanted to take people who are known for human rights work and who have good, solid legal credentials, who are open-minded and who are not knee-jerk one way or the other when it comes to the Arab-Israeli situation," Morgan said.

Although neither the agenda nor the departure date was set at press time, Morgan said he hopes to arrange meetings with Israeli Chief Justice Aharon Barak as well as the country's justice minister, attorney general and opposition MKs, including those representing Arab constituents.

Morgan described the upcoming visit, which he expected to last only three or four days, to be "an investigative, fact-finding and educational mission."

In Canada, "we hear more of the criticisms of Israel than we do the Israeli side."

"My understanding of the Israeli legal and political system is that they have the same democratic and liberal values as our system. [Israel is] trying to comply with those values under tremendous pressure."

One issue that will likely be discussed is the controversy over Israel's decision to search Red Crescent ambulances before allowing them to proceed into battle zones. (Israel says the ambulances have been used to carry arms and fighters.) Another will be the issue of targeted killings of terrorism suspects and their leaders.

"We want to see how international lawyers approach that question," Morgan said.

Rae, who has visited Israel twice, once as premier of Ontario, said it is important to bring a balanced perspective to the mission – and to go with an open mind.

"I've long considered myself a strong friend of Israel, the Palestinians and a strong supporter of the peace process," Rae said.

"You can't watch [events] without a sense of tragedy."

Morgan said he decided to organize the trip after viewing New Democratic MP Svend Robinson's "grandstanding" performance at an Israeli military checkpoint, in which he cited human rights law as he tried to enter Ramallah.

In addition, Morgan said, the UN Human Rights Commission has dispatched Mary Robinson to investigate human rights in Israel. That move came after the commission passed a resolution in Geneva that "harshly condemned Israel as a violator of human rights.

"It seems like the decision was made and she will confirm it," Morgan said.

"The international community seems to have lost track of the fact that Israel is also a human rights-practicing country," he added.

Morgan, who serves as chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said the organization is not connected to the trip and all participants will pay their own way to Israel.

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Popular Vaughan mayor remembered as a *mensch*

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

VAUGHAN, Ont. — The formalities at Lorna Jackson's funeral last week included addresses from Catholic, Muslim and Jewish clergy. Their presence, at Jackson's request, exemplified the multicultural aspect of the City of Vaughan, over which Jackson presided as mayor for 20 years until her death from cancer April 5. She was 66.

Obituary

In a series of tributes, Jackson was remembered for her personal attributes, her talent as an artist and her leadership in overseeing the growth of Vaughan from a town of 20,000 to a city of more than 200,000. The Jewish population of the city is estimated at 50,000.

Rabbi Baruch Taub of Beth Avraham Yoseph of Toronto Congregation – which honoured Jackson with its first community leadership award in 1999 – had to be in New York at the time of the funeral, but in a tribute read as part of the service, he called Jackson a "real and genuine mensch... She radiated decency and goodness."

Perhaps her greatest achievement, said the rabbi, was "the magnificent tapestry of the landscape of this city," referring to the multicultural community she fostered.

Jackson, who was elected to Vaughan Council in 1974, served six years as a local councillor and two years as regional councillor before being elected mayor. She was elected for a seventh term of office in November 2000.

The mayor also served on York Regional Council, and chaired the York Region Police Services Board. She was a member of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority for more than 14 years. Among her accomplishments, she successfully led a lobby to make face protection for children mandatory in recreational hockey in Ontario.

Lorna Jackson

Less than two months before her death, she led the effort to obtain commitments from the City of Toronto and the province of Ontario to close the Keele Valley Landfill Site by the end of this year.

"I was impressed by her humble manner," said Imam Naseem Mahdi of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community Canada. "I found her to be a brave, compassionate and just leader."

City manager Scott Somerville noted that Jackson's "secret passion" was to read to young schoolchildren from *Horton Hears a Who*, her favorite book by Dr. Seuss. In the story, the mayor of Whoville believes that each person in a community is important and has something to contribute, he said. "This was vintage Lorna."

In a tearful tribute, her granddaughter Carolyn Shaw said she knows "exactly who the remarkable person is who shaped the person I am today, and the person I want to be tomorrow."

Jackson's professional commitment, said her granddaughter, included having a listed phone number "in case a concerned citizen needs to reach her at 9:30 p.m." She was successful not only as a politician, but as a wife, mother and grandmother, Shaw said.

Lorna, as she was known even to the schoolchildren she visited, was a friend to everybody, said officiating minister David Sherbino of Woodbridge Presbyterian Church.

She is survived by her husband of 45 years, Al; children Linda, Jim and Jeff, and three grandchildren.

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Israel urged to reform itself to make peace

By PABLO FUCHS
Special to the CJN

TORONTO — Israelis and Palestinians who want peace must change their identity and learn to see the extremists, rather than the mainstream, on both sides as the enemy, says an Israeli scholar.

Emanuel Adler, who recently gave the inaugural lecture of the Charles and Andrea Bronfman Chair of Israeli Studies at the University of Toronto, says peace can only be established if both sides look within and try to change their ways before accusing each other of the escalation of violence.

"[The] Oslo [peace process] failed for many reasons, but the major one was that neither side tried to change itself and create a new identity," said Adler. "Both sides must understand that trying to change the other without changing yourself is fallacious."

Adler said peace with another people is unattainable if you cannot make peace with yourself first. Israel itself, he said, is torn between two identities: the general Tel Aviv mentality – modern, liberal and future-oriented – and the general Jerusalem mentality – nationalistic, partly Messianic and historical.

The Tel Aviv mentality, which represented the forward-moving and peace-oriented establishment of the 1990s, has since been replaced by the hard-liners of the Jerusalem mentality in mainstream Israeli thought, he said.

Since the hard-liners are only concerned with placing the blame on the other side, he said, it's necessary for Israelis to change their identity in order to believe in peace and move forward once again.

To do this, Adler proposed establishing a new Israeli identity based on three components: reforming the Jewish State, establishing a Mediterranean identity and creating a post-post-Zionist society.

First, he said, since Israel is the stronger side in the dispute and since it is a nation, it must reform itself through a promise to immediately withdraw from the territories with respect and dignity for the Palestinians in exchange for the Palestinian promise of dropping the coveted right of return and of recognizing Israel as a legitimate state. The compromise should not only be recognized by both parties, but must also be backed by the United Nations' Security Council, the United States and the European Union.

"The basis of this agreement must be to stop the violence at all costs and to understand that when Israelis use violence against the Palestinians, they will respond with violence against Israelis," said Adler.

Once this is done, the Jewish State can then begin its reformation, he said. Israel must remain free and democratic and recognize Israeli Arabs who wish to remain in Israeli territory as part of the majority. It must then add Arab symbols to the state and separate religion from the state, making Israel a Jewish, but pluralistic, state. A Palestinian state would also help sharpen the identity of those Israeli Arabs who currently feel isolated, he said.

Adler's second step in achieving a new Israeli identity was the establishment of a Mediterranean identity.

"Jews and Arabs don't have a shared identity of place," said Adler. "We see ourselves as belonging to the West and the Arabs see themselves as part of the Middle Eastern Arab world."

He said it's necessary for both parties to acknowledge they're part of the same regional Mediterranean group.

"This will begin to create a bridge between Jews and Arabs and help them understand they belong to the same cultural region," Adler said. "At the same time, this will help build bridges between the Islamic world and the western world and this change of identity needs to start now."

The final part of the equation, Adler said, is to create a post-post-Zionist society. Instead of post-Zionism, the idea that it's necessary to dismantle Zionism and create a binational state, the goal of a post-post-Zionist society would be to make peace.

"Zionism needs to be given new meaning," he explained. "It needs to be given new meaning to Jews around the world, who would then come to Israel to make peace."

Both parties must view the land as serving the people and life, not as the people and life serving the land, Adler said. At the same time, Israel must redistribute its wealth and and seek Diaspora Jews' best ideas for peace.

"The tragedy of the whole situation is that the Palestinians have been hijacked by the refugees and the Israelis have been hijacked by the settlers," said Adler. "It's time to come to a compromise and accept that this is both our land and your land. The cycle of violence is continuing for the main reason that the two peoples have not reconciled themselves with each other's existence."

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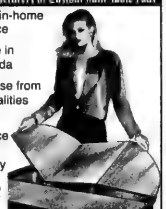

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Canada praised for opposing UN Mideast mission

Continued from page 1

They point to a vote on April 5 in which Canada was not only one of just two countries to oppose sending a UN-sponsored "fact-finding" mission to the Palestinian territories, but was the sole nation to call for a recorded vote on the measure.

The Islamic-sponsored resolution to send an urgent observer mission to the area passed anyway. The final tally was 44 in favour, seven abstentions and two opposed (Canada and [illegible] vote was seen as a surprising boost for Israel.

Canada cited "serious concerns" about the nature of an observer mission, and did "not feel that the resolution accurately reflects the full context of the current situation," stated Marie Gervais-Vidricaire, head of Canada's delegation at the commission. "We are also not convinced of the utility of such a mission to the search for peace or that it would make a positive contribution to current efforts to secure a meaningful ceasefire."

That prompted Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC) to send Graham a letter applauding Canada's stance, saying it is pleased this country seems to be honouring a commitment to work with Israel, made prior to the UN session.

Before the six-week UN session got under way, Graham held talks with Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's deputy foreign minister, who asked that Canada "be our voice" in Geneva. Israel has only observer status at the UNCHR, as does the United States, which lost its seat on the commission last year.

(Rabbi Melchior is scheduled to be the guest speaker at a rally for Israel, scheduled for this Sunday in Ottawa.)

Canada's UN record on votes affecting Israel since last summer's anti-racism conference in Durban, South Africa, "has yielded some good results," CJC president Keith Landy acknowledged to *The CJN*.

The CIC's David Goldberg agreed, especially when it came to the vote on sending the UN observer mission. "It does appear clear and obvious that Canada is playing a much more vigorous role in using [its] moral suasion to demand a vote. Canada pushed the issue."

Even so, the commission voted to send Mary Robinson, the UN high commissioner for human rights, on the immediate fact-finding mission to the West Bank.

> *'Serious concerns' cited*

Canada's explanation of its vote noted that the situation in the Palestinian territories is extremely dangerous. Canada also said it has "repeatedly" stated that in order for third-party monitoring to be effective, it must be accepted by both parties. "It is not clear that the principal parties would accept any such mission."

The CIC took note of three other resolutions before the UNCHR. In one, Canada voted for a call to establish an independent Palestinian state.

"That didn't surprise us," said Goldberg. "Canada has always supported [Palestinian] statehood."

Canada abstained on a measure condemning Israeli actions in the "occupied Syrian Golan." While that didn't surprise the CIC either, Canada's explanation of its vote was notable.

Canada said it abstained and called for a roll call vote, because the resolution "did not provide a full and balanced assessment of the situation in the region."

Goldberg sees that and other Canadian stands as small but sure changes in how this country votes at UN bodies on matters targeting Israel.

"We have very little to complain about. To the contrary, the Canadians, the Israelis and the Americans seem to be consulting. Overall, we're pleased with Canada's position. I would [illegible] it's a kind of mini-breakthrough."

On a third resolution, Canada voted to express "concern at continuing Israeli settlement activities" and to have Israel reverse its settlement policy. Goldberg said that when it comes to Jewish settlements, Canada has been "consistently wrong, but at least consistent."

Other signs that Canada's stance may be shifting favourably toward Israel are seen in the language being used by Graham and other officials, Goldberg noted.

"There's been a slight change in the language. No one's using terms like 'moral equivalence' or 'cycle of violence.'"

As well, Canada's philosophy on the plight of Palestinian refugees may also be undergoing a change. Ottawa, Goldberg pointed out, is moving away from citing UN Resolution 194 of 1948, which calls for the return to Israel of displaced Palestinians, and is now relying more frequently on resolutions 242 of 1967 and 338 of 1973, which do not speak about Palestinian refugees' right of return.

"That's not insignificant," Goldberg stated. "It could signal a slight shift in policy."

Monday's meeting with Graham was to be "proper, cordial and exploratory," said participant Joseph Wilder, national chair of the CIC.

It was also to offer the opportunity for the community to express "appreciation" for Canada's opposition to the vote on sending the UN mission. Canada, Wilder said, "has done well by Israel."

The resolution, sponsored by Islamic nations, condemned the "frightening increase in the loss of life, the invasion of Palestinian cities and villages, [and] the arrest and detention of Palestinians." It also slammed Israel's "disproportionate and indiscriminate use of military force against the people of Palestine and its leadership."

NDP MP Svend Robinson, who made an unsuccessful bid to visit Yasser Arafat at his besieged Ramallah headquarters earlier this month, said he was "ashamed and appalled" that Canada voted against the measure.

Last Friday, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan endorsed the idea of dispatching military force to the region. Addressing the UNCHR, Annan said he seeks a "force that will help create a secure environment, to allow for [humanitarian] assistance, to allow us to be able to end the killing and give us time for negotiations and diplomacy."

Graham told the House of Commons that Canada would consider participating in such a force. And Prime Minister Jean Chrétien said during his trip to Africa that Canada "will want to be there" if the UN authorizes any such move.

Community officials scheduled to meet with Graham included those from the CIC, Canadian Jewish Congress, the Canadian Zionist Federation and B'nai Brith Canada.

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Canadian played pivotal role in Israel's creation

Continued from page 1

It is now forgotten that the UNSCOP deliberations on partition were contentious, even acrimonious at times, with a two-state solution far from the only option on the table. When UNSCOP first met in the summer of 1947, with barely a three-month deadline in which to report, the weight of opinion on the committee favoured creation of a single Palestinian-controlled state.

It was only through the [illegible] and persuasiveness of Ivan Rand, the Canadian participant on the committee, that the majority came to accept the partition solution.

At least that's the view of Hamilton lawyer John Ross, whose research has uncovered Rand's pivotal role in the history of the time. By blind luck, Ross discovered a box of archival material, marked "Palestine," in the law library at the University of Western Ontario, the school Rand established following a distinguished career as a judge on the Supreme Court of Canada.

Based on his research with archival documents, Ross believes Rand deserves much of the credit for the diplomatic and political maneuvering that led to the creation of Israel. "Rand was the workhorse, doing the drafting and writing the report," he asserts.

Even within a week of the report's Sept. 1 deadline, most of the 11 UNSCOP members leaned towards a single state. "In the last five days, they gradually coalesced to Rand's position. He knew how to work consensus because he was a good judge," Ross said.

Rand, who served on the High Court from 1943-59 and developed a reputation for judgements that favoured the underdog, sought out common ground among UNSCOP members. He constantly encouraged them to put aside the positions of their home countries and consider themselves working solely for the UN. He reminded them the report had to be consistent with earlier diplomatic declarations, including the historic Balfour Declaration (which recognized the Jewish right to a national home in Palestine). He defused "acrimonious personal attacks" among UNSCOP members and he persuaded the delegates to be fair and neutral when addressing supercharged emotional issues.

"He was viewed as a moral, neutral, impartial person while in Palestine [on fact-finding missions]," Ross said. "He had instant credibility so when the report was written, it was seen as neutral and even-handed."

Considering Canada's position at the time, that was quite an accomplishment, Ross noted.

At the time, Canada straddled the diplomatic fence, trying to find a comfortable position between the British desire to see their de facto control over Palestine continue, [illegible] of continued partnership of a unitary state, and the position of the United States, which wanted to increase its influence and which wanted Canada to back its position.

Canada was reluctant to get involved, but when push came to shove, the government agreed to send a representative to UNSCOP. Rand, who had developed a scrupulous reputation for fairness, was selected after the government announced it would give no formal instructions to its delegate.

Nevertheless, Canada's Foreign Affairs department tried to influence Rand into accepting its pro-Arab view, Ross said. It presented him with briefing papers that opposed partition and drew a moral equivalence between the Jewish and Arab experiences.

That particular point rankles Ross, since the briefing notes compared the suffering and annihilation of the Jews in the Holocaust to the destruction of Baghdad – by Mongol invaders in 1258.

"This is ridiculous," said Ross. "It's unbelievable the extent to which External Affairs went to convince Rand to support the British."

Rand, however, was an independent thinker. He and the committee members toured mandatory Palestine, heard representations and met with people on the ground.

As the report deadline approached, Rand helped change the views of the Swedish, Uruguayan, Dutch, Czech and Peruvian delegates. With the support of members from the Netherlands and Guatemala (which favoured a Jewish state from the outset), the committee voted for partition. India, Iran and Yugoslavia voted against while Australia abstained.

When the United Nations went on to discuss the future of the region, it only considered the majority report in favour of partition. The partition proposal helped sway world opinion towards the idea of a Jewish state alongside a Palestinian state and when the vote came in November 1947, even Canada voted in favour.

Canada would have looked "ridiculous" voting against the international tide and against a recommendation endorsed by its own UNSCOP representative, Ross said.

"It is important that people know what [Rand] did. This is the greatest achievement by a Canadian for the State of Israel. He put the interests of the Jewish people ahead of the financial interests of the British empire."

Jorge Garcia Granados, the Guatemalan representative on UNSCOP, went on to serve as his country's first ambassador to Israel. Two years ago, a street in his name was dedicated in Israel.

Ross believes no less an honour should be bestowed on Rand, who died in 1969 and whose part in the creation of Israel cannot be underestimated.

And Canadian youngsters ought to know about Rand's important role. At a time when Canada seems to regularly line up at the United Nations to criticize the Jewish state, they should know that there once was a genuine Canadian hero they can feel proud of, Ross said.

See the Perspectives page for an article on Justice Rand by John Ross.

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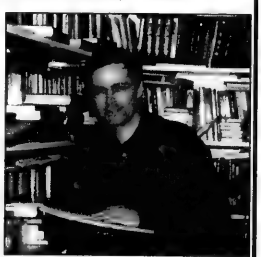

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On Campus

Black student faces campus anti-Semitism

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

Dalton Wells

TORONTO — These days, Dalton Wells tends to carry his kippah in his pocket when he's on the York University campus.

About a year ago, he was attacked in the parking lot after two young men confronted him about his kippah and asked him if he was Jewish.

Wells, 25, said he reported the incident to the York security at that time, but didn't officially file a complaint because he just wanted to put the matter behind him.

"I experience more racism [here] as a Jew than as a black person," Wells said in an interview.

"It's still politically correct to hassle Jews," Wells noted, adding that Jews seem to be the last ethnic group that it's OK to persecute.

Wells, who was one of the organizers of the Queen's Park rally in support of Israel April 7, said, "It generally takes people by surprise when they realize I'm Jewish."

And although he experiences anti-Semitism in Toronto, nothing compares to what he is told his grandmother experienced in Algeria.

According to family stories, his family moved to North Africa after the destruction of the First Temple, Wells said.

The family called themselves the Kahinnah and intermarried to some extent with the Berbers, the indigenous peoples of North Africa, Wells said.

After the Islamic invasion in the 600s, the family moved southward and became traders in the Sahara Desert, Wells explained, adding that they finally immigrated to the United Kingdom after the European colonization of the Middle East in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Because they could read and write in Hebrew, they were relatively educated, and that gave the family an advantage over the other potential immigrants at that time, Wells said.

Wells, who grew up in England, moved to Toronto in 1994 after receiving a scholarship to study at York University. He is now doing a graduate degree in clinical psychology and knows of six other members of the black Jewish community on the York campus.

"Each story is a little different," Wells said. But "it's always a surprise and a pleasure when I meet a black Jew."

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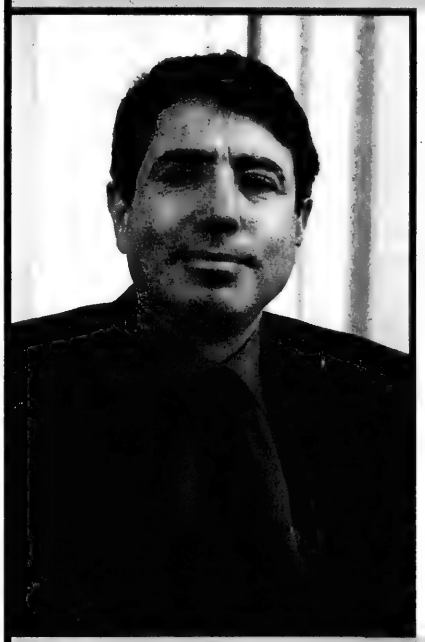

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Montreal cancels entire March of the Living

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Local organizers of the March of the Living cancelled the entire trip less than a week before students were to leave for Poland and Israel, abandoning a plan that would have made Montreal one of the few communities in the world determined to go ahead with a trip to both countries.

After the suicide bombing at a Passover seder in Netanya, organizers decided not to go ahead with the trip, which was to have taken place this month, said local march coordinator Ruth Najman.

She said the trip's organizer, FEDERATION CJA's Bronfman Israel Experience Centre (BIEC), made the decision with safety concerns in mind and not because of lack of interest.

Nearly 60 Grade 11 students were registered for the educational trip when the decision was made to cancel. Over 20 students had already withdrawn.

"The parents were very supportive. They felt we made the right decision," Najman said.

The BIEC had set a minimum of 20 participants for the annual journey, which takes Jewish teens to the sites of Nazi concentration camps in Poland and then to Israel for Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations.

The plan is to take the same group of almost 60 students, who will be in CEGEP next year, to Poland and Israel during their winter break, Najman said.

The students have already spent many hours preparing, and a continuing program will be designed for them between now and December, she said.

No other students will be accepted for the postponed trip, but the BIEC will organize a regular March of the Living for April 2003, Najman said.

On March 15, Montreal community leaders announced they would neither comply with the international March of the Living organization's decision to cancel the Israel portion of the two-week trip, nor cancel the whole program, as did some communities, including Toronto. At that point, the BIEC believed it could ensure students' safety.

Najman said the Montreal organizers felt the trip's culmination in Israel is "an integral part" of the March of the Living experience.

"A trip to Poland alone is good for an education in prewar Jewish life and the Holocaust, but the March is more than that," she said.

"The Montreal organizers believe that the March is a journey through the history of European Jewry from destruction to rebirth of the Jewish people in the Land of Israel."

Without the optimistic conclusion in Israel, they believed the students would have "an incomplete view and an unbalanced educational experience," Najman said.

The BIEC had drawn up a shortened and modified Israel portion that would have focused on the Negev and the area around Masada and would have included a short visit to the Western Wall in Jerusalem, if security permitted.

Najman said the BIEC had "reluctantly" agreed to allow participants to return to Montreal directly from Poland if they chose to.

Aside from a 20-student minimum for the full trip, the BIEC had said it would proceed with the march if its Israeli counterpart gave it security clearance and if there was no Canadian advisory against travel in Israel.

Montreal is an annual participant in the march and numbers have increased steadily over the years: between 1999 and 2001, the community sent about 110 students each year, Najman said.

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GRANITE PEAK HOMES

An Open Letter To Our Jewish Community

ראש הממשלה
Prime Minister

April 7, 2002
כ״ה ניסן, תשס״ב

Dear Friends,

Since September 2000, Israel has contended with an unprecedented wave of terrorist violence instigated by the Palestinians. All our restraint, significant compromises and efforts to achieve peace have been rewarded with only terror and bloodshed.

In the wake of the brutal acts over Passover, the Government of Israel embarked on an operation to restore security to our citizens. This is a battle for our homes, values and way of life. Although the struggle will be long and difficult, it is only through defeating terror that we will be able to reach a ceasefire and promote reconciliation.

The population and economy of Israel have suffered as a consequence of this continuing crisis. Tourism has declined sharply, unemployment is rising and government funds are being redirected from social programs to defense.

Today, we need you more than ever. I call upon you, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, to publicly express your solidarity with Israel and to mobilize your full passion and resources for the sake of strengthening your United Israel Appeal campaigns. Since support for aliyah must continue, especially at times like these, my government has recognized the essential need to work together with United Israel Appeal, United Jewish Communities and the Jewish Agency, in order to facilitate the adoption of a minimum of 20,000 Jews from Argentina over the next three years.

Throughout the history of the State of Israel, UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and the United Israel Appeal family have always risen to the challenge – responding to our enemies by raising funds to strengthen the State of Israel, whether to rescue Jews from countries of distress and support their absorption or develop Israel's social and educational infrastructure.

These are difficult times for the State of Israel, but the Jewish people have seen harder times. As in the past, I am certain that, together, determined and confident in the justice of our cause, we will prevail and triumph, achieving peace and security for us, our neighbours and future generations.

Sincerely,

Ariel Sharon

Ariel Sharon

Now. More than ever.

Now more than ever Israel needs us.

Now, when Israel faces some of its darkest days since Independence, 54 years ago.

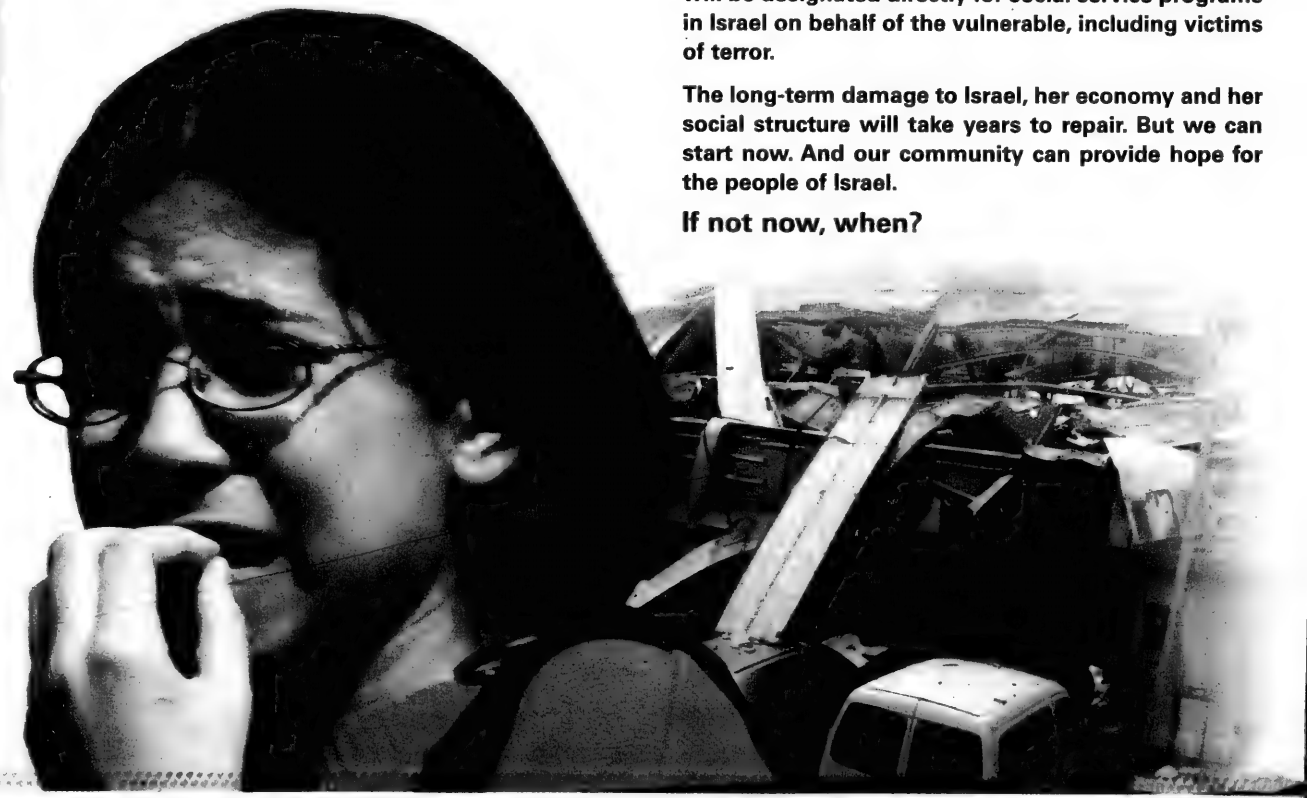
Israel is no longer facing a crisis. She's facing an emergency. Social services are strained to the limit. The government has transferred more than $2 billion from other services to escalating security expenses. The cost to the Israeli economy of relentless terror is an estimated $4 billion.

That's why we've taken the extraordinary decision to begin UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 now, four months ahead of schedule.

Your gift increase to Israel Emergency Campaign 2003 will be designated directly for social service programs in Israel on behalf of the vulnerable, including victims of terror.

The long-term damage to Israel, her economy and her social structure will take years to repair. But we can start now. And our community can provide hope for the people of Israel.

If not now, when?



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BERALL/PASTERNACK
Murray & Melissa
are thrilled to announce the birth of their son
COLE ALEXANDER
born Monday, March 18, 2002, 4:47 a.m., weighing 7 lbs., 6 oz.

Delighted first time grandparents are ***Sam & Rhoda Pasternack***. Also overjoyed are grandparents ***Harry & Neysa Berall*** and great-grandmother, ***Rose Birnbaum***. Cole is welcomed by many aunts, uncles and cousins as well as by his two favourite dogs, ***Calvin & Dakota***. Cole is named in memory of his two beloved great-grandfathers, ***Sam Landis*** and ***Morris Pasternack***.

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JASON EINSTOSS ז"ל

In loving memory of our beloved
son, brother, grandson and uncle
whose death on April 18th, 2000
has left us with much sadness and heartache.

We love you and miss, you, Jason!
You are forever in our hearts!

Dad, Mom, Philip, Allan, Karen, Buby Toby and Jake

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JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF TORONTO
Notice of
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Take notice that a meeting of *"Members of the Jewish National Fund of Toronto will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 12, 2002 at **The Inn on the Park Hotel, 1100 Eglinton Avenue East, Toronto, Ontario, "Centennial Ballroom"***

Frank A. Wilson, President, JNF Toronto

*All contributors to Jewish National Fund are regarded as members.

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YIDDISH CORNER

Edited by: ALEK SILVER

יידיש־ווינקל

רעדאגירט פון: אַלעק סילווער

יום העצמאות פון מדינת ישראל

פון אריעל קאפראָוו

היינט, דעם 17טן אַפּריל, 2002, פּינף טעג אין חודש אייר, פאַרציכנט מדינת ישראל דעם 54סטן יום העצמאות זינט דער באַגינונג פון דעם יידישן מלוכה־לעבן אין דער ניער צייט. צוזאַמען מיט דער מדינה פיירט אויך דעם טאָג דאָס אַלטע, גרויס־ארטיג יידישע פאָלק, וואָס איז צע־שפּרייט איבער דער וועלט. דעם 14טן מאי פון יאָר 1948, וואָס איז דאָן געווען דער לעצטער טאָג פון דער בריטי־שער מאַנדאַטן הערשאַפט אין ארץ־ישראל, האָט בן־גוריון אַפיציעל פּראָקלאַמירט פאָר דער וועלט די עטאַבלירונג פון דער ניער יידישער מלוכה — מדינת ישראל.

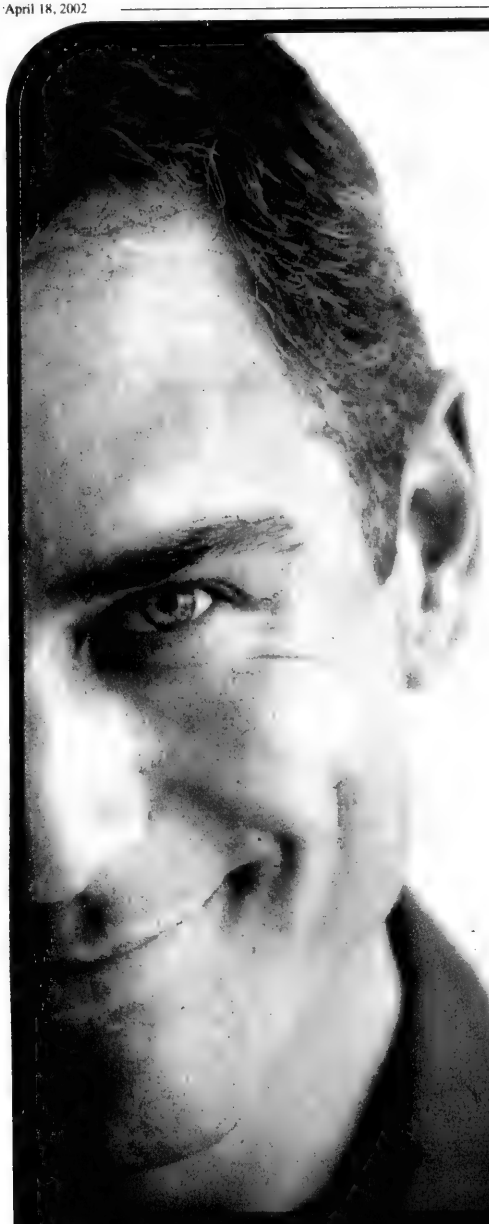
די געשעענישע מיט 54 יאָר צוריק איז זיכער געווען א וויכטיקער וועג־פונקט אין דער גלות־געשיכטע פון גאַנצן יידישן פאָלק. באַוונדערט וויכטיק איז די שאַפונג פון דער מדינה דאָן געווען פאָר די, וואָס האָבן דורכ־געמאַכט דעם שרעקלעכן היטלער־חורבן. די על־פּי־רוב לעבנס־לייענע פון דעם האַלאָקאָסט האָבן נאָך דאָן גע־שמאַכט איך פּאַרשידענע לאָגערן אין שטעט פון דער וועלט אָן געלעבט מיט דער האָפענונג צו געפינען אַן ארט וווּ איינצושטעלן א ני לעבן אין קיינע זיך אָפּשאַק־לען פון דעם קאָשמאַר, אין וועלכן זיי האָבן געלעבט. מדינת ישראל איז געווארן די ניע הים פאָר דער מער־היט פון דער שארית־הפּליטה.

דער אופקום פון מדינת ישראל איז אַן ספק געווען דער ליכטיקסטער מאַמענט אין דעם לאַנגן יידישן גע־ראַנגל פאָר אַן אומקער אינעם לאַנד פון זייערע אָבות, זינט דעם חורבן פון צוויי־טן בית־המקדש. דאָס איז אָבער נישט געווען דער איינציקער וויכטיקער מאַמענט אין דער שיבת ציון באַוועגונג. מען מעג זאָגן, אז אין לויף פון דעם 2000־יאָריקן גלות האָבן יידן פון פאַרשיידענע לענדער, קריזן און שיכטן, געלייגט א ציגל אויף א ציגל, א שטיין אויף א שטיין, ביז די האָבן דערגרייכט דעם אויסגע־חלומטן ציל פון אַן אייגענער יידישער מדינה אין ארץ־ישראל. צווישן די ציגל־לייגער זיינען געווען אשכנזים און ספרדים, מערב־יידן און מזרח־יידן, מתנגדים און חסידים, רבנים און פשוטע יידן, פילאָנטראָפן און פּראָלעטאַריער, בילדים אין הערצלאַנער פאָליטישע ציוניסטן, חלוצים אין הארעפּאשניקעס, יונג און אַלט, אין סתם חובבי ציון.

דער טאָג פון ה' אייר 1948 איז דאָס שענסטע ריג־געלע אין דער לאַנגער קייט פון בנין הארץ. אין דעם טאָג האָט דער יד איבערגענומען אין זיינע אייגענע הענט די שליסלען פון זיין אַלט־ניי הימלאַנד, ווי אויך די שליסלען פון זיין אייגענעם גורל. אָן דער כּלל איז: ווער עס האָלט די שליסלען איז דער באַלעבאָס. דאָס איז די גרויסקייט אין וויכטקייט פון „יום העצמאות". וואָרים זינט יענעם פרייטאָג איז דער יד אַליין דער שומר פון ישראל. ער האָט געפּענט די טויערן פאָר יעדן יד פרי אַריינצוקומען אין לאַנד, ווען נאָר דער יד וויל.

אוודאי זיינען יידן געפאָרן קיין ארץ־ישראל אין אַלע גלות־יאָרן. די פּראָמדע „שליסל־האַלטערס" האָבן טייל מאָל יא אוך טייל מאָל נישט דערלויבט יידן אַריינצוקומען אויף. אין יענע יאָרן איז דער יד, אפילו אָן זיין אייגן לאַנד, געווען אין גלות. היינט האָט זיך אַלץ געענדערט. דער יד איז דאָרט א פּריוואַט מענטש, וויל היינט איז ישראל א פריי מדינה, ווי אַלע פעלקער פון דער וועלט. סיי אין הארצן האָט די וועלט דרך־ארץ פאָר דער יד־־שער מדינה, וויל זי זעט אין איר דעם המשך, די קייט פון דער אמאַליקער יידישער גרויסקייט.

האָפן מיר, אז די ליכטיקע זון פון מדינת ישראל וועט נישט אויפהערן שיינען אין ציון אין קיין שום אומה וועט אט די ליכט נישט קענען פאַרטונקלען. דער יד, וועלכער האָלט די שליסלען פון דער יידישער מדינה איז זיינע הענט, וועט אייביק בליבן דער באַלעבאָס פון זיין אויס־געבענקטער היים אויף יד בערג פון ציון אין ירושלים. צוזאַמען מיט אַלע יידן וויינשען מיר מדינת ישראל מזל־טוב, מנוחה, הצלחה אוך — קודם־כּל — שלום, פרידן, אוך א פרידלעך צוזאַמענלעבן מיט אידע שכנים.



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What's New

By Miriam Herman

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DEADLINE REMINDER

What's New and About People deadlines: Monday, April 22, is deadline for May 2 issue and Monday, April 29, is deadline for May 9. I receive calls and sort my mail on deadline days only. Phone 416-391-1836, fax 416-391-0829.

Thursday, April 18

INTERMARRIAGE

Is There Light at the End of the Tunnel? A challenging discussion with **Rabbi Michael Skobac**, of the counter-missionary group Jews for Judaism, 8 p.m. at the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. Room 421. 905-761-0040.

Sunday, April 21

ISRAEL'S 54TH BIRTHDAY

Temple Har Zion together with the Israeli Consulate celebrate Israel's 54th birthday. Greetings from the consul general, live entertainment with **Mickey Lewin**, singalong, Israeli dancing with **Reuben Schiff**, Israeli food, 7:30 p.m. RSVP **Esther Benari**, 905-771-9012 or temple, 905-889-2252.

ISRAELI MOVIE

Har Tikvah Congregation of Brampton is screening *HaHesder* (English subtitles) at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. at Solel Congregation, 2399 Folkway Dr., Mississauga. Proceeds go to Beit Halochem. For tickets **Ingrid Bojman** 905-820-9354 or **Wilma Silberman** 905-874-9062 or **Lisa Rosenberg** 905-846-9777.

YOM HA'ATZMAUT EVENT

Temple Sinai features **Rabbi Mordechai Gafni** (who appears weekly on Israeli TV) speaking on Israel 2002: Spirituality, Crisis and Opportunity. 7:30 p.m. 416-487-4161.

BRUNCH AND LEARN

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic's Judaism Brunch and Learn, Exploring the Book of Job with **Dan Merkur**, 10:15 a.m. at St. Andrews Junior High School, 131 Fenn Ave. RSVP 416-385-3910.

SINGLES BRUNCH

Dynamic Singles of Adath Israel and Intersynagogue Singles present **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** speaking on Digging for a Diamond in the Rough, 11:30 a.m. at Adath Israel Congregation. **Nilly** 416-635-5340.

YIDDISH BALLADS

Itzik Manger: Master of Satiric and Romantic Yiddish Ballads, a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Yiddish poet's birth, with **Adam Fuerstenberg, Ellie Moidel, Nina Shaplilsky**. A joint presentation of Beth Tzedec Congregation and Committee for Yiddish, UJA Federation. 2 p.m. at Beth Tzedec.

HESED BRUNCH

At Beth Tzedec Congregation, 11:30 a.m. Be entertained by **Itzik Manger's** Yiddish ballads. RSVP **Florence** 416-781-3511.

CLOSET SALE

New and old classic items for the whole family, including clothing, books, household items, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. National Council of Jewish Women at 4700 Bathurst St.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

Holy Blossom Temple Brotherhood breakfast, guest speaker **Zita Gardner**, topic An Update on Your Reform Jewish Education. Services 9 a.m., breakfast 9:30, speaker 10 a.m. 416-789-3291.

Monday, April 22

ABOUT ISRAEL

Prof. Libby Garshowitz speaks on Israel Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow and Forever 8 p.m. at Beth Tikvah Synagogue. Lecture is sponsored by the Frances Bitterman Memorial Fund.

DIVINE SEX

Rabbi Yonatan Shane lectures on Divine Sex at 7 p.m. at the Kabbalah Centre, 678 Sheppard Ave. W.

Continued on page 35

The Canadian Jewish news
presents an important
Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.
The Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Road
on the subject of
Anti-Semitism on Campus: Helping our Students Cope
Keynote Speaker will be:
Michael Jankelowitz
Director, Campus Israel Affairs, Hillel and Representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel
The public is encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

Continued from page 34

Tuesday, April 23

ISRAEL AND THE ARABS

Canadian Friends of Boys Town Jerusalem and Beth Tzedec Congregation present **Morton Klein**, national president, Zionist Organization of America, speaking on Israel and the Arabs: Is Peace Possible, 8 p.m. at Beth Tzedec.

TO YOUR HEALTH FAIR

Learn about natural approaches to health from experts. Presented by the Entertainment & Cultural Connection and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood. Hosted by chiropractor **Dr. Paul Goldbach.** 6:30-9 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim. 416-788-2333.

TRACING JEWISH ROOTS

Garry Stein, president of Jewish Genealogical Society, speaks on Tracing Your Jewish Roots, to the Aquarius Chapter, Jewish Women International at 8:30 p.m. at the Wagman Centre, Room A. RSVP **Anna Bloom**, 416-221-4864.

ACCEPTING THE CONVERT

Rabbi Philip Scheim leads a discussion on Accepting the Convert Into a Jewish Family, presented by Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Brotherhood, 7:30 p.m.

CAN WE BEAT DEPRESSION

Shaarei Shomayim Sisterhood lunch 12:30 p.m. **Dr. Julie Righter** speaks on Can We Beat Depression Without Drugs?

CHUG HATANACH

Meets at 8 p.m. at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am to study the Book of Ezekiel, Chapters 13 and 14, led by **Rabbi Pinchas Brumer**.

THE LANGUAGE WE LACK

The Language We Lack: Reflections on Jewish Literacy, with reflections on current crisis, with U.S. journalist **Leon Wieseltier**, 8 p.m., Holy Blossom Temple.

Wednesday, April 24

TEXTS THAT TROUBLE

An examination of difficult scriptures in three major faith traditions. Speakers: **Rabbi Sharon Sobel,** Canadian Council of Reform Judaism; **Rev. Lois Wilson**, United Church of Canada; **Raheel Raza**, Muslim theologian. 7 p.m., Room 883, Northrop Frye Hall, University of Toronto, 73 Queen's Park Cres. For information, **Rev. Karen Hamilton**, 416-485-0273.

EATING DISORDERS

Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, New Leadership Division, Kolel and the Canada-Israel Institute for Sports and Health Education present a symposium on Eating Disorders, Recognition and Acknowledgement-Adolescent and Parental Challenges. Speakers: **Ann Kerr, Dr. Eltan Gur, Marni Lokash**, **Dr. Melissa Lieberman.** Moderator **Dr. Paul Garfinkel**. 7:30 p.m. at Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. Miriam 416-485-8000, ext. 121.

ORGAN DONATION

Organ Donation: A Jewish Perspective, moderated by CBC broadcaster **Michael Enright.** Participants **Rabbi Wayne Allan**, **Dr. Sam Shemie** and persons with organ donation experience. 8 p.m., Beth Tikvah Synagogue.

JEWS IN YEMEN

Jewish Genealogical Society of Canada (Toronto) meeting with **Isaac Hollander**, University of Toronto, speaking on Jewish Family History in Yemen: Asking the Right Questions, 8 p.m., Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue.

SPRING GIFT SHOW

At Temple Har Zion featuring home-based entrepreneurs offering gifts, products and services. Admission goes to Temple Har Zion's Senior Youth Group fund-raiser. **Samantha Bacher** 905-660-2442 or **Patty Bloom** 905-762-9291.

And What Else Is New

SPRING CONFERENCE

Canadian Seaway branch of Women's League for Conservative Judaism Spring Conference at Adath Israel Synagogue Sunday, April 28 and Monday, April 29. Strength in Unity… The Ties that Bind Us is this year's theme. International consultant: **Cory Schneider**. Guest speakers: **Rabbi Jordan Cohen, Rose Klein, Karen Mock, Janna Nadler**. Canadian Seaway branch president: **Rivy Blass.** RSVP, Bertha Gold, 416-494-7982.

SITUATION IN ISRAEL

Michael Allouche of Sar-El speaks on the current situation in Israel, Sunday, April 28, 7:30 p.m. at the Canadian Zionist Centre, 788 Marlee Ave. Sponsored by Canadian Volunteers for Israel, the Canadian branch of Sar-El. Reserve. 416-781-6089.

INTERFAITH DINNER

The 16th annual Neighbourhood Interfaith Dinner supported by local Anglican, Baptist, Jewish, Presbyterian, Roman Catholic and United Church congregations, Monday, April 29 at Yorkminster Park Baptist Church, 1585 Yonge St., 6:15 p.m., dinner at 7:15. Tickets. St. James-Bond United 416-485-0723.

TORAH STUDY

Jewish Russian Community Centre's Institute of Torah Study, 18 Rockford Dr. Information/registration, **Chana Weisberg**, dean, at 416-222-7105, ext. 30.

Jewish Mysticism 3-part series with **Rabbi Tzvi Freeman,** starts Wednesday, April 24, 8-9:30 p.m.

Jewish Living Series workshop on Shabbat: Experiencing Its Magic with **Rabbi Isser Weisberg**, Sunday, April 28, 8-9:30 p.m.

SIGN LANGUAGE AT SHOW

Two performances of the Yorkminstrels production of *Anne of Green Gables*, April 25 at 8 p.m. and April 28 at 2 p.m. at the Leah Posluns Theatre, will offer sign language (ASL) interpretation for the hearing-impaired. Tickets 416-291-0600.

MUSICAL LEGACY

Sinai Musical Legacy Concert at Temple Sinai, Friday, April 26, with the Elmer Iseler Singers, conducted by **Lydia Adams,** presenting an Oneg Shabbat program after services, which start 8:15 p.m. World premiere of *D'mut Hatsadik* by Canadian composer **John Reeves.**

JEWISH FAMILY INSTITUTE

For information on these events, call 416-785-1107, ext. 204.

Parenting Networking, geared to parents of infants and toddlers, continues Tuesdays, 10-11:30 a.m.

How to Make Your Good Marriage Great! **Rabbi Aryeh Pamensky**, 8-week course Tuesdays 8 p.m. at Village Shul, starts April 23.

Surviving the 2nd Decade of Parenting! **Sarah Chana Radcliffe** continues Tuesdays 11:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. at the Village Shul.

Nag, Nag, Nag – How to speak with your teens, not at them! **Rabbi Yitzchok Feigenbaum**, Wednesday, April 24, 8 p.m.

MYSTICAL SHABBATON

To support Minsk Shul Restoration Fund, April 26 and 27 at Anshei Minsk Synagogue, 10 St. Andrews St., featuring mystic/educator **Avraham Sutton**, Topic: Visions of the Future: What the Future Holds in Store for Us, Our Planet and Our Cosmos from the Point of View of Science, Prophesy and Kabbalah. Register 416-587-9169.

FOR SENIORS

Holy Blossom Temple Lunch and Learn in Retirement Wednesday, April 24, at noon. Topic: The Old is New Again-Complimentary Medicine Rebalancing Life, with **Debra Joy Eklove**. Bring your own dairy lunch.

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursdays at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 18, bingo; Saturday, April 20, Yom Ha'atzmaut party, music, supper; April 25, political lecture, **Gide Anavi**. **Menachem Wallach**, 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Casino Rama, May 1, 15, 29; Saturday dances, April 27, May 1, 25; Sunday dance April 21, May 5, 19; Thousand Island trip, May 28-31; Bingo Tuesdays, 1 p.m. 416-395-7881.

LZA Seniors' theatre outing to Stage West Dinner Theatre June 26 to see *Joseph.* Information, **Libby** 416-782-2059 or office 416-630-9444. Senior's Cultural Club meets Tuesdays 10 a.m. at Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Great Museums of the World by **Edith Altshuler**, Tuesday, April 23, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Osteoporosis Interest Group Tuesday, April 23, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Pharmacist **Mervat Isklander** discusses Medications and Osteoporosis. Ext. 126.

Roche Diagnostics provides a Diabetes Forum, Thursday, April 25, 1:15-2:15 p.m. Ext. 126.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew speakers meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays, April 23, sing-along; April 30, Thornhill Band concert. **Anna** Ext. 110.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles S. Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Thursday, April 18, interactive program live from New York, God: Personal Thoughts with former New York governor **Mario Cuomo, Elie Wiesel** and **Rabbi David Woznica** in New York City. Toronto moderator **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein**, 8:30 p.m. at Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W.

Nadal JCC and Mount Sinai Hospital education series, Astrazeneca Breast Health Program, **Linda Muraca** and **Fran Berkoff**, 6-8:30 p.m., Monday. April 22, at Nadal JCC.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Koffler Centre of the Arts presents a Ballet Gala with international ballet superstars, Sunday. April 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. Inquiries, ext. 269 or 271. Tickets 416-870-8000.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 36

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Bill Emery's work in the JCC directly and indirectly added to the lives of thousands in Toronto's Jewish community and the JCC's downtown Toronto community.

Loved and respected by family, friends and peers, Bill will also be sorely missed by the staff who worked with him. Bill was widely recognized as an outstanding, professional community leader.

Bill was deeply connected to our members and community. He knew our names; he attended personally to our needs and concerns.

Bill's vision and drive led to great advances at our JCC. Our ever-developing facility, programs and services is owing to his leadership.

The Miles Nadal JCC Bill Emery Family Trust Fund will benefit Bill's family.

All gifts will be processed through the Miles Nadal JCC donations office: 416.925.3755 x22

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Coast to Coast

MPs debate Mideast crisis

The following are excerpts, taken from Hansard, *of last Tuesday's emergency House of Commons debate on the Middle East crisis. The session ended at 2:45 a.m. the following morning.*

Mr. John Reynolds: (Leader of the Opposition, Canadian Alliance): Mr. Speaker, it is still not clear that the government is doing anything sensible to bring peace and security to the Middle East. It is clear that Syria and Iraq are in fact stirring up as much trouble as they can, either inside or near Israel and the Palestinian Authority, to suit their own needs. If these two troublemaker regimes were brought to heel, both the Palestinians and Israelis would be safer.

Could the minister of foreign affairs explain why Canada has not put any pressure on Syria or Iraq to back away from supporting organizations or others who are waging a war of terror in this region?

Hon. Bill Graham (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I can assure the hon. member and the House that the government has been in regular contact with all governments in the Middle East and is urging restraint on all governments.

We are perfectly aware that this violent conflict has the possibility of spinning out into other areas. We agree with all members of the House that we as Canadians must do our part to make sure that it does not. That is why we urge respect of the [UN] Security Council resolution to cease the hostilities, cease the fighting and bring the parties back to the bargaining table.

Mr. John Reynolds: Yesterday we asked if Canada was supporting President [George W.] Bush's efforts to have the Israelis withdraw from the territories. President Bush has also demanded at the same time that Yasser Arafat denounce terrorism as a tactic.

Canada has some clout with Arafat and the Palestinian Authority. I would ask the foreign affairs minister to tell Canadians if we are using any of that clout to persuade Chairman Arafat to denounce terrorism as President Bush has requested.

Hon. Bill Graham: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question from the hon. member, but he has been here in the House and has heard the answers that the government has consistently given on this question. We have consistently stated to Chairman Arafat that all violence has to stop, that they must cease encouraging violence. We have been consistent with that. We spoke to the speaker of the Palestinian Authority when he was visiting the House and gave him that message.

I have passed on that message to my counterparts in the Middle East. We have consistently said to stop the terrorism, that it is not getting them anywhere and that they also must do their best to stop the violence. I assure the member that we will continue--

The Speaker: The hon. member for Edmonton-Strathcona.

Mr. Rahim Jaffer (Edmonton-Strathcona, Canadian Alliance): Mr. Speaker, it is wrong that the government is allowing Hezbollah to raise money in Canada. Yesterday the minister of foreign affairs stated:

There is a dimension of Hezbollah that actually has representatives elected to the Lebanese House... We will continue to work with all parties with whom we can get peace. We will continue to do that.

Is the minister saying that because Hezbollah has members in the Lebanese parliament and does some charity work it is therefore not a terrorist organization and its fundraising operations should not be banned in Canada?

Hon. Bill Graham: Mr. Speaker, I think we have made it clear. This question has been asked before in the House. It is very clear that Hezbollah's military arm and any activities that it is conducting in Canada which have [illegible] to do with raising money for military activities are totally banned and repressed by the government.

There are, however, activities by Hezbollah which are of a social nature, and there are 12 members of the Lebanese legislature elected by Hezbollah to the legislature, and we are not going to declare them terrorists and stop dialogue with them in our efforts to get peace.

Mr. Rahim Jaffer: Mr. Speaker, these are very fine lines. Let us be clear on who we are talking about. In 1983, Hezbollah blew up the U.S. marine and French army barracks in Beirut. It blew up the U.S. Embassy annex in Beirut in 1984. It attacked the Israeli Embassy in Lebanon in 1992. It continues to attack Israeli settlements.

Canada claims to be standing shoulder to shoulder with the United States in the war on terrorism. The United States has banned fundraising by all branches of Hezbollah. Why has Canada only banned the military wing?

Hon. Bill Graham: Mr. Speaker, we are also standing side by side with our colleagues in the United Kingdom who have adopted exactly the same stance that we have. The members of the United Kingdom are aware from the Irish experience that there is a difference between Sinn Fein and the IRA and that if we want peace we must deal with those who have a political dialogue. That is what we want. We do not want to just point fingers. We want peace. That is what we do in all our policies.

Ms. Alexa McDonough (Halifax, NDP): Mr. Speaker, I too would like to question the foreign affairs minister. Canadians are beginning to wonder whether the government is committed to doing anything concrete to advance peace in the Middle East.

As part of creating the conditions for peace, both sides deserve to know what specific help members of the international community are ready to offer.

My question is this: Will the government state clearly today its readiness to commit troops when it is appropriate as part of a peacekeeping effort in the Middle East?

Hon. Art Eggleton (Minister of National Defence, Lib.): Mr. Speaker, I think as the foreign affairs minister has indicated, it is premature, but if there comes a circumstance where that is appropriate, I think the prime minister and others in this government have said in the past that of course Canada would look at that matter very carefully, but it is a premature question at this point in time.

Ms. Alexa McDonough: Mr. Speaker, I would again like to direct my question to the foreign affairs minister, whose favourite

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Coast to Coast

MPs debate Mideast

Continued from page 36

response to questions about what this government is prepared to do to advance peace in the Middle East is to say that Canada supports the U.S. position. Today Secretary of State Colin Powell has stated that the United States is prepared to put U.S. observers on the ground as part of a truce settlement.

Will the foreign affairs minister publicly state today that we will at the very least commit to sending Canadians to join an international team of observers, a monitoring team, in the Middle East?

Hon. Bill Graham: Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the question, but this government has consistently stated that if the time becomes opportune and if the parties are willing to accept it, we are prepared to participate in putting monitors in place to help move the peace process. We are willing to consider all possibilities, but as I said yesterday when asked, it is premature at this particular time because the parties themselves are not in that position.

We would certainly support, and I have said publicly that we are supporting, the efforts of Mr. Powell. I am confident that our European allies also will support that. We would definitely look at putting monitors in place when the time is appropriate and it is possible.

Mr. Irwin Cotler (Mount Royal, Lib.): It is not the Israeli occupation that has been the root cause of the conflict; rather, it is the rejection of Israel, even at the price of rejecting thereby a Palestinian state, that led to the initial occupation in 1967 and still sustains the less than five per cent of the territory yet occupied by Israel as a result of the Six Day War. In a word, over 95 per cent of the territory captured by Israel in the exercise of self-defence in the Six Day War has been returned within the framework of peace treaties with countries that were prepared to recognize Israel and, in the initial stages of Oslo, which have given Arafat control over 98 per cent of the Palestinian people.

However, in the year 2000 in the Camp David talks and then again in Taba, Arafat rejected a Clinton and Israeli initiated proposal that would have ended what remained of the occupation and would have established an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza with east Jerusalem as its capital. This would have given the Palestinians almost everything that they themselves had been asking for, save for the right of return which, as Palestinian leader Sari Nusseibah put it, would have meant a second Palestinian state in place of Israel.

This would have required of Arafat and the Arab world to finally accept the legitimacy of a Jewish state in the Middle East alongside the 22 Arab states in the region. Arafat not only rejected this proposal, which recalls the refrain that the Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity, but as the Arab scholar Fouad Ajami recently put it, Arafat launched a war of terror in the heartland of Israel of which the recent Passover massacre was a real life metaphor.

Judy Feld Carr to receive award

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — For 28 years, Judy Feld Carr ran a clandestine network that brought most of the Jews of Syria from captivity to freedom.

More than 3,000 men, women and children were rescued from the grips of the Assad regime thanks to her efforts. Today they live freely in New York, Israel and elsewhere in the world.

Today, Feld Carr's exploits are well-documented, though for years she carried on her work in secret, fearing for the well-being of the Syrian Jewish community as well as for her own personal safety.

On June 5, Feld Carr will be honoured for her devotion to human rights and for her work assisting others in need. Feld Carr will be the first Canadian to receive the Wiesenthal Award for Tolerance, Justice and Human Rights at a cocktail reception and evening of entertainment at Toronto's Performing Arts Centre in North York.

True to its origins in Los Angeles, the Simon Wiesenthal Center is lining up an evening's entertainment that promises to include a taste of Hollywood. Actor Jon Voight will serve as keynote speaker while Rabbi Marvin Hier, dean of the Los Angeles-based centre, will also address the audience. World-renowned cellist Ofra Harnoy will provide the musical entertainment.

Also on tap for the evening are a documentary film prepared by Israel-based TV journalist Martin Himel, who has interviewed some of the Syrian Jews rescued by Feld Carr. Local artist Al Green has sculpted a piece titled "People Helping People," which features two clasped hands, that will be presented to Feld Carr.

Organizers are expecting as many as 1,000 people at the tribute event, said Avi Benlolo, national director of development for the Canadian office of the Simon Wiesenthal Center.

"The essence of the award is to honour Judy," he said. We want to exemplify Canadians who have done something wonderful and extraordinary to help people.

"It is important to put people like her on a pedestal and say, you can be like this too."

In addition to honouring Feld Carr, the program is also designed to raise funds for the centre's Canadian branch, boost the organization's profile and inspire young people, Benlolo said.

Known originally for its work in exposing Nazi war criminals, the Simon Wiesenthal Center now also organizes adult education programs, trains police officers to be sensitive to religious and ethnic tolerance, monitors the rise of hatred and anti-Semitism and produces educational films on Israel and the Holocaust (it has twice won Academy Awards for Best Documentary).

The Center is also known for its Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles, which educates thousands of people a year on tolerance and the Holocaust. There are plans for similar facilities in New York and Jerusalem.

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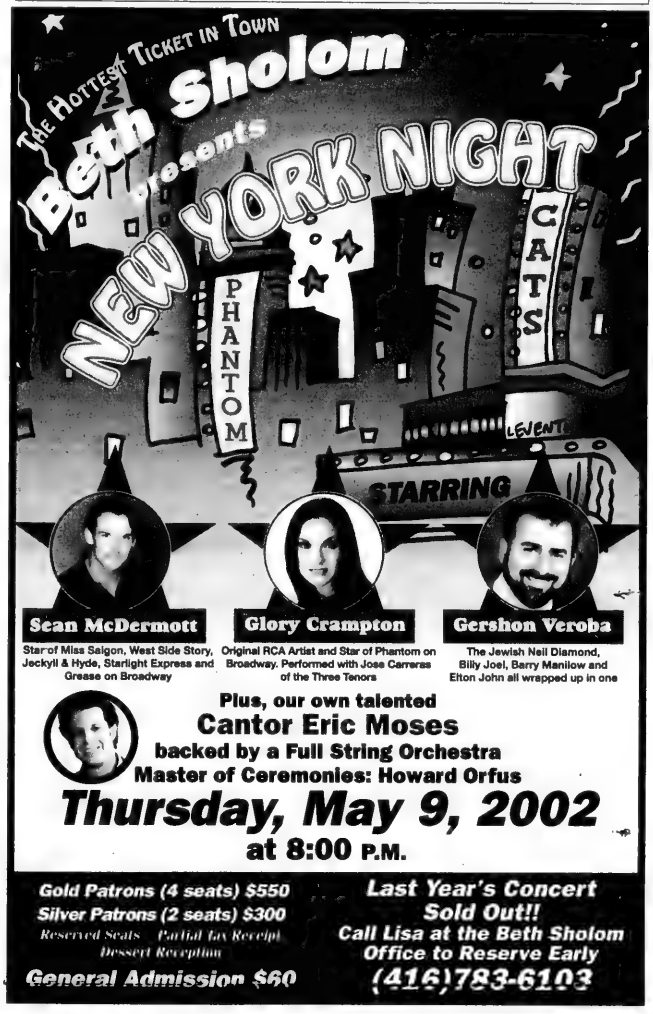
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What's right... what's wrong

Several items this week:

1. Powerful, morally-charged words from Rosie DiManno of the *Toronto Star* (April 3):

"This is surely the most ignoble moment in the recent history of the Palestinian cause. And the most regrettable moment for Canada to weigh in with an intemperate attack on Israel for responding with force to the ceaseless murder, the *shredding*, of its innocent civilians…

"Yet the global outrage regarding at least 44 Israeli civilians killed in Palestinian attacks since last [week]… has been eclipsed by a far louder chorus of condemnation for Israel's tactics in defending itself against an enemy that will not be placated…"

The key issue for DiManno – the near apoplectic fury of much of the world at Israel's daring to defend itself by doing what any other nation in similar circumstances would do, far earlier and almost certainly with more brutal force – demands an explanation. The world's historical inability to treat Jews with equanimity requires not simply political scientists but an entire panel of experts: historians, cultural anthropologists, theologians and even a few psychiatrists devoted to the study of social pathology.

2. Where are the editorials denouncing the Hezbollah attacks on Israel's northern border? Where is the criticism of Syria and Iran for trying to provoke Israel into a wider war by heating things up in the north?

In May 2000, Israel withdrew its soldiers from its security zone in southern Lebanon to what the UN certified was its northern border, thus fully complying with UN Security Council Resolution 425. An area Israel holds near that border, Har Dov, which Hezbollah keeps attacking under the pretext that it belongs to Lebanon, is actually part of the Golan Heights and is claimed by Syria.

Long ago, Hezbollah lost any international legitimacy to wage a "national liberation" struggle against Israel. But it continues to fire across the border and even to fire upon planes in Israeli airspace in the north. The international community, not unexpectedly, is almost entirely silent about these violent provocations, about Syria and Iran's roles and Lebanon's reckless response.

British journalists such as Robert Fisk and David Hirst, who have made careers bashing Israel at every turn – they formerly insisted that Israel had been in Lebanon to grab land and water resources – pay no heed to Arab violations on the Lebanese-Israeli border, but we do expect better from many of our own journalists and editorial writers.

3. Reflections on the media in general:

Say it isn't so, John:

"As a newspaper columnist, I'm acutely aware that the first obligation of my trade is to be interesting, not to be right." – John R. MacArthur, publisher of Harper's Magazine, in "Down with St. George," *Globe and Mail*, March 30).

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel committee.

Opinion: *3/27 & 9/11*

By JEFF ROSEN
News & Internet Editor

Three twenty-seven… 3/27… 3-27. No matter how many times you say it or how many different ways you write it, it never seems to roll off the tip of your tongue like 9/11. Unfortunately for Israel and Jewish people around the world, the events connected to these two dates do not mean the same thing and 3/27 will not be remembered as long.

On that date just last month, a suicide bomber walked into a hotel in Netanya and forever changed the lives of a group of Jewish people gathered for a seder, killing over 25 people and injuring many more. Can you imagine one of our most sacred holidays being desecrated in such a manner? And what is the world's response a month later? Israel must show restraint. **Israel!** Can you imagine that?

I guess Israel lacks the sense of dramatic flair that the Americans are famous for. While the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center towers was a horrific act and something that definitely should be remembered for all time, the fact remains that the American system in general and President George W. Bush in particular have helped to enshrine the date of those attacks in the memory of people everywhere.

Unfortunately, Israelis and Prime Minister Ariel Sharon lack the same flair. An alternative explanation is that while terrorist acts on U.S. soil are a random occurrence, Israelis and the rest of the world have grown accustomed to madmen blowing themselves up in the Middle East. While Israel has made a number of mistakes in handling the current conflict, Canada and the rest of the world continue to impose a double standard on the only democratic country in the Middle East.

Consider these similarities:

1. Public institutions are attacked in broad daylight, resulting in massive loss of life and destruction of property.
2. The attacked country vows to combat terrorism until it is vanquished and retaliates with full force, resulting in loss of innocent life in its attempt to crush its enemies.

Also significant and very similar are remarks by the leaders involved in the terrorist strikes:

1. "We do not differentiate between those dressed in military uniforms and civilians; they are all targets in this fatwa." –Osama bin Laden.
2. "Even if one Israeli dies for every 10 Palestinians, then the three million Palestinians can kill 300,000 Israelis." –Dr. Mahmoud al-Zahar, a leading member of Hamas.

There have been some important differences though. Prime Minister Jean Chrétien boldly stated after the attacks in New York and Washington: "Together with our allies we will defy and defeat the threat that terrorism poses to all civilized nations."

However, when he finally decided to speak out against the violence in Israel, his tone was remarkably different. He said Israel "should respect the resolutions of the United Nations that have asked the tanks to go back on the other side of the border and start a dialogue, because the violence will lead nowhere."

Our prime minister's two statements appear contradictory. He calls for Israel to stop defending itself against people who seek to destroy it, yet a half-year earlier he announced that Canada would fight against terrorism wherever it occurs.

I agree with the esteemed Liberal leader when he said that "violence will get us nowhere." Unfortunately, not everyone shares his sentiments. Even if one were to give Yasser Arafat the benefit of the doubt about his supposedly peaceful intentions, rival Palestinian groups have clearly outlined their objectives. Peace and a two-nation solution are not part of their objectives.

On April 4, the *Toronto Star* ran an interview with leaders of Hamas. It was quite disgusting in one respect, but illuminating in another. Let the world see what Israel is really up against:

"Our equation does not focus on a ceasefire; our equation focuses on an end to the occupation," stated Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas.

According to the *Star*, Hamas wants Israeli withdrawal from all of the West Bank and Gaza, the dismantling of settlements and full right of return for the four million Palestinians who live in other states. After that, the Jews could remain, living "in an Islamic state with Islamic law," said al-Zahar. "From our ideological point of view, it is not allowed to recognize that Israel controls one square metre of historical Palestine."

"There are a lot of open areas in the United States that could absorb the Jews," added Ismail Abu Shanab, one of the organization's leaders.

For these reasons alone, Israel must continue to defy world opinion and strike out against its enemies. One can only hope that world leaders will finally wake up and come to their senses before these so-called Palestinian leaders, these madmen fulfil their vision.

Atlantic Canada Jews gather for Yom Hashoah

By JOEL JACOBSON
Atlantic Correspondent

HALIFAX — "I'm still alive. I don't know if I will be tomorrow" – words of a Warsaw Ghetto resident written shortly before his death in the uprising, discovered years later in the 1950s.

The passage was read by high school student Sarah Zatzman of Halifax at this year's Yom Hashoah ceremony in her community. It was in keeping with the Atlantic Jewish Council's theme for Yom Hashoah 2002, Their Last Voice: Letters and Testaments from Jews in the Holocaust, expressed in many Eastern Canadian communities during memorial services over the past two weeks.

In Fredericton, N.B., more than 250 people at Sgoolai Israel Synagogue heard Judy Weissenberg Cohen of Toronto, a survivor of the Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen camps, speak about the extra horrors women faced as they entered the extermination camps.

She told the audience, which event chair and survivor Israel Unger said was more than 80 per cent non-Jewish, that younger women with babies were immediately and surreptitiously told by camp inmates to give their children to their children's grandmothers.

"Women under 14 and over 45 were being sent immediately to the gas chambers, while those between were spared," Cohen said. "If the young mother had a child, they too went to the chambers. A woman without children might be given extra time to live. But most mothers couldn't give up their children."

Unger, a Fredericton resident since 1966 and dean emeritus in chemistry at the University of New Brunswick, is also co-chair of Canadian Jewish Congress' Holocaust commemoration committee.

"We usually attract a large number of gentiles to this event through the intercity clergy council and information sent to legions and other community groups," he said. "We also had the lieutenant governor, mayor and federal and provincial legislators in attendance."

Members of the Jewish community, as well as a legionnaire and Canon Philip Ward, an Anglican cleric, lit commemorative candles.

"I've been at most services in Atlantic Canada through the years and I'm proud of the response we get from the [non-Jewish] community," Unger said. "We reach out to them because Jews were alone during the Holocaust and we have to keep reminding them they have a stand in the issues, and we expect them to stand with us."

In Halifax, two young women who suffered from the effects of genocide in Rwanda and now live in Toronto spoke to about 200 people at Shaar Shalom Synagogue.

In a service led primarily by Jewish high school and university students, the last writings of Holocaust victims were read. Every name uttered during the traditional candlelighting ceremony was of a young person under the age of 18, a graphic reminder of what was lost to humanity in the Holocaust.

Juliet Choco Karugahe and Sollange Umwalli pleaded for the phrase "never again" to truly mean never again.

Both women, in their early 20s, were born in Kenya as Rwandan refugees. Their Tutsi families had been expelled from Rwanda and they left large families there. In the 1994 Rwandan genocide, about one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were murdered by extremist Hutus in 100 days. Large numbers of their families perished.

Umwalli returned to Rwanda in 1995 but the chaos made her realize she had no future there. She entered Canada in 1998 and has applied to study at York University.

"I was angry at myself and the world for not being there for the Rwandan people," she told a hushed audience in impeccable English. "I tried to understand how these things start, with dehumanizing racist remarks followed by people not looking at others as human. And I asked myself how humans could do what they do to other human beings."

Karugahe, 22, a student at University of Toronto, said the Holocaust is not a Jewish issue and Rwanda is not a Rwandan issue. "They are universal issues. One million were killed in 100 days because the international community was silent. Small minorities can accomplish this because of the silence.

"I hope I'm not too idealistic, but each of us can make a difference, in our own way, by making sure 'Never again' is never again."

Holocaust survivor Philip Riteman of Halifax spoke to 75 people in Charlottetown, including P.E.I. Premier Pat Binns. He also visited a junior high and high school, as well as the P.E.I. legislature for a brief memorial ceremony during his two-day visit.

In Saint John, N.B., Cohen spoke to a large audience at Shaarei Zedek Synagogue. In addition, prizes were presented to high school students from the general community who participated in an essay contest on the Holocaust and the creation of the State of Israel.

Other ceremonies were also held In Moncton, N.B., St. John's, Nfld., and Sydney, N.S.

Quebec MNAs discuss Yom Hashoah

MONTREAL — Thirty-five Montreal-area high school students visited the National Assembly on Yom Hashoah, a trip organized by Canadian Jewish Congress, Quebec region, in co-operation with D'Arcy McGee MNA Lawrence Bergman.

On Dec. 15, 1999, the National Assembly unanimously adopted an act declaring the province's official recognition of Holocaust Memorial Day. The students were present during question period when various MNAs spoke on the occasion.

The newly merged City of Montreal passed a motion last month recognizing Yom Hashoah as "the day of remembrance of all victims of the Holocaust."

The motion was presented by executive committee member Marcel Tremblay, and officially seconded by opposition councillor Saulie Zajdel, who is also Quebec executive director of B'nai Brith Canada. Veteran councillor Marvin Rotrand, a child of Holocaust survivors, also seconded the motion, citing his appreciation of the gesture.

Students from Herzliah High School, Snowdon campus, also organized a musical Holocaust memorial program at the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue.

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Yom Hashoah speakers link Mideast crisis, Holocaust

By MICHAEL REGENSTREIF
Special to The CJN

MONTREAL — Citing a resurgence of anti-Semitism worldwide and noting that Israel was founded just after the Holocaust, Israel's consul general in Montreal told the community's Yom Hashoah memorial service last week that "a strong and vital State of Israel is the best response to anti-Semitism."

Shlomo Avital discussed the Holocaust in the context of the current Mideast crisis and its impact on Jews worldwide before a crowd of more than 2,000 people – including politicians, diplomats and community leaders – at Congregation Tifereth Beth David Jerusalem last Monday evening.

Under the watchful eye of police and private security, the event also included a solemn candlelighting ceremony, survivors' testimonies and Holocaust poetry.

Avital said Palestinian leaders are inciting hatred with "slogans like 'Kill the Jews,'" and portrayals of Israeli soldiers as Nazis.

He also called on Jews worldwide to be vigilant about the resurgence of anti-Semitism.

"This is not the time to be silent," Avital said, pointing to recent suicide bombings in Israel and the firebombing of synagogues in France and Belgium. He called the United Nations anti-racism conference, held last year in Durban, South Africa, "a most shameful event."

Avital then called for renewed participation of young people in the March of the Living and for all Jews to continue to visit Israel.

FEDERATION CJA president Steven Cummings also linked the Holocaust with recent events.

"When World War II ended, 'Never again' became our motto," Cummings said. "We said, 'Never again,' but in Brussels, a synagogue was firebombed."

Cummings also called attention to the recent desecration of three synagogues in Ottawa and the firebombing of a synagogue in Saskatoon.

"It is essential to show our support of Israel," Cummings said. "Jews of the Diaspora must stand together and fight against terrorism. We will not allow our people to be slaughtered."

Sidney Zoltak, co-chair, along with Sara Weinberg, of the Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre's (MHMC) remembrance committee, recalled that his own Jewish community was first confined to a ghetto in 1942 before being shipped out to death camps.

"Of the 7,000 souls in my community, less than 70 survived," he said. "My community was history."

The memorial program, conducted in English, French, Yiddish and Hebrew, had as its centrepiece the lighting of six memorial candles, each representing one million Jews who were killed in the Holocaust.

Each candle was lit by three people – a survivor, a child of a survivor and a grandchild of a survivor.

During the candlelighting ceremony, survivors told of their experiences and Holocaust poetry was read by several second- and third-generation descendants of survivors.

In his chilling testimony, Mayer Schondorf recalled how his childhood in Bardejov, a shtetl in eastern Slovakia, "came to a crashing end in 1942."

While his family managed to briefly hide him in Hungary, Schondorf was soon deported, first to Birkenau and then to Auschwitz. On the infamous death march from Auschwitz in January 1945, he witnessed the death of his father.

Schondorf told the hushed assembly that when he was finally liberated from Buchenwald on April 11, 1945, at the age of 16, "I weighed less than 80 pounds."

After the war, Schondorf made his way back to Bardejov, but the community "had ceased to exist." Of the 4,000 Jews who lived in Bardejov at the beginning of 1942, only 200 survived. "May their memory live on forever," he said of the dead.

One of the most poignant moments came as the choir quietly sang *Ani Maamin* while Nina Ben-Ami, Israel's vice-consul in Montreal, and David Birnbaum, executive director of Canadian Jewish Congress, Eastern region, read the names of Holocaust victims.

As the program drew to a close, Schondorf was joined by second- and third-generation descendants in a promise to keep the memory of the Holocaust alive.

Holocaust Awareness Week held in Winnipeg

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — This city's Jewish community commemorated Holocaust Awareness Week recently with a bit of an ecumenical thrust. Among the highlights were a talk by Harold Bastable, a former RCAF officer, who was imprisoned in the Buchenwald concentration camp for three months in the fall of 1944, and a special presentation prepared by students at the Catholic Holy Cross School.

The week began with the annual memorial service at the north Winnipeg Bnay Abraham Synagogue, the only synagogue in the city with its own Holocaust memorial. Following the service – which was attended by more than 200 people – the name of the street outside was changed for the week, as is the tradition, to Avenue of the Warsaw Ghetto Heroes.

On April 8, the United Jewish Peoples Order and the Sholem Aleichem group sponsored a lecture by Winnipeg Jewish historian Dr. Allan Levine. Levine is the author of *Fugitive of the Forest* (Stoddart Publishing, 1998), about the wartime Jewish partisans who fought the Nazis – and often Russian and Polish partisans – in the forests of eastern Europe.

On April 9, the League for Human Rights of B'nai Brith Canada presented its annual roll call of the names of Holocaust victims whose families live in Winnipeg. The annual memorial service at the Holocaust Monument on the grounds of the Manitoba Legislature followed, with Manitoba Premier Gary Doer's public proclamation of Yom Hashoah.

The noon-hour ceremonies also included a messsage from Dr. Ian Goldstine, Winnipeg Jewish Federation president, from Yad Vashem, songs by Jewish elementary school choirs, a laying of flowers and a yahrzeit candlelighting.

In the evening, Ruth Gruber addressed a Winnipeg audience via live satellite from the 92nd Street Y in New York as part of the second annual North America-wide Kallah program broadcast throughout Canada and the United States. Gruber, a journalist and historian, spoke about her book *Haven*, an account of her efforts in 1944 with the U.S. government to bring 1,000 Jewish refugees out of war-torn Europe to safety in the United States.

Bastable spoke on the evening of April 10 about his experiences as a prisoner of war. Bastable, who is now 85, was shot down over France shortly after D-Day. After being rescued and hidden by the French Resistance, he was betrayed to the Nazis and jailed in Fresnes Prison in Paris. Immediately before Paris was liberated, the Germans transferred all the inmates of the Fresnes Prison into boxcars for a three-day journey to Buchenwald.

Bastable was one of 179 Allied airmen (including 27 Canadians) in the prison. All had been shot down over France, rescued by the Resistance and eventually betrayed to the Nazis. (Only one of the group, Joe Sonshine of Toronto, was Jewish.) Most of the airmen were in Buchenwald for two months before the regular German army learned of their existence and moved them to a standard prison camp.

Bastable, along with a few others, spent an extra three weeks in the concentration camp because they had been in the infirmary when the initial transfer took place.

The week concluded on April 11, with an education panel that discussed how to teach the Holocaust and with the Holy Cross students' presentation. One of the teachers at Holy Cross has made the Holocaust as a component of his human rights course.

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Arafat says IDF pullback must accompany summit

By Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Yasser Arafat has said he is prepared to accept an Israeli proposal for a regional peace conference if the United States supports the idea, but the Palestinian Authority chairman said the summit must be accompanied by an immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from the West Bank.

The call Sunday by Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for a regional conference on the Middle East that would include heads of state but exclude Arafat sparked skepticism at home and abroad that such a summit could happen without Arafat's participation.

Sharon said he had discussed his proposal for a regional peace conference under U.S. auspices with U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. It would involve a number of countries, including Israel, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Morocco and Palestinian representatives. Sharon said Powell, who is in the region to try to halt spiralling Israeli-Palestinian violence, had accepted the idea.

Israeli officials were quoted by Israel Radio Monday as saying that a regional conference could take place in the United States within six weeks.

But their optimism was not widely shared. "The idea of a conference is excellent, and is congruent with the American interest in establishing a coalition of moderate states in the region," said Israeli cabinet minister Ephraim Sneh.

But he added that if Arafat were excluded from a conference of heads of state, "it would be an illusion to think that other participants would come.

"There's no point in deluding ourselves," Sneh said. "The other participants, those of whom the prime minister spoke, will not agree to our dictating the representation of the Palestinians."

Arafat, who called Fox News on Sunday from his besieged headquarters in Ramallah, said he would accept anything that had the backing of U.S. President George W. Bush that might achieve peace.

"Any initiative which would be declared by President Bush I will accept it to achieve peace...," Arafat said. "I am ready for an immediate conference, but at the same time immediate withdrawal (of Israeli troops). No one can accept occupation."

In announcing the conference idea after meeting Powell Sunday, Sharon said he and the secretary of state "continued to examine ways to arrive at peace between Israel and her neighbours, and in the Middle East in general.

"I said we are ready to have a regional conference in which a number of countries would participate – Israel, Egypt, the Saudis, Jordan, Morocco and Palestinian representatives. It doesn't have to be limited to these," Sharon said.

"The conference would be hosted by the United States. This idea is acceptable to the United States and I estimate that within a short period of time the conference will indeed convene," added Sharon, who first proposed the idea before last month's Arab summit in Beirut and again in the Knesset.

A senior U.S. State Department official said that no venue, participants or timing have been set.

Leftist opposition leader Yossi Sarid dismissed Sharon's proposal as a "public relations trick that has nothing to it." He said Sharon proposed it because "he understands that he must present something of a diplomatic nature at the end of the 'rolling operation' in the West Bank.

"I don't think it will be possible to convene a conference without Arafat, not because I personally miss Arafat especially, but because the lack of his presence is unnatural. It is an Israeli dictate that cannot be accepted and that everyone will reject."

Sarid said that many participants would probably prefer a conference without Sharon, as well, but the presence of both leaders is essential to any chance of progress.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told Reuters that Sharon's idea was a "waste of time" and no substitute for a peace plan floated by Saudi Arabia and backed by last month's Arab summit.

The Saudi proposal offers Arab recognition of Israel in exchange for Israel's withdrawal to pre-1967 borders.

"If Sharon wants to talk about peace, he can accept the [Saudi-backed] Arab peace initiative or agree to end the occupation and withdraw to the June 4, 1967 lines," Erekat said.

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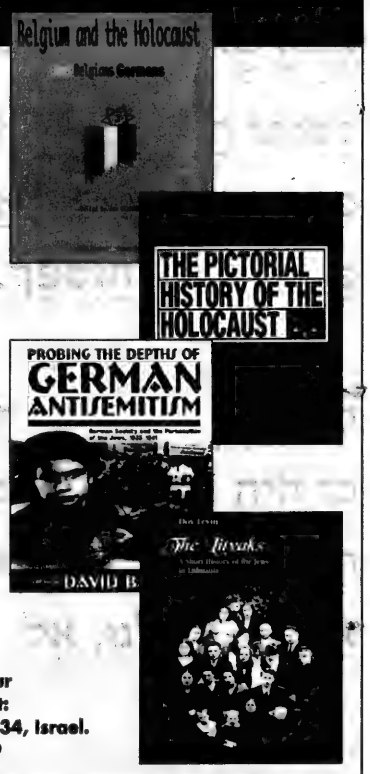

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Media get first look at Jenin refugee camp

By EDGAR ASHER
Israel

JENIN, West Bank — For the first time since the IDF entered Jenin to flush out terrorists, representatives of the media were allowed last weekend to go into the refugee camp.

The members of the media were taken in IDF vehicles past the devastated former local headquarters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's security services. The central square of Jenin no longer exists, just a featureless, vast mass of building rubble, twisted girders, dust and dirt. Mounds of wreckage up to 25 feet high made the scene look like the aftermath of a major earthquake.

The IDF said that to advance 100 metres took a full day of fighting.

Despite the heaviness of the fighting the IDF said that about 45 militants had been killed, not the hundreds claimed by the Palestinians. Reporters were told by the IDF that there had been no "massacres," as alleged by Palestinians and that the vast majority of Palestinian casualties were armed militants because the army had used surgical, precision warfare to minimize harm to civilians.

The fighting was house to house, window by window. Every few yards there was another booby trap. But any ammunition the IDF used was very specifically targeted at places where guns were firing. The Israeli forces could have wiped out resistance without sustaining casualties themselves by carpet bombing from the air, but that would have killed many civilians so the idea was shelved, IDF spokespersons said.

Army officers said most of the camp's 15,000 residents had been evicted by terrorists, who then booby-trapped their homes, while some of the remaining civilians were used as human shields against army assault.

Seen is one of the first pictures of Jenin released after the IDF's Defensive Shield operation began. [Israel photo]

The terrorists had also destroyed water mains all over the camp. The IDF reported that when they first entered the camp, most of the houses were already empty of civilians. The camp was ready for war. There had been no serious interruptions of food supplies and the IDF filled any gaps by sending in trucks with food and bottled water.

It also kept the Jenin hospital supplied with oxygen and medicines throughout the conflict. Most of the 23 Israeli soldiers killed and the many more wounded were casualties of booby-traps, the IDF said.

Booby-trapped items included discarded AK-47 assault rifles, garbage bags, chairs, bedroom drawers and fridges.

Any walls in the camp surviving upright were plastered with Hamas and Islamic Jihad martyr posters, even over the doorways of pharmacies.

Attempts have been made to retrieve bodies, but the fact that the area is so heavily booby-trapped made it difficult to do this, especially since some of the bodies themselves could be booby trapped. The other difficulty was the work involved in co-ordinating the evacuation of the bodies on an individual basis by the Red Cross and Red Crescent.

Kiev synagogue attacked; three injured

KIEV, Ukraine — About 50 youths attacked the central synagogue in Kiev on Saturday evening, beating worshippers with stones and bottles and destroying property, according to a report from Associated Press.

Kiev's chief rabbi, Moshe-Reuven Azman, said the mob marched down the capital's main boulevard shouting, "Kill the Jews!" before attacking the synagogue just after 9 p.m.

However, police denied it was an anti-Semitic attack, saying it was a case of soccer-related hooliganism.

Rabbi Azman said the youths knocked Tsvi Kaplan, rector of the Kiev yeshiva, to the ground and beat him with stones. Kaplan was hospitalized overnight and released Sunday.

Rabbi Azman's 14-year-old son and a security guard were also injured, the rabbi said, adding that the attackers broke 20 windows in the synagogue.

"I call this act a pogrom," Rabbi Azman said. "It's a miracle that it was not worse."

Ukrainian police detained three Kiev youths in connection to the incident and opened a routine investigation, the Interfax news agency said.

The Interior Ministry, like the police, said that "the act was not motivated by anti-Semitism, but was an act of brutal hooliganism," according to Interfax.

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April 8

• *The evening ushered in Yom Hashoah v'Gvurah.*

• Two IDF soldiers were killed and four wounded in Jenin. Israel forces withdrew from Kalkilya and Tulkarm.

April 9

• Thirteen IDF soldiers, mostly reservists, were killed in Jenin. Eight were killed in an ambush in one of the alleys; the other five were killed as they came to rescue the fallen eight.

• The IDF discovered rocket launchers and other weapons in a mosque in El Bireh, a town near Ramallah.

April 10

• Eight people were killed and 14 wounded when a suicide bomber destroyed a bus near Haifa.

• Another victim died of injuries received at the Passover massacre in Netanyah, bringing the total dead from the incident to 28.

April 11

• The Palestinian Authority showed "an interest" in developing biological weapons according to intelligence officials. The claim was based on documents found in Ramallah and in other West Bank cities.

• Israeli troops withdrew from some 24 West Bank villages but remained in Ramallah, Nablus, Jenin and Bethlehem.

• More than 1,000 armed Palestinians surrendered in Jenin. It is expected more than 100 Palestinians were killed in the fighting there.

April 12

• For the 10th straight day Hezbollah continued its rocket assault on IDF troops in Har Dov and on Mount Hermon. IDF returned fire.

• A suicide bomber killed at least six people and injured scores more of pre-Shabbat shoppers at a bus stop in the Machane Yehuda market in Jerusalem.

Files from JTA & Ha'aretz

Powell: Border attacks may lead to wider conflict

By Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said Monday Washington is concerned that guerrilla attacks by the militant Lebanese-based Hezbollah organization along Israel's northern border could lead to a broader Mideast conflict.

"There is a very real danger of the situation along the border widening the conflict in the region," Powell said after talks with Lebanese President Emile Lahoud on curbing attacks on Israel by the militant Hezbollah organization.

The talks aimed to avoid a harsh Israeli reprisal and an escalation of border hostilities, sources said.

"It is essential for all those committed to peace to act immediately to stop actions across the border. This is the message I have conveyed and will continue to convey to all governments in the region... This is the purpose of my trip to Beirut and to Damascus," Powell said.

Shortly before Powell's arrival, Lebanese Information Minister Ghazi Aridi said Powell would be told cross-border guerrilla attacks against Israeli troops would likely continue.

But Lebanon seeks to confine the cross-border fighting to the disputed Shaaba Farms area on the border with the Golan Heights and not allow attacks into northern Israel, Aridi said.

Aridi accused the United States of being indifferent to the killing and suffering in the Palestinian territories and to the prospect the conflict will escalate into a regional conflagration.

"For the Americans, it's no problem if the region descends into chaos and destruction, sees mass massacres, mass annihilation, an Israeli holocaust against the Palestinians, Nazism, fascism, terrorism, detention camps, expulsions, killings, displacement of people, starving and depriving people of water," Aridi said.

Aridi said there could be no solution to the fighting without recognition of Palestinian rights and a withdrawal from Lebanese and Syrian land.

Israel nabs key Fatah leader in Ramallah

By Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

TEL AVIV — West Bank Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti was arrested Monday in Ramallah by an elite army unit, army sources said.

Israel had been on a manhunt for the head of the Tanzim, a military wing of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah organization, since the start of military operations on March 29. The efforts began with an attempt to capture him in a Palestinian security installation in the West Bank town of Beitounia, but Barghouti managed to escape.

The IDF carried out an intense search for the Fatah leader.

Also arrested in the operation was Ahmad Barghouti, who is among the Tanzim leaders in Ramallah. After getting intelligence information, army tanks surrounded the home of a Fatah activist in Ramallah.

Ahmad was arrested first and said that Marwan was also in the house. The arrest was carried out without any shots being fired. Security sources said the two will be interrogated then put on trial.

Israel holds Barghouti responsible for direct involvement in numerous terror attacks, including giving orders and providing funds to members of the Tanzim military wing.

THE CANADIAN ZIONIST FEDERATION

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TILLIE MARGOLIS

President of Central Region Canadian Zionist Federation

On the untimely passing of her husband

HERBERT (HY) MARGOLIS ז"ל

May the family be comforted amongst the mourners of Zion and Jerusalem

Kurt Rothschild, National President — Florence Simon, National Executive Director

203

JNF

NOTICE

Re:

2002 Annual Meeting

The **2002 Annual Meeting of The Jewish National Fund of Canada** will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba at the Fairmont Winnipeg, Two Lombard Place, Winnipeg, Manitoba, R3B 0Y3, **June 16, 2002.**

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Applications must be received by May 3, 2002.

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After everything that has happened, how can Israel trust Arafat?

The following is a letter from Deputy Prime Minister of Israel Natan Sharansky.

April 8, 2002
Jerusalem

Dear Friends,

As we continue to face critical days and mounting pressures, I feel it is important to share firsthand some thoughts on the events of the last few days.

U.S. President George W. Bush's recent statement concerning events in the Middle East was of historical importance. He stated with a simple but profound clarity that "the Palestinian people deserve a government which respects human rights."

For a decade, the entire civilized world, with Israel and the United States leading, betrayed its principles by promoting, supporting, and condoning a corrupt leader who suppressed any Palestinian impulse and aspiration to a free and just society. Israel's leaders cynically and fallaciously reasoned that this would be good for us because such a dictator would suppress terrorism in exchange for his international rehabilitation and a licence to plunder his people. It would be easier, our leaders told themselves, because he would not be hindered by human rights organizations or by a Supreme Court.

This bargain with the devil, as all others, was bound to boomerang. Not only did Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat fail to curb terrorism, he recruited, supported and directed the terrorists themselves in the most cruel and inhumane acts of wanton and indiscriminate violence yet witnessed.

In the face of Bush's clear statement that Arafat betrayed his obligations and refused to fight the terrorists, how can Israel trust him in yet another promise to stop terrorism? Terrorism will be eliminated when we eliminate it, and the terrorists will be incarcerated when we take them into captivity. The Tenet agreement which is being promoted by the U.S. administration as an appropriate exchange for a premature cessation of our efforts at effective self-help is based on an obligation by Arafat to arrest and punish the same terrorists with whom he is closeted in Ramallah. Arafat has not merely failed to thwart terrorism – he has promoted, enlisted and paid the terrorists per suicide bomb assembled. He has perpetuated and exploited the misery of the Palestinian Arabs.

How can anyone seriously treat Arafat and his corrupt gang of terrorists as partners for peace? Arafat has finally been exposed and his naked duplicity, wickedness and corruption can no longer be clothed by us in self-deception.

By ignoring Arafat's despotism, corruption and flagrant disregard for agreements, we not only betrayed our own principles, we thereby enabled the growth and spread of terrorism until it reached the inconceivable and monstrous proportions of today.

In the last month, over 150 of us have been murdered by sitting in a café, or by going to the supermarket or by celebrating the Feast of Freedom with our families on seder night. Statistically, for our small society, this is a loss even greater than that of Sept. 11. But this story is not one of statistics. For with each family suffering a loss, there is unbearable grief and pain and a terrible, neverending void. And for each family suffering a death, tens of other families have had members permanently disabled, injured and scarred.

At the funeral of my housing ministry colleague, Aviel Ron, and his two murdered children, his widow, the mother of their two children cried out in utter disbelief: *"Zeh lo yachol lihiyot!"* – this cannot be happening. This is what all of us are all saying, and all of us must do everything in our power to make absolutely sure that this does not continue to happen!

What our defence forces are doing now is long overdue. Our vast intelligence networks are working together intensively to identify the leaders and carriers of this explosive and venomous terrorism. We are determined to reach the villains and not innocent Palestinians. Because we are so careful to avoid unnecessary losses – on both sides – we must proceed carefully, deliberately and surgically. Those we seek out hide behind innocent civilians, especially, children and adolescents. They hide in churches and mosques and take monks and nuns hostage. Those we are chasing booby trap houses and even churches. Advancing cautiously means moving methodically and slowly. We cannot treat every house as booby-trapped and bomb it, lest we risk injuring innocent people – but we must treat every house as if it might be booby trapped, lest we risk the lives of our young soldiers.

Because of these circumstances, we need several weeks to eliminate most of the sources of terrorism. This is a job which can be done effectively. We have already arrested over 400 terrorists, about 100 of whom actually committed the murders. We have arrested those who directed the massacres at the Dolphinarium, at Seafood and at Sbarro Pizza.

The terrorist responsible for the massacre at the seder in Netanya was killed in a highly sophisticated operation conducted by the Israel Defence Forces and the security forces.

We can do the job responsibly, effectively and honourably, but we must be given the proper time. If we are forced to recede before the completion of our mission, we will, at some point, have to return. And the cost to us and the price in innocent lives will be far greater.

History teaches us that Jews have often been killed in cruel and unusual ways, from the *harugei hamalchut* in Roman times to the Inquisition, pogroms, and more recently, the gas chambers. Now, we experience yet another cruel innovation – human suicide bombs.

But this time, things are different. For we have a sovereign Jewish State to defend and protect its citizens. Israel's first responsibility is to protect us from this recent wave of carnage. And by protecting us from this new weapon of terror, Israel defends freedom and civilized values everywhere. To prematurely end our campaign against this new threat is to place our innocent civilians in harm's way to the detriment of all.

Israel must be no less resolute in fighting terrorism directed against us than the United States in fighting terrorism against its citizens. The wishful thinking of Oslo has long since self-destructed and we can no longer pretend that Arafat is a partner for peace.

You are no doubt facing conflicting pressures and will face even more in the next few days. The media is reporting what it understands based on many fragmented sources. I can promise you that the true story is really quite clear. We are a democratic state fighting to eliminate the worst wave of terrorism unleashed against a civilian population in human history. This campaign, which will require several weeks, has only one purpose: to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure that was built by the Palestinian Authority and its leader Arafat with Israeli, U.S. and European resources.

To force us to stop before its completion would be a tragic error. These are not easy times, but more than ever they call for us to be united in this campaign to eliminate terror. This is the humane course; this is the only course consistent with Bush's forthright stand against terror.

We need your understanding. We need your support. And we need them now as never before. I know the power and glory of Jewish unity and I know that, together, we can prevail.

Natan Sharansky
Deputy Prime Minister of Israel.

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The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem
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ISRAEL H. ASPER
and the Asper Family
on the passing of his beloved mother
CECILIA ASPER ז"ל
May her memory be as a blessing to all who were privileged to have known her.

Menachem Magidor *President, Hebrew University of Jerusalem*
Stephen Victor, Q.C. *National President*
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deeply mourn the passing of our long standing and beloved friend
MORRIS J. WOSK ז"ל
Honorary International Governor, Past President, Vancouver Chapter
Together with his late wife Dena ז"ל**, their leadership and devotion to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem will always be remembered**
We extend our condolences to his children Miriam, Yosef, Mordehai and Kenny his grandchildren and the entire family
His philanthropy and passion helped to shape the State of Israel and the Vancouver Jewish Community

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Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

Explosion damages Tunisian shul

TEL AVIV — A gas tanker truck filled with cooking oil crashed into the outer wall of the historic Ghriba synagogue in Djerba, a resort island on the Tunisian coast, last Thursday, killing 17 people and damaging the outer wall of the ancient synagogue.

The Tunisian government said the explosion was caused by an accident, but Israel's Foreign Ministry suspects the explosion was a deliberate attack on North Africa's largest synagogue.

Five Tunisians as well as 11 German tourists and a Frenchman were killed. The truck driver was among the dead.

Initial reports said 32 people were injured, but some have since died from their injuries.

Tunisian security services and judicial authorities opened investigations into the blast, which damaged the facade of the historic blue-and-white synagogue located in an olive field.

Perez Trabelsi, the synagogue's president, said he did not believe the incident was an attack. "I think it's an accident, and that it has no link to the situation in Israel," he said. "If it was an attack, it would have targeted people inside the synagogue."

But Israeli sources said Trabelsi may have been forced to line up with the government's version of events.

The blast could be heard five kilometres away and witnesses said it led to panic inside the shul, with people suffocating and fleeing shattering glass, Agence France Presse (AFP) reported.

A Tunisian human rights group told AFP the official version of events should be "treated with caution," since the shul is on a no-through road.

And Shalom Cohen, the Israeli foreign ministry official in charge of North Africa told the news agency that "to arrive at this synagogue, you have to really want to go there… there is even a roadblock. It could not be an accident."

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said he expects a full investigation into the truck explosion. His government believes the explosion was deliberate, but Tunisian authorities maintain it was an accident and said Monday there were no new signs it was a suicide attack.

Schroeder told German television there were "indications suggesting it was an attack."

Djerba is a popular tourist destination off the southeast coast of the North African nation. The synagogue was open to visitors when the incident occurred.

There are about 1,200 Jews in Tunisia, and half live on the island.

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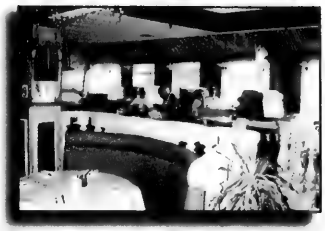

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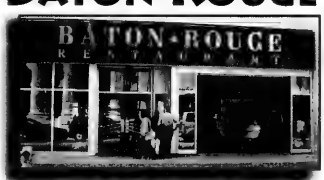

One of Montreal's leading restaurant chains, Baton Rouge features ribs, steaks, burgers and pastas. Everything here tastes of quality. The beef is Stirling Silver, Canada's #1 grade. The ribs, after 12 hours' slow baking and char-broiling, literally fall off the bone; you can eat them without using your fingers. The meat is aged in-house and fish selected daily; sauces and dressings are also made fresh daily. You'll love the mahogany interior, with its deep, rich reds; Frank Sinatra and Billy Halliday seranade. Come for dinner before the theatre, and return for dessert after.

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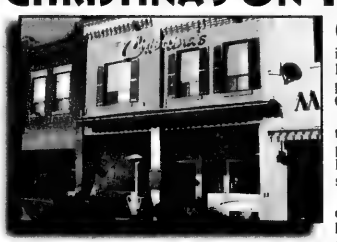

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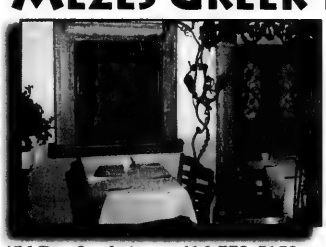

An obsession for freshness and quality have made **Mezes** one of the busiest restaurants not only on the Danforth, but in all of Toronto. Mezes makes all dishes to order from the highest quality ingredients, starting with the finest cold-pressed extra-virgin olive oil from Greece. You can really taste the difference — in the lamb chops, in the fresh red snapper, in the delectable variety of vegetarian dishes, even in the appetizers.

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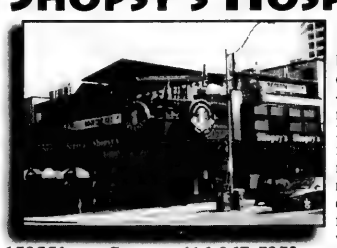

Shopsy's menu features the classic favorites like all beef hot dogs, corned beef, celebrity triple-decker sandwiches, cheese blintzes & New York cheesecake – along with comfort foods like cabbage rolls, lasagna & shepherd's pie, just like Mom used to make. Order from our low-fat Healthy & Hearty section introducing new ideas like grilled vegetable & fresh roast turkey sandwiches. The take-home counter offers foods Shopsy's is famous for. The atmosphere is family-friendly, with pictures of sports and entertainment celebrities, and booths equipped with Sony PlayStations. Choose your favourite **Cuban Cigar** from the well-stocked humidor boutique.

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The atmosphere is intimate and candle-lit, but vivacious, with lively music. It's an ideal spot for Mother's Day, or any special occasion where wonderful food and a vibrant atmosphere go hand in hand.

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www.toronto.com/trappersrestaurant

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Among the tastes Trapper's has created to tempt you, are charcoal grilled Black Angus steaks, Atlantic salmon, Chilean sea bass, bouillabaisse, Alberta veal chops, Muskoka trout, PEI mussels, and roast breast of Broom Lake duck. It's Canadian- Continental cuisine, with a little international touch. The atmosphere is elegantly casual, ideal for an intimate romantic dinner. In 2001, *Where* magazine recommended them for the best wine list, and gave them the Most Memorable Meal award; and the Zaggatt survey of quality meals rated them excellent. Trapper's caters, and hosts private functions such as bar/bat mitzvahs or wedding rehearsals.

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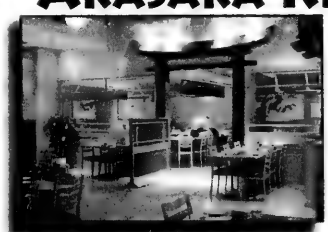

Empress Walk, 5095 Yonge St.
416-222-8188
Richmond Hill, 280 West Beaver Creek Rd.
905-764-9291

Akasaka's second restaurant on Empress Walk is an authentic Japanese dining experience. The dining room has sushi and tempura bars. In the teppanyaki room, the chef works at the centre, and everything is grilled before your eyes. The private tatami rooms host 15 to 25 guests, seated on mats Japanese-style. The teppanyaki menu includes chicken, fish, seafood, and Angus beef. Everything's fresh, with live lobster and crab and a tremendous sushi selection. For lunch, there are complete menus from $8.99; complete bentoh boxes from $11.99; and complete teppanyaki lunches at $10.99.

The Palace Restaurant

722 Pape Ave. • 416-462-1166

Hours: Mon.-Sat. 11a.m.-1a.m.
Sunday 11a.m.-10p.m.

There's one Greek restaurant you can count on to deliver a wonderful dining experience on each and every visit — whether it's a Mother's Day outing, or a business lunch with associates.

The appetizers alone provide more choice than some entire menus, and they stand alone in terms of freshness, preparation and authenticity. There are a plethora of superb Greek specialties, Toronto's finest selection of fresh fish, and world-famous Sterling Silver Certified Premium Beef.

As befits a Palace, there's a private Party room for up to 100 people. Located on the skylit upper level, it's ideal for birthday parties, Bar/Bat Mitzvah parties, or any event requiring the kind of ambience a banquet hall simply can't provide.

Aura Restaurant & Lounge

4973 Yonge St. • 416-512-6649
www.theaura.ca • lounge@theaura.ca

Open Tues.-Sat. 11a.m.-2:30p.m., 5p.m.-10p.m. Fri. & Sat. to 11 p.m. Ample municipal parking at rear. Licensed.

Noted chef Jerome Bishop's cuisine has always had an aura; now it has an **AURA**. This inviting new bistro at Yonge & Hollywood offers fine dining at moderate prices (dinner entrées start at $10) in a magnetic yet relaxing ambience. The menu sings with Continental, Italian and Asian influences, freshly prepared and artfully presented. From the Farfalle (Smoked Atlantic Salmon, Tomato & Vodka Cream) to the Asian Sesame Tiger Shrimp, Sea Scallops & Calamari with Cucumber Scallion & Nori Roll, gustatory delights abound.

Top-drawer live jazz with Erroll Fisher and the Blues Band is offered Friday night from 8:30 p.m. With the opening of its sprawling twin patios on Yonge and Hollywood, Aura plans to offer a suitably refined Sunday brunch.

If you're yearning for a downtown restaurant uptown, you need look no further than Aura.

Jewish Film Festival gets underway April 20th

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

This year's Toronto Jewish Film Festival runs at the Bloor Cinema from April 20 to April 28 and presents an eclectic selection of movies from around the world. Here, in capsule form, are reviews of six festival offerings.

Seventeen years ago, French documentarian Claude Lanzmann released *Shoah*, a gripping, though interminable, account of Holocaust survivors' remembrances.

The outtakes from *Shoah*, a lengthy film in itself, seemed so compelling that Lanzmann decided to use them in two separate films.

The first, *A Visitor from the Living* (1997), turned on a self-incriminating interview with a smug Red Cross official who wrote an incredibly bland – and inaccurate – report about conditions in the Theresienstadt concentration camp, a waystation to Auschwitz.

The second, *Sobibor, October 14, 1943, 4 PM*, a co-presentation of Cinematheque Ontario and the festival, will be screened April 25 at 9:30 p.m.

Like *A Visitor from the Living*, *Sobibor* also features a talking head, and is understated in tone. The interviewee, Yehuda Lerner, tells of the revolt by Jewish prisoners in Sobibor in the fall of 1943, when the Holocaust was well underway.

Yehuda Lerner tells of the revolt by Jewish prisoners in Sobibor.

Lerner, now an Israeli citizen, was 16 when he was taken from the Warsaw ghetto and his parents were dispatched to Treblinka, never to return.

By the time he found himself in Sobibor in September 1943, Lerner had escaped from eight different camps. For reasons which remain unexplained, his German captors did not shoot him, the usual punishment for escapees. Nor was Lerner sent straight to the gas chambers. Was it luck or something else?

Lerner participated in the revolt, during which 11 guards were killed. The rebellion was organized by a Red Army officer, Alexander Petchersky, who, as Lanzmann notes, "is no longer among us." Lerner speaks for himself and the others, the living and the dead, in this relatively absorbing film.

***

During World War II, Bulgaria, along with Denmark, stood out as beacons in a dark landscape. They had the distinction of being the only countries in Nazi-occupied Europe to resist demands for the deportation of their Jewish citizens.

The Optimists: The Story of the Rescue of the Bulgarian Jews from the Holocaust (April 22 at 11 a.m.) explains how this Balkan nation, with its 50,000 Jews, made history.

Jacky and Lisa Comforty, whose families were among the rescued, mix archival footage and interviews in their informative 82-minute film.

Bulgarian Jews, most of whom were Sephardim whose ancestors had been expelled from Spain in the 15th century, lived in harmony with their Christian neighbours. Bulgaria's constitution, drawn up after World War I, guaranteed equal rights for all.

Bulgaria, however, formed an alliance with Germany, its chief trading partner, and in 1940, Bogdan Filov, an anti-Semite, became prime minister. His pro-German government promulgated laws that stripped Jews of their civil rights and forced Jewish males into labour camps.

By 1943, Bulgaria was ready to succumb to German demands to deport Jews. But under mounting pressure from an informal coalition of decent Bulgarians, ranging from politicians to clerics, the deportations were delayed and, in fact, not implemented. Much to its shame, though, Bulgaria allowed non-Bulgarian Jews from occupied Thrace and Macedonia, some 15,000, to be deported to their deaths.

Through conversations with Bulgarian Jews and Christians, several of which are quite emotional, the Comfortys present a stirring tale of national defiance and heroism.

***

Forging Identity: History Under Cover (April 21 at 1 p.m.) revolves around Adolphe Kaminsky, a master forger who saved thousands of Jews in France during the Holocaust.

A white-bearded man now in his mid-70s, Kaminsky gravitated toward forgery out of sheer necessity. Faced with the need to protect his family from imminent harm, he provided them with false papers. He had a knack for being able to reproduce flawless documents.

After the war, Kaminsky produced false identity papers for Jews bound for Palestine. He also fought for Algeria's independence and worked with anti-imperialist movements in Latin America.

Jacques Falck's film, interesting as it is, fails to penetrate Kaminsky's cloistered personality, and he remains something of an enigma.

***

Monique Schwarz's documentary, *Mamadrama: The Jewish Mother in Cinema* (April 23 at 7:15 p.m.), offers a credible explanation of why mainstream Hollywood movies have invariably portrayed American Jewish mothers in less-than-flattering terms. More often than not, they are demanding, manipulative, bossy and domineering.

Yet, in Yiddish and Israeli films, the Jewish mother is usually a tower of strength and sensitivity rather than a shrew. And judging by Schwarz's own mother, a Holocaust survivor from Austria who settled in Australia, Jewish mothers can be a source of inspiration and, perhaps, a daughter's best friend. In *Mamadrama*, Schwarz methodically examines these various strands.

***

Continued on page 49

FAMILY BAR/BAT MITZVAH EXPERIENCES

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Artist believes nature and humanity are inseparable

By CYNTHIA GASNER
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Philosophy and art come together in the works of Israeli-born artist Adi Zur.

In a recent solo exhibition at Gallery 401 titled Ebb and Flow, Zur displayed her encaustic works – paintings produced by burning with colours.

In an interview, Zur said her work lies "between abstract and figurative" and is the result of her belief that nature and humanity are inseparable.

"I strive to express this by utilizing oils, wax and my photography, which focuses on parts of the human body," she said, noting that this process "serves to deliver the coupled essence of re-building and rebirth."

Zur, who was born and raised in Israel, studied at the Institute of Art and the Academy of Art Teachers in Tel Aviv. In 1991, she came to Canada with her husband and three children and graduated with a major in drawing and painting from Toronto's Ontario College of Art & Design (OCAD).

She said the rich natural landscape of Israel is a constant source of inspiration to her and a reminder of an ancient past.

"I believe that if we go to an ancient time to find our source, we would all agree with what Carl Jung said about 'archetypal unconscious' to be true – the past is common to all human beings."

As a child, she said, she was always drawing and painting. "We spent a lot of time in the fields picking flowers and we played in an old graveyard. It made me feel that I was connected to the past and to the earth. In my paintings, I emphasize the cycle of life, death and rebirth."

Zur, who also graduated from Tel Aviv University with a major in philosophy, said her subconscious is the driving force behind her paintings.

There is a mystery in her work because objects are hidden under layers and you have to find them, she said, adding that there is also an ambiguity in her work just as there is ambiguity in her feelings about living in Canada.

"I like the quiet here and I can paint, yet my soul is in Israel," she said.

Zur has showcased her work in numerous venues and group exhibitions throughout the city. Her latest exhibit will be at an open house at OCAD on May 10, 11 and 12.

For more information about Zur, call 905-886-6984 or e-mail adizur50@hotmail.com.

Artist Adi Zur with her paintings *Sensitive Dependence I* and *Sensitive Dependence II*.

Eclectic selection of movies at Jewish Film Fest

Continued from page 48

Duki Dor, in *Taqasim* (April 23 at 1:15 p.m.), follows Felix Mizrahi, an Israeli violinist deeply attached to his roots, on a sentimental journey to Cairo, his place of birth. Mizrahi's brother, Farag Ibrahim, was once a prominent musician in Egypt. Now, years later, in 2000, Mizrahi scours Cairo for lost recordings of his late brother's work.

In search of these priceless vinyl artifacts, Mizrahi revisits his childhood neighbourhood, contacts the Israel Academic Centre and wanders into a musty music store. Toward the close of his trip, he tries in vain to find his brother's headstone in the crumbling Bassatine Jewish cemetery, now vandalized by thieves.

Taqasim, in Hebrew and Arabic with English subtitles, is a paean to the power of memory and the borderless nature of music.

***

Keep on Walking (April 24 at 9:30 p.m.) is a lively portrait of Joshua Nelson, an African-American who bridges the gap between Jews and blacks in the United States. A gospel singer and preacher who observes the rituals of Judaism, Nelson is a study in sharp contrasts, or, as he cheerfully puts it, "the Ku Klux Klan's worst nightmare."

Raised by his Jewish mother as a black Hebrew, Nelson is an articulate and passionate young man, a Jew in mind and spirit. Mingling effortlessly with Jews and blacks alike, Nelson is alternatively seen performing spirituals in a church, laying tfillin, kissing a Torah, reading from a Passover haggadah and visiting the Western Wall in Jerusalem.

Keep on Walking is truly a cross-cultural experience.

Itzhak Perlman
In Recital

Itzhak Perlman, violin
Rohan De Silva, piano

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Franck: Sonata in A Major
Debussy: Sonata No. 3 in G minor

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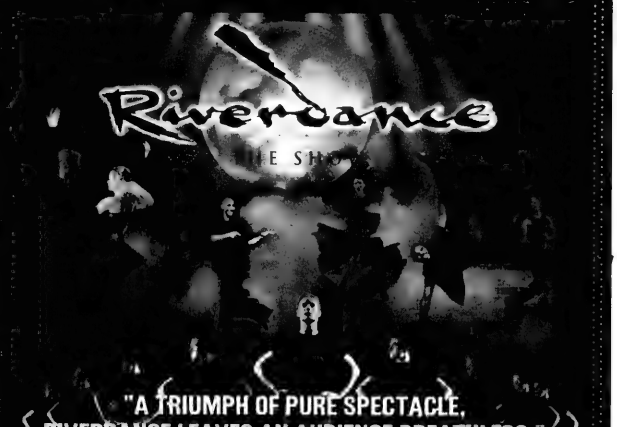

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Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

ALFRED UHRY PLAY *LAST NIGHT OF BALLYHOO* AT HOLY BLOSSOM

Holy Blossom Temple's Stagecraft Company presents *The Last Night of Ballyhoo,* by acclaimed playwright **Alfred Uhry**, as its spring production.

The play is a romantic comedy by the author of *Driving Miss Daisy*. It depicts the trials and tribulations in December 1939 of the Freitags, an elitist German-Jewish family from Atlanta. War has broken out in Europe and Atlanta is focused on the premiere of *Gone With The Wind*.

Highly assimilated, the Freitags are preoccupied with Christmas and who is going to Ballyhoo, the social event of the season. But their lives change when the family patriarch, Adolph Freitag, brings home a new employee, Joe Farkas, a traditional Jew from New York who falls in love with Sunny Freitag. The family eventually come to terms with their Jewish heritage.

Michael Ryval, who directs the play, calls it "a warm-hearted comedy that unveils all the jealousies and passions within two generations of one family." *Ballyhoo* won the 1997 Tony Award for best new play.

Stagecraft has previously presented productions of *The Sisters Rosensweig*, *The Price*, *Yentl*, *Crossing Delancey* and other plays with Jewish themes and content.

Tickets $10 in advance, $12 at the door. Seniors and students $6 on Thursday and Sunday. Holy Blossom Temple, Eisendrath Auditorium. April 25, 27 and 28, 7:30 p.m. 416-789-3291, ext. 511.

* * *

Jews on the Silk Route: Rochelle Carrady presents a slide lecture on 500 Years on the Silk Route of China, about the experience of Jewish people along this ancient trade route between Europe and the Far East. Presented by Cranbrooke Friendship Club, a seniors' social group; buffet luncheon and presentation, $6. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. April 22, 12:30 p.m.

* * *

Kolel Program: God – Personal Thoughts, an interactive program involving Jewish community centres across North America, features **Gov. Mario Cuomo**, **Elie Wiesel** and **Rabbi David Woznica** of New York, and Toronto **Rabbi Elyse Goldstein** in a discussion on the nature of God. Kolel, 151 Eglinton Ave. W. Thursday, April 18, 8:30 p.m. Tickets, 416-924-6211.

* * *

Koffler Ballet Gala: The Koffler Centre of the Arts presents Stars of the 21st Century, a ballet gala featuring some of the world's best principal dancers. Following triumphs in New York, Paris and Cannes, they will be assembled in Toronto for one night only. Proceeds to benefit the Koffler Centre's cultural programs, the Koffler schools of visual art, music, theatre and dance, the Koffler Gallery and other programs. Toronto Centre for the Arts, 5040 Yonge St. $125 -$65. Sunday, April 28, 6:30 p.m. 416-636-1880, ext. 271 or 352.

* * *

At the Galleries

• New Spring Watercolour Show features paintings by Toronto artists **Myra Barook**, **Brenda Bornstein**, **Susan Cohen** and **Rosalie Seidelman**. Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre, 197 Main St., Unionville. April 25 to May 5.

• Marcia Rafelman Fine Arts showcases a group of photographers as part of a festival called Light Readings. 10 Clarendon Ave. Open house, April 27 and 28, noon to 5 p.m. 416-920-4468.

* * *

Music & Drama

• *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, the musical about the biblical Joseph, comes to Stage West Mississauga, April 18 to July 7. 905-238-0042 or www.stagewest.com.

• Markham Little Theatre presents *Deathtrap*, the **Ira Levin** thriller. A complicated game of one-upmanship, with murder as the stakes and riches and fame as the prize, unfolds between a pair of jealous playwrights. Markham Theatre, 171 Town Centre Blvd. Adults $19. April 24 to 27, 8 p.m. 905-305-7469.

• **Canada Pops Orchestra** conducted by **Moshe Hammer** performs with the acclaimed 28-voice choir **Men of the Deeps**. Hummingbird Centre. $60-$40. Wednesday, April 24, 8 p.m. 416-872-2262.

• **The Elmer Iseler Singers**, recognized by many as Canada's eminent professional choir, present an oneg Shabbat program that includes the world premiere of *D'mut Hatsadik* by Canadian composer **John Reeves**. Temple Sinai, 210 Wilson Ave. Friday, April 26, following the service.

Waiting for the Messiah *deals with love, acceptance and security*

By JOSEPH SERGE
Arts Editor

Waiting for the Messiah, an Argentine film, is set in Buenos Aires' vibrant Jewish community in the late 1990s, around the time that the market collapse in Asia had its repercussions felt worldwide.

The movie, playing at the AMC Interchange 30 in Vaughan – not part of the Jewish Film Festival – is a poignant slice of life that focuses on the lives of two disparate men.

Ariel, a Jewish man in his early 20s, is being groomed to take over his father's kosher restaurant and marry his childhood sweetheart. But instead, he takes a job at a cable TV station and falls in love with a co-worker, Laura, a gentile bisexual.

At the same time, a bankworker, Santamaria, loses his job as a result of the financial crisis and finds himself on the streets, making a living by retrieving stolen wallets and purses for their owners. He falls in love with a woman who works as a washroom attendant at a train station.

The two parallel tales seem to be loosely linked by a sense of despair that all the characters share. The main characters are looking for something that seems to be just out of their grasp.

Directed by one of Argentina's top directors, Daniel Burman, this film deals with strong universal themes like love, acceptance, financial security and religion.

Enrique Pineyro won the Best Actor Award at the Buenos Aires film festival for his role as Santamaria in *Waiting for the Messiah*, which screened at the Toronto International Film Festival in 2000, and the movie won the Best Film Award at the Havana Film Festival. It is in Spanish with English subtitles.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 59.

C	N	N	■	A	R	M	P	I	T	■	A	S	H	E
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Arts & Travel

Don't get tsabrochen, Jackie's back in town

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Does this shtick remind you of anyone in particular?

"President Bush talks very well, but English is not really his field."

Or how about this:

"Cars are getting smaller so if you pay $300,000 for a car there is no room to sit in it."

Or what about this observation about the high price of designer coffee versus the fare presented at traditional coffee shops:

The fancy shops make a big deal about a drop of hot cream in their coffee while coffee shops "give you enough cream to pass away for 80 cents."

Jackie Mason

If those lines don't scream Jackie Mason at you, then chances are you're *tsabrochen* or *tsaklopt* and probably never heard the one about the Jew and the boat (it sleeps six, no, mine sleeps eight). Or maybe you were out of the country staying at a five-star hotel, hopefully not a four-star hotel, never a three-star hotel, and God forbid, you'd never admit to staying at a two-star hotel.

Mason will be bringing his unique brand of stand-up comedy to Toronto's New Yorker Theatre for a two week run from April 22 to May 5.

Known for his politically incorrect observations of the human experience, Mason promises "a hot new show" – billed as *Prune Danish* – filled with material that is up to date and topical.

"My goal is to be as current as what people are talking about at the dinner table," he said in a telephone interview from New York.

The sexual revolution ("Why is it women never pay a cheque in a restaurant?"), President Bush ("He still looks like he can't believe he got the job") and current social trends ("You think a murderer is going to tell airport security that his suitcase was packed by the Taliban") are among the issues addressed by Mason.

Besides pointing out the absurdities of life, there is a serious side to his humour, in which he skewers our materialistic lifestyle and pokes fun at the never-ending quest for status symbols.

"The luxuries of life don't interest me," he says, before launching into a diatribe on the Jew who purchases a 26-room house, spends all his time in the den and then gets upset when a friend moves into a 28-room home.

Instead of worrying about material possessions, Mason spends his time (when he isn't on the road performing, which is almost every day) reading and writing, particularly about Israel.

His no holds barred commentaries, written in conjunction with attorney Raoul Felder, appear in *The American Prowler* (formerly *The Spectator Online*) and they co-author an op-ed column for *The Washington Times*.

Mason is looking forward to a return to Toronto, where he performed about two years ago. "I love Toronto. I think it's the most underestimated place in the world... It has everything."

The last question asked, Mason winds up the conversation: "I can hear from your voice that it's over, thank you, all the best, and I hope you keep your job."

Mayumana shows Israel's fun side

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — There isn't anything distinctly Ashkenazi or Sephardi about Mayumana. But there is something unmistakably Israeli about the production.

It brings together the bohemian sights and sounds of Tel Aviv's Rechov Shinkin, the sarcastic dry humour of Shaki Ofir and the rhythms of a generation of Israeli kids who are immersed in an eclectic world-mix of drama, music and dance.

Mayumana, which appeared at the Elgin Theatre last week and will be returning to Toronto soon, combined percussions, body movements and dramatic skits that quickly evolved from one scene into another. The result was a fast-moving, feel-good show that showed the lighter, funner side of Israel.

The group of 10 actors shared the stage with garbage cans, tanks of water and rubber balls in a *Stomp*-like display of percussion and dance. The musical performance was also interspersed with frequent clownish comedy skits, so that the audience never felt a moment's lag.

And for just a short time – during the duration of the show – I almost forgot the political problems of the country the performers came from. Instead, I felt as if I had just taken my family to a coffee shop in Tel Aviv with good friends and laughed away the evening.

At a time when my teenage kids and I don't often share the same taste in entertainment, we could all agree that Mayumana was, like, whoa!

LATE JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL CHANGE

The Toronto Jewish Film Festival is postponing its screening of the controversial documentary *The Accused*, originally scheduled for April 23. In its place the Festival will present a "sneak preview" of a very important new feature-length U.S. documentary.

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After 100 years, Max is still sharp

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A few weeks ago, nearly 100 people gathered at the Oakdale Golf and Country Club to celebrate Max Sharp's 100th birthday. Not a huge crowd, but quite amazing when you consider that everyone there was family.

They came together to pay tribute to their durable patriarch – his four children, 19 grandchildren and 38 great-grandchildren – and to celebrate a life that, in many ways, has reflected the struggles and joys of the Jewish people. He was a builder – in more ways than one.

Sharp wasn't well enough to conduct an interview for this story, although he still lives in the same Bathurst Street penthouse he's occupied since 1955; he is alert, spry, and, excuse the expression, still sharp.

In an interview for a magazine article in 1987, on the occasion of the 60th anniversary of his marriage to his beloved Lil, Sharp told me the secret to such a long union. "Listen," he said, "I just read about a couple celebrating their 80th anniversary. I got something to live for. I'm in no hurry."

He took his time, but got a lot done, and never lost a sunny outlook on life, even after Lil's death in 1990 at age 82.

"He was always a kind and tolerant person. He always had time to listen," says his son Isadore (Issy), chair and CEO of Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts. "He never judged. He accepted things as they were."

Eyebrows are often raised when people learn that Sharp was born in the Polish town of Auschwitz, well before that name became synonymous with death and was still called Oswiecim. His father, Moshe Yakov Scharf,

Max Sharp, at age 90 in Israel.

was a prominent rabbi and *shochet* who fled to Berlin after World War I when Polish pogroms became too much to bear for his 10 children. Young Max, though, made his way to Krakow to train as a *chalutz* (pioneer) in case Palestine beckoned.

It did, in 1920. Sharp arrived at the port of Haifa on his 18th birthday, and went to work, first as a *shomer* (guard) and then as a farmer in the Lower Galilee during the day, and as a baker in the evening – all while defending against Arab invaders.

"At midnight," he recalled, "we would still have enough energy to dance the horah and sing Hebrew folk songs around a campfire. I'd go to sleep after midnight and get up at four. I loved every minute."

He also learned valuable trades: plastering and tiling, which stood him in good stead when he later organized a co-op of 10 *bonim* (builders). Together, they helped build Degania, Israel's first kibbutz.

But only a few months later, Sharp decided he needed a new challenge. He had a brother Louie in Toronto, and decided to join him. That's how Max met his wife. Louie was married to Rose Godfrey. Rose's sister was Lena (Lil) Godfrey. Five years after his arrival in Toronto, Max wed Lil. Two brothers had married two sisters.

Max and Louie set up a journeyman plastering and construction business, earning Max the princely sum of $15 a week. He soon struck out on his own, but lost everything on his first job, plus future earnings. The family somehow made it through the Depression. Max built homes, moved his growing brood in, and then moved out as soon as the next house was finished.

"During the 1930s and '40s, we occupied 15 different houses in just about as many years," remembers Bea Eisen, Sharp's daughter. "Mom did the decorating, while Dad built the next one." Sharp's children, Edith (Edie), Bea, Issy and Nancy (Neddie) thought that was how everyone lived.

In 1952, Issy joined his father in the construction business, helping with plastering and bricklaying. In 1961, Issy, with partners Murray Koffler and Eddie Creed (the latter his brother-in-law) defied all predictions and opened the first Four Seasons "Motor Hotel" on Jarvis Street. Issy never looked back, and today oversees 54 luxury hotels in 25 countries.

Max, meantime, was also involved in the construction of the first Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue on St. Clair Avenue. When the contractor declared bankruptcy midstream, he and some friends finished the building with their own experienced hands.

He retired at age 60. At 90, he shot a hole-in-one at Oakdale. Today, he still joins family members for a daily lunch.

"Dad taught all of us the meaning of life and happiness," says daughter Neddie. "We are so fortunate to have him in our lives."

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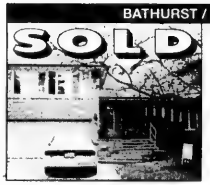

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CENTRAL PROPERTIES

21 BROOKVIEW DRIVE! NEW 5+1 BDRM, 4 BATH!
$1,349K! Bathurst/Lawrence! Unbelievable design+quality! Rare 106' x 134'! Must be seen! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

29 VIEWMOUNT AVENUE! 5+2 BDRM, 5 BATH!
$895K! Bathurst/Glencairn! Mn fam+lib+lau+2pce! Nanny ste! Fab 56' x 140'! Call Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

1st AD! 217 VIEWMOUNT AVENUE!
$745,900! Bathurst/Glencairn! Backs on park! 4+2 bdrm, 6 baths! Nanny ste! Fab 50' x 140'! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

38 DANBY AVENUE! 4 BDRM, 4 BATH!
$719K! Bathurst/Sheppard! Mn fam+lib+lau+2pce! W/o bsmnt! Fab 75' x 119'! Beth David area! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HEIGHTS - APPROX 3,600 SQ. FT.
Great layout. 4 bdrm, 4 bath, 4 fireplaces. Fab mstr retreat. Lux kitchen, walk-out to bsmnt. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

56 BLUE FOREST DRIVE! 4+1 BDRM, 4 BATH!
$649K! Bathurst N/Sheppard! Seldom available 60' x 200' ravine! Secluded setting! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

ARMOUR HTS BEAUTY $559,000
Stunning reno with main floor kitchen/family room. Quiet street, deep lot. Barbara Peltz** 416-488-2875

FABULOUS CENTRAL TOWNHOME
3 bedroom, 5 baths, 3 skylites. Hardwood, high ceilings. Must see! Judith Fedor* 416-488-2875

BATHURST/WILSON TRIPLEX!
Newly updated! 2-3 bdrms. 1-1 bdrm. 2 garage parking. Steps to TTC, shops and restaurants. Lynne Elkind* 416-488-2875

20 INEZ COURT! 3+1 BDRM, 2 BATH S/S!
$395K! Yonge N/Finch! Rare 55' x 146' on secluded cul-de-sac! Walk to subway/shops! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

EXCLUSIVE BATHURST/SHEPPARD BUNG.
3 bdrm with new & beautiful maple kitchen, hardwood, pot lites. Full basement apt. Huge income. Patti Pollock* 416-226-1987

$297,500 IMMACULATE 3 BDRMS BUNGALOW
In Bathurst Manor, large lot. Near bus and synagogues. Anne Eidlitz* 416-226-1987

BAYVIEW/NORTH PROPERTIES

38 FOREST HEIGHTS BLVD! 5+1 BDRM, 7 BATH!
$2,599K! Mn fam+lib+lau+sol+2pce! 4 car garage! Multiple w/o's! Lush grounds! Move in! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

34 THORNBANK ROAD! "OLD THORNHILL"!
$939K! Rare 150' x 200' SE corner! Immac 4+2 bdrm, 3 bath bung! Live in/build your dream! Sandon Schwartzben** 416-226-1987

CONDOMINIUM PROPERTIES

PRESTIGIOUS SKYMARK! 2 BDRM, 2 BATH
Upgraded hardwood thru-out, ceramics in kitchen & bath. Ensuite/locker, 24 hr security. A must see! Annette Roberts* 416-226-1987

GORGEOUS, UPDATED, 1 BDRM
Media room. Walk-out deck & garden. AAA location. Exceptional 21 unit building. Call Terry Sulley* 416-226-1987

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10 PRIVATE HOUSES FOR SALE

Bath./Clark, 4 bdrm., 5 baths, 2 kit., fin. bsmnt., hdwd flrs., 2 fpl., many extras. 905-731-7447.

Bathurst/Clark, 3 bed., new windows, a/c, close to shul & all amens. 905-886-6202.

15 HOUSES FOR RENT

Bathurst/Clark - 3 bdrm., new windows, a/c, close to shul & all amens. Avail. immed. Call 905-882-5582 (days), 905-886-6202 (eves.).

20 HOUSE FOR SALE/RENT

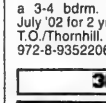
Luxury Accommodation
Furnished & unfurnished.
Condos & houses for rent or sale.
416-483-2435.

25 HOUSE WANTED TO RENT

Reliable Israeli scientist seeks a 3-4 bdrm. house/apt. from July '02 for 2 yrs. Jewish area of T.O./Thornhill. nr. a shul. Tel: 972-8-9352206 (not Shabbat).

30 CONDOMINIUM FOR SALE

SANTEE REALTY INC. 416-441-2003



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Re/Max Realtron Rlty, Inc.
905-764-6000

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Bath./Shep., bright 2 bedroom in lowrise apartment building. 416-505-7964.

Bathurst/Centre, bsmnt., 1 bdrm. sep. entr., close to bus, no pets, no smoking, avail. June 1st. 905-771-8400.

35 CONDOMINIUM FOR RENT

Bath./Finch. Ultra luxury 2 bdrm., 2 bth., security, concierge pkg., pool, tennis, TTC. $1650 mo inclusive. 416-787-3702.

FOR RENT
Brand new 2 bedroom condo. At Bathurst/Steeles, 5 appliances & parking, possession June 1, 2002. $1,400/monthly.
Call **Aviva Kochan**
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905-764-6000

55 ACCOMODATION WANTED

A Canadian family living in Israel wishes to rent a 3 bdrm furnished home (Kosher kitchen preferred in Toronto or Thornhill for 6 weeks beginning July 2. Call Ira 905-771-7637.

62 SHARED ACCOMODATION WANTED

Senior wishes to be a boarder with compatible Jewish family or widower who cooks, Kosher or not. Room must be on ground floor as use of a wheel-chair temporarily. Health and heart excellent. Needs no attention or nursing care. Will pay well for decent accommodation and 3 small meals daily. John Freeman, Cummer Lodge, 416-512-2992.

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Eldorado, 2500 Bathurst, lux. apts., large suites, reno'd., immed. 416-783-0542 or 416-787-9451.

BATHURST BRIAR HILL
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Bath./Shep., large freshly painted 1, 2 & 3 bedrooms. From $1,000/mo. including hydro & parking. 416-635-1664.

BATHURST-SHEPPARD
Very lg. 1, 2, 3 Bedrooms., ample closets, some 1½ baths & 2 balc., roof, laundry, ravine setting, pool, ind. pkg., 6 apts. per flr.
960-3238 - Bus.
631-9377 or 631-0388 - Super

75 APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Bathurst/Eglinton, large new bachelor. $950/mo. incl. parking. 416-824-4831.

81 APARTMENT TO SUBLET

Summer Sublet. Lrg. 1 bdrm. furn. apt. Kosher kitch. Bathurst Lawrence. Avail. May-Aug. $1095/month. 416-785-0918.

82 ROOM AVAILABLE FOR RENT

Bath./Finch, in apt., nr. shul, avail. April 1. 416-561-9445 after 6 pm, 416-635-5832 lve msg.

105 COTTAGE FOR SALE

Belle Ewart. 4 bdrms., 2 baths. New Kosher kitchen, lge. screened-in porch. Essentially located near shul & beach. 416-789-5407 / 416-433-5608.

110 COTTAGE FOR RENT

GRAVENHURST. Waterfront 4 bdrm. Good location. Avail. immediately. 416-630-2975.

Balfour Beach, 5 bdrm., 2 bath, Camp Katonim-daycamp, screened porch, washer/dryer, ½ acre, lakeview across from park, tennis, social activities, 45 min. from TO, June 27-Sept. 1. 416-924-2762.

Lake Simcoe, lakefront estate, Beaverton area. Lux. 4 bdrm., sandy beach, tennis. Seas./Mo. 416-226-0009, 416-749-6600.

115 COTTAGE FOR RENT/SALE

BELLE EWART. Lakefront, co-op, 3 bdrm, equipped, perfect for young family. 905-889-8687.

Winterized 4 bdrm., Balfour Beach, 40 mins. from T.O., day camp on site. 905-764-3865.

130 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT

MIAMI BEACH OCEANFRONT Beautiful, brand new, spac. furn. studios, fully equipped, lux. bldg., pool, spa, tennis, kosher restaurant. Shabbos elev. $500/wk US. 305-895-3000.

135 FLORIDA PROPERTY FOR RENT/SALE

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230 BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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Exper. lady avail. as live-in companion for elderly, Mon.-Fri. Call 416-265-5349.

Cleaning service avail., 7 days/wk., res./comm. Refs. 416-761-7422, 999-1358, 832-7541.

240 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

JEWISH ONLINE SINGLES
Web Director needed

Requirements: Business degree preferred, intimate knowledge of Jewish on-*and* off-line singles world; well-connected with Canadian, U.S., Israeli singles, e-commerce experience, especially online ad/promo, HTML; experience working large projects with little supervision.

Duties: Market and create awareness of website for Jewish singles on-*and* off-line, negotiate ad deals, maintain, improve and expand website; respond to queries, etc. about client accounts, initiate surveys, analyze feedback, implement suggestions; analyze, research competition; liase with tech. department: bugs, new features, etc.

E-mail résumé and cover letter to:
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Polish lady will clean your apt./house. Mon.-Wed. Leave msg. & phone #. 416-694-2165.

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Certified personnel support worker. Caring & compassionate. Experience dealing with the elderly and those who are suffering from Alzheimer and strokes. Available for light housekeeping, run errands & companionship. Also for busy moms! I am available to do meal preparation & laundering. Call Marva, 416-755-6167.

Lady, kashruth exper., avail. for home care, pers. support, driving to appt's/shop. 416-561-9445.

Errands for elders. Need assistance running errands? Stop kvetching and call me already! Professional, mature service. 416-536-5166.

Reliable cleaning service. Commercial/residential. Call 416-736-7562.

I will clean your house or apt. Call anytime. Beata @ 905-607-2054.

255 DOMESTIC HELP WANTED

Housekeeper/nanny req'd. P/T live out. Richmond Hill. Europ. family seeks organized cheerful individual. Please call 905-780-1328.

A live in weekend caregiver required for elderly gentleman Fri. 6 pm-Sun. 7 pm. Some week nights available. Must be fluent in English. 416-783-9668.

257 HEALTH CARE AVAILABLE

Exper. lady looking for job to take care of elderly or companion, flexible. 416-652-0553.

Caregiver, gov't trained, exper. with elderly, driv. lic., speaks English, Polish and some Greek, Russian & Ukrainian. Call 905-281-2105.

273 INTRODUCTION SERVICES

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275 PERSONAL COMPANION

Replying to an ad with a CJN Box Number?

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The Canadian Jewish News
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North York, Ont.
M3B 3K4

Don't forget to put the Box Number on your envelope.

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Do you know a special, unattached young woman, 25-48? I am placing this ad for my 46 yr. old brother who would love to meet a compatible woman for companionship & more. He is sweet natured & caring, enjoys reading, long walks & movies. He has a mild learning disability, but lives independently & is employed full time. CJN Box #4519.

Nature-loving, non-smoking Jewish male in my 60s, looking for single lady 45-55 to share healthy, athletic lifestyle, theatre & candlelight dinners. I'm a beautiful human being working on becoming even better. CJN Box #4518.

Attr. Jewish female, 65, intelligent, kind, easy going, seeks honest man, secure, for a possible long term relationship. Mail to: 4266 Bathurst St., Apt. 312, Toronto, Ont. M3H 5Y7.

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WEBER, Marvin - on March 13, 2002, late of 17 York Valley Cres.
GLICKSMAN, Edith - on March 13, 2002, late of 3311 Bathurst St., #608.
ZIMMERMAN, Harry - on March 16, 2002, late of 81 Burncrest Dr.
CHROSCICKI, Nadia - on March 14, 2002, late of 141 Brighton Ave.
MECKLINGER, Nellie - on March 14, 2002, late of Harold & Grace Baker Centre.
HAMBURGER, Milton - on March 16, 2002, late of 2727 Yonge St., #613.
BROT, Rose - on March 17, 2002, late of 55 Ameer Ave.
MANDEL, Jean - on March 18, 2002, late of 555 Finch Ave.
BAKER, Vern - on March 16, 2002, late of 656 Coldstream Ave.
BERLIN, William - on March 17, 2002, late of 76 Sexton Cres.
YOLLECK, Sylvia - on March 19, 2002, late of 7805 Bayview Ave., #225.
SHIME, Lily - on March 19, 2002, late of 26 Frontenac Ave.
SIEGEL, Gerald - on March 20, 2002, late of 85 Skymark Dr., #2701.
ZOZAWSKY, Morris - on March 22, 2002, late of 295 Brighton Ave.
FREEMAN, Alfie - on March 22, 2002, late of 150 Heath St. W., #703.
TAL, Peter - on March 22, 2002, late of 656 Coldstream Ave.
KOKOTOW, Albert - on March 21, 2002, late of 2 Buchan Crt.
MEDLINE, Bobby - on March 21, 2002, late of 88 Ridge Hill Dr.
BILLER, Irving - on March 21, 2002, late of 57 Greenbrook Dr.
GILBERT, Bess - on March 23, 2002, late of 205 Cummer Ave.
LEWIS, Matthew - on March 186, 2002, late of RR #3, Box 141, Mini Lakes.
SILVERBERG, Lillian - on March 23, 2002, late of 1035 Eglinton Ave. W.
WOLFE, Ray - on March 23, 2002, late of 100 Old Forest Hill Rd.
GOLDSTEIN, Jack - on March 24, 2002, late of 48 Brookview Dr.
REISS, Hilda - on March 24, 2002, late of 33 Wilmington Ave.

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

SEIGEL, Jerry - on Apr. 3, 2002, late of 65 Invermay Ave.
KATZ, Izak - on Apr. 5, 2002, late of 1201 Steeles Ave. W.
LEIBOWICZ, Molly - on Apr. 5, 2002, late of 3560 Bathurst St.
BADER, Harry - on Apr. 5, 2002.

Steeles Memorial Chapel

BENJAMIN'S PARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
RAE BERLIN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 21st, 11:00 a.m.
Pardes Shalom Cemetery
Community Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
DR. NEIL DAVID BERMAN ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 21st, 11:30 a.m.
Beth Tzedec Memorial Park
5822 Bathurst St. (north of Finch)
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
GITLA FRIEDLAND ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 21st, 11:00 a.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Pultusker Landsmanshaft Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend.

335 UNVEILINGS

The unveiling of a monument to the memory of the late
HELEN BALINSKY ז"ל
will take place
Sunday, April 21st at 2:00 p.m.
Bathurst Lawn Memorial Park
Bathurst S. of Steeles
Clanton Park Section
Relatives and friends are invited to attend

336 CARD OF THANKS

The Family of the late
Cantor Edward R. Fogel ז"ל
would like to express heartfelt thanks to all of our relatives and friends for their comfort, sympathy and kind words during our bereavement for our beloved Eddie, husband, father, son and brother.

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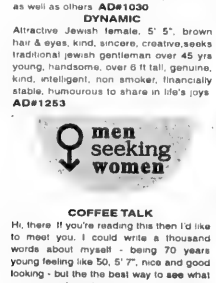

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Single female, seeking intelligent friend & companion, who embraces life enthusiastically, creative, professional, well travelled & ardent scientist, seeking Jewish male, 60-70 yrs, who might share my interests as well as others. **AD#1030**

DYNAMIC
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", brown hair & eyes, kind, sincere, creative,seeks traditional jewish gentleman over 45 yrs young, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable, humourous to share in life's joys **AD#1253**

♀ men seeking women

COFFEE TALK
Hi, there. If you're reading this then I'd like to meet you. I could write a thousand words about myself - being 70 years young feeling like 50, 5' 7", nice and good looking - but the best way to see what a nice guy I am is to meet me. Let's talk over a cup of coffee **AD#1224**

DREAM COME TRUE
Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys. **AD#1179**

LOVING & CARING
Single Jewish female, 63 yrs sensual, smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, enjoys a wide variety of interests, seeks male Jewish, 65-70 yrs, spontaneous, honest and romantic, for a long term relationship **AD#1033**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5'6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere **AD#1230**

LONG TERM LOVE
Single female, classy, smart, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, kind, seeks Jewish male, 65-70 yrs, active, thoughtful, loving, romantic, ready for a committed relationship **AD#1441**

SPRING ROMANCE
Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5'5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys. **AD#1017**

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR
Single Jewish female, 64 yrs, smart, spontaneous, compassionate, good sense of humour, seeks male, 65-75 yrs, active, handsome, loving, kind, ready to share loving relationship **AD#1135**

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FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 30 yrs, never married, handsome, loving, passionate, enjoys ports, camping, outdoor activities, dining and dancing, movies, seeks female, 22-36 yrs with similar qualities and interests for long term loving relationship. **AD#1424**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship **AD#1130**

HUMOUR & HONESTY
Single female, 56 yrs, non smoker, enjoys sports, dining out, long walks, movies, rides in the country, medium weight, 5' 4", divorced short brown hair, two grown children, strong sense of integrity, great sense of humour, searching for a single white male 60-65 yrs, with a great sense of humour and honesty. Honesty is very important. I'd like you to give me a call **AD#1209**

LOVER & BEST FRIEND
Single female, warm, caring intelligent passionate, slim, fit, outgoing, adventurous, creative, good sense of humour, enjoys nature, horseback riding, movies, travel, skiing, seeks male, handsome, affectionate, intelligent, non smoker, non over weight successful and ready for romance **AD#1131**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match. Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch **AD#1290**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Single female, 55 yrs, outgoing, loving, fit, sincere, good sense of humour, enjoys the theatre, movies, long walks, seeks male with similar qualities and interests **AD#1221**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship **AD#1240**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded. **AD#1262**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

FABULOUS FIFTIES
Single female, mid fifties, professional enjoys music, sports, long walks, travel attractive, good sense of humour, loving, caring, compassionate, seeks male, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1090**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single Jewish female, sincere, smart, romantic, passionate, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, theatre, seeks male, Jewish 65-60 yrs, thoughtful, loving, with a wide variety of interests **AD#1392**

LOVING & CARING
Single mom of one 8 yr old child, attractive, 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests **AD#1026**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun. Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature **AD#1285**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family. **AD#1098**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 6' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1684**

TAKE A CHANCE
Widowed female, early 60's looks 50 yrs, kind, caring, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys travel the theatre, dining and dancing, seeks widower, non smoker with similar qualities and interests **AD#1283**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Single female, sensuous, witty, musical, shapely, sweet, sassy, stylish, warm, loving and caring, wonderful sense of humour. Seeks male 42 yrs to 52 yrs mature loving, honest, good sense of humour, similar qualities and interests **AD#1364**

LET'S DINE OUT
Single female, 55 yrs, enjoys dining and dancing, the theatre, a very popular oriented person, loving, caring, honest, warm hearted. Seeks male 45-65 yrs with similar qualities and interests to share life's joys with **AD#1412**

VEGAS MOMMA
Las Vegas momma, roll the dice and give my mom a call. A kind, caring, compassionate, and vivacious woman widow. Early 60's, looks 50's. Enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining, Caesar's Palace. Who knows, you may have dealt a royal flush. Seeking a non smoking male, similar qualities and interests **AD#1259**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks someone for companionship and sharing life **AD#1258**

SEEKS A FUN PERSON
Single, romantic, white, self-employed businessman, who likes travel, movies, quiet times and great conversation, seeks someone with a great disposition who is fun to be with and can make him laugh **AD#1548**

SEEKS NICE LADY
*71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1643**

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FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances into the arts, fit, non smoker Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality. Wants a best friend, lovers later. Looking for a soulmate. Please respond **AD#1232**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 55 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests. This outgoing person likes dancing sports, dining out and travelling. She works in science and engineering. **AD#1546**

STARTING OVER
Single, non smoking, professional lady, with 2 university aged children and a beautiful golden retriever, may be interested in you this 51 year old likes long walks, sunsets, dancing, movies, travelling, having fun, good friends and honest communications **AD#1128**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale. Attention car buffs '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive. Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa,'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty. Interior: warm, easy going, and charming. Performance: Let's have a wonderful life together. **AD#1444**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female **AD#1651**

MODERN ORTHODOX
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High school hockey prepared Schneider for NHL

By ELI SHUPAK
Special to The CJN

TORONTO — Los Angeles Kings defenceman Mathieu Schneider says he probably learned more about Judaism in a Catholic high school than he had anywhere else.

During his days at Mount St. Charles Academy in Woonsocket, R.I., a school with a nationally-recognized hockey program, Schneider took a required religion course that brought him closer than ever before to his heritage.

"Aside from it being a Catholic high school, we weren't really preached to," said Schneider, who attended the occasional mass at the time. "I don't really think it was a lot different than going to any other private school or public school for that matter."

Growing up in the New York City area, Schneider had been so immersed in sports and his studies that Judaism took a back seat. His father, Sam, who is Jewish, taught him the basics of religion and took him and his brother Jean-Alain to synagogue on the High Holy Days, but that was about the only role Judaism played in their lives.

The boys' Roman Catholic mother, Aline, a French-Canadian, converted to Judaism. Sam grew up in Rhode Island and coached youth hockey teams in the area.

Schneider said his father sent him to a Catholic high school to better his chances of being drafted to play in the National Hockey League.

That dream came true when the Montreal Canadiens selected him in the third round of the 1987 entry draft. Schneider, now 32, would go on to win the Stanley Cup with the Habs in 1993.

Jean-Alain, three years younger, never did make it to the pros, but he was a part of the 1997 gold-medal winning Canadian hockey team at the Maccabiah Games in Israel.

On the international hockey scene, Mathieu was well on his way to being selected to the U.S. Olympic team last November, having already represented his country at the 1998 Nagano Olympics and on the 1996 World Cup-winning U.S. team.

In his second year with the Kings, the 14-year veteran was tied for the team lead in scoring with 13 points in 15 games. (He had a highly-successful debut season last year with L.A. after two sub-par years with the New York Rangers. He had 51 points last year, three shy of his career high.)

But the 1996 all-star, who signed with the Kings as a free agent in August 2000, was playing in pain last fall.

Groin problems that had plagued him over the past six seasons got progressively worse. A hernia was detected and an ultrasound revealed a torn stomach muscle.

Surgery was scheduled immediately and the 6-foot, 201-lb. blueliner was out for seven weeks and missed 23 games. Schneider then missed two more games early in the new year with a strained left shoulder.

"Right now I'm happy we went for the surgery [rather than opt for rehab] because I feel better than I have in the last four or five years," said Schneider, who had a similar procedure performed in 1996 while with the Toronto Maple Leafs. At the time, he missed 53 games during a three-month recovery process.

The most recent surgery was much easier on him because of an advanced technique that involved going through his belly button. It allowed him to be up and walking around in less than a week.

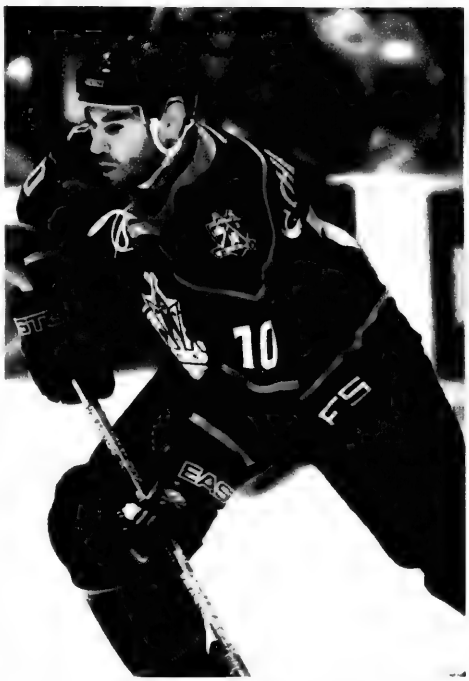
Schneider was also able to be at home during his recovery to help his wife, Shannon, take care of their newborn daughter, Abigail, and one-year-old son, Mathieu Jr. That was the best part out of missing seven weeks, he said.

Schneider met his wife while playing for the Leafs in the mid-'90s, and Shannon has since converted to Judaism. They are raising their children as Jews.

"The more [Shannon] learned about Judaism, the more she liked it and accepted the beliefs," Schneider said. "It's really a family-oriented religion. It's a religion that's close-knit."

Schneider, one of four Jewish players currently in the NHL, said he makes sure he introduces himself to the other Jewish guys in the league.

"Any time you meet another Jew, no matter where he's from, there always seems to be a bond," he said.



Mathieu Schneider *[Photo courtesy of the Los Angeles Kings]*

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FIFA urged to ignore suspension calls

By ORI LEWIS
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd.

JERUSALEM — Israeli Football Association (IFA) chair Gavri Levy last week called on FIFA president Sepp Blatter to ignore pleas from Arab states to ban Israel from the world soccer organization.

"We utterly reject this proposal," Levy wrote in a letter to the head of the soccer governing body.

A week before, Jordan and Syria called on FIFA to ban Israel from playing in internationals because of the the invasion of West Bank towns by Israeli troops.

In a letter to Blatter, Prince Ali, head of the Jordan FA and brother of King Abdullah, said Israel's participation in international soccer should be put on hold.

"In order to uphold its banner of 'Fair Play,' the entire football community should freeze Israel's participation in this noble sport, in the same way it did with the former apartheid South Africa," the letter stated.

Frank Bouzo, president of the Syrian Football Federation, also wrote to Blatter, asking the international soccer body to suspend Israel, the Danish daily newspaper *EkstraBladet* reported on its Web site.

"We want to appeal to FIFA's executive committee to suspend Israel's FIFA membership and forbid all Israeli football activities in FIFA. Such a decision would be in harmony with FIFA's brave decision to suspend South Africa due to apartheid," the newspaper quoted Bouzo's letter as saying.

Levy urged Blatter to ignore the appeal. "I hope that you, Mr President, will brush aside any threat made on an association which has always backed FIFA and acts in accordance with sporting principles," Levy said.

Levy pointed to the fact that IFA is an independent body and is not under the influence of Israel's politicians.

"Unlike in many countries, IFA is not connected to politics and is not influenced in any way by the government or even by the sports minister."

Levy also reminded Blatter that IFA had backed the Palestinian Football Association's request to join the body. He also pointed out that 30 per cent of Israel's registered clubs hail from the Arab sector, and the Arab sector has four of the 29 delegates on IFA's management body. At least 10 others sit on various committees.

"Since our formation over 70 years ago, IFA has acted under one agenda – complete equality and mutual respect," Levi wrote.

Levi listed the names of five Israeli Arabs who have played for, or still play, on the national team: Ali Othman, Rifat Turk and Zahi Armeli, all retired, and current players Walid Badir and Najwan Grayeb.

Levy also sounded an optimistic note: "The whole world is fighting terror. In Israel terror is a stumbling block to peace. We look forward to the day the national team can play in Gaza, Cairo and Damascus. I am certain that this day will come, despite all the difficulties."

Recommended Reading

FICTION

• ***Azarel***, by Karoly Pap, translated by Paul Olchvary, Steerforth Press, $21.95, SC.

Translated into English for the first time, this classic about a young boy's intense rebellion against his family, Judaism and God was originally published in 1937. According to George Konrad, "*Azarel* is among the visionary masterpieces of Hungarian Jewish literature." (The author died during the Holocaust.)

• ***The Collected Stories of Joseph Roth***, translated by Michael Hofmann, W.W. Norton & Company, $39.99, HC.

A remarkable collection of 17 stories and novellas written by one of the greatest and most profound German writers of the 20th century. This brilliant anthology is the only work of fiction by the author of *The Radetzky March* that was not translated previously into English.

• ***My Suburban Shtetl: A Novel about Life in a Twentieth-Century Jewish-American Village***, by Robert Rand, Syracuse University Press, $38.95, HC.

This interesting work of fiction by an American Jewish journalist reads more like a memoir or a report than a novel. However, it describes perfectly the way of life and thinking of the post-Holocaust American Jewish community, and captures the psychology of its members – both the survivors and the American-born.

NON-FICTION

Love and Terror in the God Encounter: The Theological Legacy of Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik, by Rabbi David Hartman, Jewish Lights, $38.95, HC.

Rabbi Hartman, an internationally respected theologian and winner of two national Jewish book awards, explains the writings of the revered talmudic scholar and thinker who advocated discourse between Torah study and modern existentialist philosophy and was the greatest influence on modern Orthodox Judaism in America.

• ***Letters to Auntie Fori: The 5,000-Year History of the Jewish People and their Faith***, by Martin Gilbert, Schocken Books, $43.95, HC.

In this remarkable and touching work by one of the world's foremost authors, the history of the Jewish people and an explanation of the Jewish faith and practices are presented through Gilbert's correspondence – gathered and placed in chronological order – to this adopted aunt over many years.

• ***The Terrible Power of a Minor Guilt: Literary Essays***, by A.B. Yehoshua, Syracuse University Press, $45.95, HC.

The great Israeli author and critic discusses nine literary works, including early classics, Hebrew literature and world literature, and the relationship between literature and morality.

• ***Anarchy! An Anthology of Emma Goldman's Mother Earth***, edited and with commentary by Peter Glassgold, Counterpoint, $37.95, SC.

This fascinating collection includes provocative writings by the most radical thinkers of the early 20th century in America. An important literary and historical work that depicts the lively political culture of the intellectual circle that contributed to Goldman's magazine, *Mother Earth*.

YOUTH

Ages 11 and up

• ***The Bat Mitzvah Club: Debbie's Story***, by Shayna Meiseles, Merkos L'Inyonei Chinuch, $23.95, HC.

An inspiring story about a typical 11-year-old who is jittery about her upcoming batmitzvah and the glitter surrounding it, but then learns the deeper meaning of the event and the responsibilities that come with becoming a Jewish adult.

Ages 6-9

• ***Why the Snake Crawls on its Belly***, by Eric A. Kimmel, Pitspopany, $22.50, HC.

A lovely book based on the story of the snake in the Garden of Eden. With beautiful colourful illustrations by Allen Davis.

Recommended Reading appears monthly. This list is compiled by Atara Beck of Israel's Judaica Centre.

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6 oz. lox (chopped)	1/4 tsp. cayenne
8-10 scallions (chopped)	1/2 tsp. pepper
8 eggs	

Place the bread in a glass 9"x13" pan and drizzle with melted butter. Layer mushrooms, lox, scallions, cheese in order, over the bread cubes. Whisk remaining ingredients together in a large bowl, and pour over everything in pan. Cover and refrigerate overnight. In the morning, bake at 325°F for about 1 hour, or until just firm and lightly browned. It puffs up beautifully to top of pan!!

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About Teens

Dear Karilani,

I am a Jewish student at a public high school. As the tension in Israel escalates, many of my Muslim classmates are criticizing Israel openly – in conversations I have with them, in the school paper and in group discussions. This makes me feel very uncomfortable, but I don't feel I can say anything because as far as I can tell, all of the other Jewish students at my school pretend they don't care (or maybe they really don't care). I think it's important for people to see both sides of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, but I am afraid that if I say something, someone will take what I say very strongly and react the wrong way. Please help me.

Concerned

Dear Concerned,

That's a very frustrating situation. Your hesitation about speaking up is understandable, but remember that even though it's not always easy to stand up for what you think is right, it is important for people to understand both sides of the issue.

The other Jewish students at your school probably feel exactly the same way you do – they do not want to speak out because of fear of harsh disagreement or hostility. It's important to show them that they can express their opinion like anybody else can. Get a group of Jewish friends together to write an article for the school newspaper. You don't even need to rampantly defend Israel – just delicately point out that there are two sides to every conflict. Or, if people are criticizing Israel unfairly, you can write an editorial criticizing their criticism.

Another thing you can do is, the next time you think you are going to be in a discussion or other situation where Israel is going to be criticized, try to make sure some of your Jewish classmates are there, too. It's possible that they just haven't really heard the way the Muslim students talk about the conflict. Once you have accumulated some strength in numbers, you'll be amazed at how much easier it will be to say, "Well, the Palestinians are at fault here too." Most high school students are willing to listen to other people's opinions. Besides, they aren't afraid to say what they think, so there's no reason whatsoever for you to be. The key is to get more people involved, and to be brave about expressing your opinion.

Good luck!

Dear Karilani is written on a rotating basis by three high school students. The drawing is a composite. We welcome questions from our readers. Please mail, e-mail or fax them to The CJN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

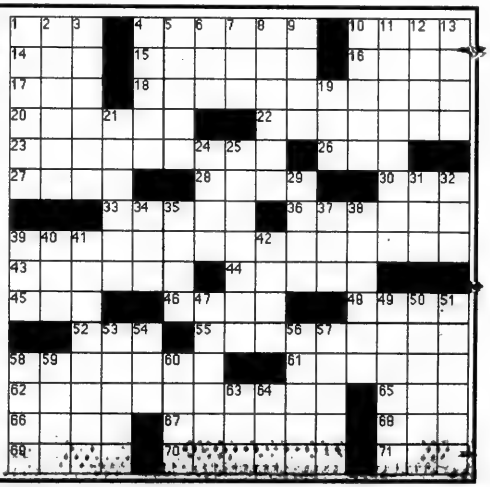
The Canadian Jewish news

(Answers to the crossword are on page 58.)

Israel Independence
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. Networks alternative
4. B.O. point of origin
10. Champion Arthur
14. Wade's court opponent
15. Form of address
16. On top
17. Military jets grp.
18. What Israel became, May 15
20. A British Anthony
22. Hebrews of Qumran
23. Highway built in Spring '48
26. "Go to the ___, thou sluggard."
27. Puppy cry
28. Central Canadian Indian
30. Belief syst.
33. Viennese delicacy
36. To hold, in Turin
39. Independence was declared here
43. Moves in
44. Important button
45. New prefix
46. American writer
48. American military info. branch
52. Farrow
55. David
58. Southwestern Native Americans
61. Displaying a temper
62. Legal instruments (of, say, independence)
65. With 9 Down, an African hazard
66. Heart or stomach
67. Conjure up
68. Eternally, to Jonson
69. Polar explorer
70. Cold wind, dialectically (var.)
71. Dwg. for a bldg. or prod.

Down
1. Grumpy
2. Bad news for the fireplace owner
3. Bourbon St. locale
4. Hebrew girl's name
5. Apt. dweller
6. Carroll's hatter
7. Comes before a fix
8. Present an obstacle to
9. Bad news (see 65 Across)
10. American poet
11. Expended inc.
12. Sharpen
13. Noun suffixes
19. U.S. intelligence organization
21. Referee's golfing start?
24. Combining form meaning eight
25. You __ __ to go.
29. Summers in St. Tropez
31. Prefix meaning early
32. My Name is Asher ___
34. Plural possessive
35. Queen's barge I.D.?
37. Phant preceder
38. Fields, woods, seas, in Cadiz
39. About half the world
40. A singleton, in Honfleur
41. A cow has four
42. Needs a pass for certain venues
47. Fuss over Major Barb. playwright?
49. Dealt with flour
50. They may come from the attic
51. Rookie doctor
53. Ends of wintry hangings
54. Exclamation
56. Round the body measure
57. Indy 500 great
58. Hebrew month, 2 before Yom Ha'atzmaut
59. An unfinished Texas river?
60. The emerald isle
63. Small tree of Israel, yields turpent.
64. Cereal grain



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This Week

National

Canadians blame Arafat, Saddam and Saudis: B'nai Brith poll. *Page 3*

Albright favours return to Camp David proposals. *Page 5*

Canadians join sea of support in Washington. *Page18*

Israel & the Jewish World

Germany suspects terrorsim in Tunisian blast. *Page 41*

Arts & Travel

Legendary art collection from Weimar Germany. *Pages 46*

B'nai Brith organizes solidarity mission to Israel. *Pages 47*

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Thousands of people demonstrated on behalf of Israel in front of the Parliament buildings in Ottawa on Sunday. Inset, Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, addresses the large gathering. *[Vera Gillman photos]*

'A great day to be Jewish'

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — The Canadian Jewish community has proclaimed to the rest of Canada and to the world that Israel must, and will, continue to exist.

Estimates reached as high as 25,000 for the crowd that converged on Parliament Hill for the Israel rally April 21. Thousands of supporters from Ottawa's Jewish community were joined by people from Calgary, Hamilton, Kichener-Waterloo, Kingston, London, Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver.

The orderly but enthusiastic crowd sang Israeli songs of peace, led by Ottawa's Cantor Daniel Benlolo over the loudspeaker, and waved flags of Israel.

"Today is a good day for the Jews," said Gerald Levitz, president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa and master of ceremonies for the event.

"Today is a great day to be Jewish... We have come to the capital of Canada to declare our unwavering, unreserved support for Medinat Yisrael."

Continued on page 25

Cotler slams takeover of office

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — Mount Royal MP Irwin Cotler called a sit-in by seven pro-Palestinian protesters at his Montreal constituency office last week "an illegal occupation" and accused them of intimidating his staff.

Cotler, who was in Ottawa at the time, said he is concerned about the danger of the hatred in the Middle East being imported into Canada.

The four men and three women, all in their 20s, were arrested and charged with trespassing after barricading themselves in the Kent Street office. Their spokesperson, Aaron Maté, a Concordia University student who lives in the Mount Royal riding, said, "We are a group of Canadian citizens of Jewish origin and Palestinian origin who are opposed to what our government is supporting in Israel."

The group said they were protesting Israel's treatment of the Palestinians, adding that they want Canada to take a tougher stand against what they consider Israel's violation of human rights. Maté, who is Jewish, said he wanted Cotler to indicate whether he is prepared to uphold the standards of human rights he has upheld in the past.

Cotler is on leave as a professor of law from McGill University and has been a rights activist internationally for many years.

It is "ironic because we are commemorating the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms including the celebration of speech and the values of a free and democratic society like Canada's" said Cotler at a press conference.

Continued on page 35

Greater Toronto Area

Shabbat: Emor
Candlelighting: 7:55
Havdallah: 9:00

Reflections on Yom Ha'atzmaut from Jerusalem — please see page 40

The News in Brief

CANADA

Slamming Svend

VANCOUVER — More than 30 people gathered recently at the provincial headquarters of the New Democratic Party to protest MP Svend Robinson's recent attempt to visit Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat. They carried signs saying "No tax dollars for terror," and "What's next, Svend? A visit to Osama's cave?" Organizer Rabbi Ross Singer of Shaarey Tefillah Synagogue called Robinson's visit "morally repugnant and reprehensible."

BQ Trade Idea

OTTAWA — A Bloc Quebecois backbencher has proposed amendments to the Canada-Israel Free Trade Agreement to exclude all items originating in "Jewish settlements." Pierre Paquette says the purpose of his private member's bill is to exclude products that are classified by the Israelis as Israeli in origin but in fact originate from Jewish settlements in the post-1967 territories, including eastern Jerusalem. He told the House of Commons earlier this month that his proposal "is entirely consistent with Canada's policy of not recognizing the occupation of these territories since 1967. I seek the support of all the parties and of all members of this House to pass it speedily, given the current situation in the Middle East."

ISRAEL

Israel's Population

JERUSALEM — On its 54th Independence Day, Israel's population totals 6.5 million. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, the population has increased eightfold since 1948. Of the 5.3 million Jews, 63 per cent are natives and the rest are immigrants. Israel accounts for 37 per cent of the world's Jewish population, compared to only six per cent in 1948.

'No Greater Honour'

JERUSALEM — PA Chairman Yasser Arafat's wife has endorsed Palestinian suicide attacks. In an interview with a London-based Arabic weekly, Suha Arafat said that if she had a son, there would be "no greater honour" than to sacrifice him for the Palestinian cause. She and her daughter are currently living in Paris.

WORLD

Kiev 'Pogrom'

KIEV — About 50 youths attacked the central synagogue here last week, beating three people, hurling bottles and breaking windows. Among those injured in the attack was the head of Kiev's yeshiva, Rabbi Tzvi Kaplan, who was knocked to the ground and beaten with stones. The 13-year-old son of Kiev Chief Rabbi Moshe Azman and a security guard were also injured. Rabbi Azman said the mob marched down Kiev's main boulevard shouting "Kill the Jews!" before attacking the synagogue. "I call this act a pogrom," he said.

B-Ball Apology

VILNIUS — A Lithuanian sports association has apologized to the country's Jewish community for anti-Semitic slogans chanted by fans during a basketball game last month against an Israeli team. Some spectators dressed up as PA Chairman Yasser Arafat and waved Palestinian flags, and some chanted "Jews get out!"

Chechens Sentenced

MOSCOW — A court has sentenced 12 Chechens to between five and 10 years in prison for kidnapping a 12-year-old Israeli boy in 1999. Adi Sharon, son of an Israeli businessman, was held for more than nine months in a small, dark pit after his abduction from Moscow, and badly beaten. He was freed in 2000 in the city of Penza, 800 kilometres east of Moscow.

Rabbi's Trial

NEW YORK — The trial of a rabbi accused of sexually molesting teenagers is slated to begin June 3 in Freehold, N.J. Rabbi Baruch Lanner faces charges of sexually assaulting two girls at a high school where he was principal. If convicted, Lanner faces up to 40 years in jail.

Catholic Bishops Comment on Mideast

OTTAWA — The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops has released a statement on the Mideast crisis. It reads, in part:

"It is with great sadness and concern that the Catholic Bishops of Canada watch the conflict in the Middle East worsen.

"War never leads to peace. Terrorism is the blindest and most unacceptable attack against human life, too often directed against those who are innocent and defenseless. To sabotage peace is also an attack, against the dignity of the people trapped in the conflict, while the hesitations of the international community undermine the credibility of those very institutions that are supposed to promote and maintain peace.

"This land that has become a battleground is nevertheless the Holy Land, a place sacred to three great monotheistic faiths. Both its peoples have the right to live in security and harmony, in mutual respect and recognition. They also have a need to be governed wisely, in order to bring irrational extremism and radical factions under control and to diminish the murderous acts of violence...

"We implore the government of Canada to undertake the necessary initiatives for ending the war and risking peace in the Middle East, thus preventing a widening of the conflict and favouring a return to negotiations on the basis of United Nations resolutions as well as the Madrid and Oslo accords that held out so much hope for peace."

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National

Mideast Crisis: The Homefront

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Canadians blame Arafat, Saddam & Saudis

Poll commissioned by BBC

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — An "overwhelming majority" of Canadians – 80 per cent – see no moral distinction between attacks on the World Trade Center and suicide bombing attacks on Israeli civilians, according to pollster Conrad Winn of COMPAS.

Speaking last week at a press conference at the office of B'nai Brith Canada (BBC), which commissioned the poll on Canadian Opinion on the Arab-Israeli Conflict, Winn noted that there is a "moderate difference" in attitude among francophones compared to anglophones. However, only 66 per cent of French speakers agree that the two types of attacks were essentially alike, while 84 per cent of the English speakers held that view.

The poll also reflected a majority view holding Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, Iraqi president Saddam Hussein and the Saudis responsible for Arab-Israeli tensions. Overall, 74 per cent agree that Arafat is a terrorist with no sense of remorse, but, again, French speakers are less likely to hold that view.

Differences also appeared according to political party affiliation. NDPers were least likely to agree, said Winn, but even there there was a majority.

Only about half of those surveyed (48 per cent) said Israel's military response was just right (24 per cent) or too restrained (24 per cent). Fifty-two per cent said Israel's military response ought to be more restrained.

Winn suggested that francophone attitudes on military issues reflect "a pattern consistent with a century of greater pacifism" whereas their position vis-a-vis Jews and Israel was related to their "history of being less comfortable with ethnoracial minorities.

"You can argue that francophones have greater misgivings about minorities including Jews but not exclusive to Jews," Winn said. "Given that history of misgivings, there is less of a sympathy with Israel."

The poll was intended to test to what extent people share the interpretation of events held by B'nai Brith, said Winn.

The results will be used as a point of reference in discussions with government, said Frank Dimant, BBC's executive director. "Seventy-four per cent of Canadians deem Arafat to be a terrorist. That is something our government has to be cognizant of."

RALLY IN D.C.:

Over 700 Canadians joined the rally in Washington D.C. to show their support for Israel on April 15. Among them were, from left, Aliza Klein, Brenda Weizner, Amaris Siegel.

Please see page 18.

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Yom Hazikaron in Israel

At precisely 8 p.m., sirens sound throughout the city. I am in Jerusalem on the eve of Yom Hazikaron, Remembrance Day. Everyone in the restaurant stands up and remains standing for at least three minutes. The sirens summon us to officially remember the 21,181 people who have fallen in defence of the country since 1948.

Israel can be better understood when we see how its citizens observe Yom Hazikaron.

In my hotel room afterward, I flip through the television channels and come across the broadcast of a memorial service. The IDF's chief of staff, Shaul Mofaz, wearing his crimson paratroopers beret, both for religious and ceremonial reasons I assume, is reading a poem. I did not hear the introduction to the poem, but I believe it is a poem written by a soldier whose memory and life are now being recalled. I cannot imagine the chief of the Canadian armed forces or the American armed forces reading a poem at a public ceremony.

At the conclusion of the poem, a young man and woman sing "*At Tishma Koli*:" You will hear my voice. It is a deeply affecting poem, made even more so by the fact that it followed upon the poem read by the chief of staff. There is no differentiation between the legitimacy of the high-ranking soldier and "ordinary" singers reading their elegies. All are citizens; all are soldiers.

On another channel is the telecast of short, biographical sketches of the lives of soldiers who have been killed serving the nation. These sketches, I subsequently find out, started in the evening and continued throughout the following day until sundown.

Each story lasts between 15 and 30 minutes. It combines photo images with interviews from surviving family, friends and colleagues. In many cases, the soldiers whose lives are being recounted were barely out of their teen years, if at all.

One story is that of a young pilot who died in a training accident. His parents relate anecdotes from their son's short life. The moments on camera are poignant, the grief still so fresh, still so painful.

The father breaks down as he recalls a time when he took his son, then just out of kindergarten, to an amusement park. They spent the entire day in the playground, going on rides, playing with animals and feasting on snacks. As they were going home, the young boy asked his father for yet another ice cream bar, by then his third or fourth. Father, trying to make a parental point about moderation and limits, refused to buy another ice cream. The youngster objected to what he determined was an arbitrary ruling and told his father in the authoritative way that eight-year-olds occasionally muster: You don't know how to be a father!

At the time, it was an amusing moment for father and son. The father smiled when he recalled the moment, but repeating the young child's words, he began to cry. His wife, sitting beside him, took his hand. She cried too.

In another place, another context, another culture, such television programming, would be an intrusion into the family's unhealed wound. But here, one family's suffering is the entire nation's suffering. The country needs to see and to know who its fallen children are. And thus, in a profound way, not as a matter of sloganeering, but as a matter of very real empathy, the fallen soldiers have become the fallen children of the entire country.

The vulnerability of one is the vulnerability of all. Everyone knows this and acts accordingly. Publicizing or sharing the sadness does not diffuse it; rather, it makes of millions of families, one family.

* * *

The following day, I sit in the picnic area beside the Castel monument. The Castel is a fortress, as its name suggests, that once controlled the highway from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. In 1948, fully 10 per cent of the Yishuv, 60,000 out of 600,000 people, lived in Jerusalem. David Ben-Gurion understood the deep spiritual, symbolic and strategic significance of retaining Jerusalem in Jewish hands. He was prepared to do so at all costs.

Thus, he was determined to break the siege the Arabs had imposed on Jerusalem. Breaking that siege meant capturing the Castel, which the Palmach eventually did, but after many days of hard fighting and many dead.

Many of the soldiers who fell at the Castel are buried at the cemetery of Kiryat Anavim, a kibbutz only minutes away. I attended the memorial service there.

The grounds are crowded. Most of the visitors are family members of people who are buried in the cemetery. But there are many schoolchildren, and others, who, like us, are there simply to pay our respects to the dead and to the day.

At 11 a.m., a siren sounds. Everyone stands completely still, though it is hot, even in the shade of the well-wooded grounds.

The keynote speaker was Minister of Culture and Sports, Matan Vilna'i. In a deep, sonorous voice, he told the assembly that "it is forbidden to lose our hope." He was referring to the current "situation." He compared favourably the soldiers of today with those who died liberating Jerusalem.

The "situation" has affected people's moods and public behaviour. But no threat or perceived threat could keep Israelis away from crowding the country's cemeteries that day.

The motto of the day was displayed everywhere: in shop windows, on buses and public billboards: To the drivers of public buses, to our security and rescue forces, the heart says: Thank you.

—MBD

The writer was in Israel last week as a guest of the Israeli Ministry of Tourism and El Al Israel Airlines.

SeeJN

REMEMBERING COMRADES:

IDF soldiers at the Gilo checkpoint at the entrance to the West Bank city of Bethlehem observed a two-minute period of silence for Yom Hazikaron in memory of fallen comrades.

[Isranet photo]

Mideast Crisis: The Homefront

Albright favours return to Camp David proposals

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — The proposals presented by Israel at the Camp David summit almost two years ago should be revived, Madeleine Albright, the former U.S. secretary of state, suggested here last week.

"The ideas of Camp David need to be resurrected," she said in a speech to The Junior League of Toronto. "They're logical."

At Camp David, then Israeli prime minister, Ehud Barak, broadly offered Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat statehood in exchange for an end to the conflict. The Palestinians rejected Barak's terms, and shortly afterward, the current intifadah broke out.

"We came very close to a solution at Camp David," claimed Albright, who was intimately involved in the deliberations.

A key member of former U.S. president Bill Clinton's administration, Albright was secretary of state – the first woman to fill that position – from 1997 to 2001. She was also the United States' representative at the United Nations.

Briefly outlining her vision of peace, Albright said any future agreement should be based on a two-state solution encompassing such core problems as Jerusalem's final status and the Palestinian refugees.

"There is a way to solve the Jerusalem problem," she said.

In a reference to the "right of return," the Palestinian demand that Arab refugees be allowed to return to their former homes in what is now Israel, Albright said this issue can also be resolved.

But she added that Israel has a right to determine its own immigration policy.

Albright urged her successor, Colin Powell, to return to the Mideast. Powell spent nine days in the region recently in an unsuccessful bid to hammer out a ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinians.

Madeleine Albright

The United States has an obligation to try to defuse the current tension, which she described as dismaying.

"The bomb throwers are on the rampage and the peacemakers have been thrown off the stage," she said in sombre tones.

Warning of further fighting, she said the violence will grow worse if nothing is done to staunch it.

Nevertheless, war in the Mideast is not inevitable, she noted.

Albright said that Israel's occupation of the territories cannot last. "Even Israel's most hawkish leaders must know that the occupation must end."

She also criticized the Palestinians for using terrorism as a means by which to achieve political goals.

In a critique of U.S. President George W. Bush's "hands-off" Mideast policy, Albright charged he had let the Arab-Israeli dispute fester.

If she had been secretary of state today, she would have gone to the Mideast long ago, Albright said.

Nor, she said, would she have dismantled Clinton's special Mideast peacemaking team, headed by Dennis Ross, an experienced diplomat of encyclopedic knowledge.

Quoting Israel's former foreign minister, Abba Eban, Albright said Arafat has "never missed an opportunity to miss an opportunity."

Arafat reacts to situations and, furthermore, is incapable of making fundamental decisions related to the peace process, she said. Nonetheless, he is the leader of the Palestinians.

By isolating Arafat in his besieged compound in Ramallah, she warned, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has inadvertently turned him into a "super martyr" and hero.

"Sharon has chosen the wrong tactic."

She is very troubled by "these two old men," who, she charged, are not doing what they should for their people.

Turning to a related topic, Albright said the United States has an obligation to ensure that weapons of mass destruction do not fall into the hands of terrorists.

"It would be better if [Iraqi leader] Saddam Hussein would not be there," she said, adding that now is not the time to unseat him.

Albright praised Bush for toppling Afghanistan's Taliban regime, the patron of Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda terrorist network.

But she called Bush's "axis of evil" slogan, lumping Iraq, Iran and North Korea together, as simplistic and misleading.

She predicted the war against international terrorism will not end any time soon.

"We're in this for the long haul, and we'll need the help of all our friends."

Complimenting Canada for its support, she said, "You can be proud of the role Canadian troops played in Afghanistan."

In its efforts to isolate Islamic radicals, who were behind the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States, Washington must press Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to reform their respective school systems, Albright said.

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This decision is based on what we believe to be The Toronto Star's biased language and coverage of the conflict in the middle east. We believe that the reporting and opinion columns try to 'balance' two sides of the story without sufficient depth to achieve journalism's ideals of truth and justice. This in our view makes The Toronto Star complicit in anti-Israel and anti-Semitic attitudes and actions towards the Jewish community in Toronto.

As long as The Toronto Star distorts the truth by equating the deaths of suicidal "martyrs" with those of the Israelis they kill, and as long as The Toronto Star allows its bias to incite hatred of the Jewish community in Toronto and State of Israel, we will not support their advertising revenues.

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GRANITE PEAK HOMES

Mideast Crisis: The Homefront

Leaders laud Canada's voting record at UN

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

In a shift from years past, Jewish community leaders praised Canada's recent voting pattern at the United Nations in their April 15 meeting with Foreign Affairs Minister Bill Graham.

The hour-long meeting was "cordial and friendly," said Canadian Jewish Congress national president Keith Landy. Mainly, it was an opportunity for the community to thank Canada for voting against two anti-Israel resolutions at the UN's Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR).

Canada opposed a measure to send an urgent fact-finding mission to the West Bank to investigate human rights abuses, and voted against a resolution that condemned Israel for carrying out "mass killings" in Palestinian areas.

Even though both Arab-sponsored resolutions passed, Canada was lauded in Jewish circles for opposing them, and for taking a leadership role at the commission.

Before the commission's six-week annual meeting began in Geneva, Israel asked Canada to "be our voice" at the gathering, mainly because the United States had been thrown off the body by the Arab bloc.

Israel not only asked Canada to oppose measuring condemning the Jewish State, but also to force votes on them to avoid the appearance they were passed unanimously.

That appeal from Israel seems to have gotten through, said Landy. Indeed, Canada called for votes on at least two of the resolutions.

Asked whether Canada has heeded Israel's entreaty, Landy said, "No question about it. In fact, the message has gotten through since [last summer's anti-racism conference in] Durban." Graham, said Landy seems to have had "a very good connection" with Israel's deputy foreign minister, Rabbi Michael Melchior, with whom Graham held talks prior to the Geneva meeting.

In all, Canada opposed two of the resolutions, voted for two others and abstained on one. Observers noted, however, that Canada's explanation of its votes contained language that, for the first time, noted the unfair singling out of Israel and the lack of a balanced assessment of the current crisis.

Joseph Wilder, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee (CIC), said the Jewish leaders thanked Graham for Canada's voting at the UNCHR, and for the shift in Canada's overall language relating to Israel.

"Canada has made a conscious effort to move slightly closer to the U.S. position," Wilder said. "We like that."

He also noted that Canadians on the world stage are no longer using terms such as "moral equivalence" and "cycle of violence" to describe the current crisis, signalling a possible change in Canada's Mideast policy.

Landy said the Jewish leaders told Graham that a "permanent change" is needed in how anti-Israel resolutions are introduced at the UN in the first place.

Landy said items on the agenda at the meeting included the global, as well as domestic, surge in anti-Semitism. "We raised specifically the importance for there to be a clear government denunciation of vandalism, and that that should be conveyed to the prime minister."

An issue raised with Graham, Landy said, has been the government's failure to end the fund-raising activities of Hezbollah. So far, Ottawa has banned fund-raising just for Hezbollah's military wing, but not for its social and civilian arm. The United States, by contrast, has banned all fund-raising by Hezbollah.

"For some reason," Landy said, "Canada is seeking additional information" on the situation.

Canada's "double standard" of calling for Israel to withdraw from Palestinian territories, while Ottawa continues its presence in Afghanistan, was also raised, Landy said.

Wilder noted the message relayed to Graham was that Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat will be prodded into negotiations "only when the whole world, especially the Europeans, gang up on him."

In statements, B'nai Brith Canada applauded Graham, saying Canada's voting trend at the UN is "heartening" to Canadian Jews. But the organization also said it was reiterating its call to Prime Minister Jean Chrétien, with "grave disappointment and deep concern," to condemn the recent spate of anti-Semitic acts in the country.

Donations keep coming in for Associated ambulance drive

TORONTO — As of last week, Associated Hebrew Day School's Read-for-a-need program had raised $94,000 and donations were still coming in.

The project was launched to encourage students to read while raising money for much-needed ambulances in Israel (see *CJN* story, April 18).

Although the program was supposed to end last month, money is still coming in, said Randy Spiegel, Associated's director of public relations, adding that the school is hoping to reach $100,000. The project's initial goal was $71,000, the amount needed for a new ambulance for Magen David Adom.

"The support from this community has been outstanding," Spiegel said, adding that young and old have been contributing. "The kids themselves have been collecting from sponsors as well as giving from their own allowances."

***

CLARIFICATION: According to Canadian Magen David Adom, the actual cost of an ambulance is $81,500. For further information, call 416-780-0034.

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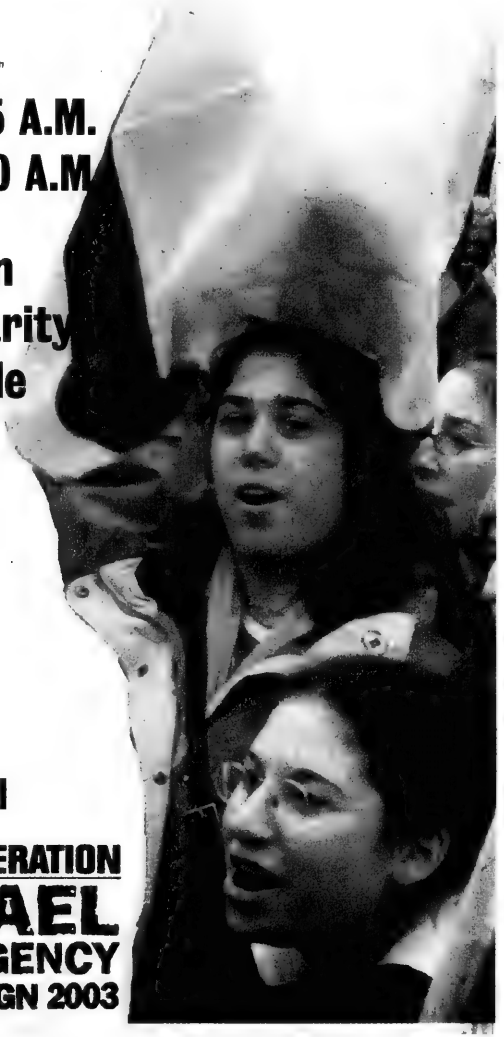

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Just the beginning

At the 54th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel, the mood of the majority of its people is a four-cornered complex of swirling emotions: relief, determination, betrayal and resolve. Israelis are *relieved* that their government finally abandoned its policy of restraint toward the terrorists and the terrorists' infrastructure. The slaughter on leil seder, the religious holiday of Pesach night – not to mention the four suicide bombings that followed in quick succession during the same holiday – was the proverbial straw that broke the people's back. "The government has finally started to fight back," so many people in Israel recently told *The CJN*.

Israelis are also *determined* that Yasser Arafat, his advisors and his militia will no longer plan, approve, encourage, incite or execute attacks against Jews with impunity. Israel will exercise the very same rights and meet the very same obligations that fall upon all governments in the world, namely, to defend the lives of its citizens.

That a large segment of western media, most of Europe, and the Second and Third World portray Israel as a criminal and rogue state, some even using Nazi imagery, leaves Israelis feeling *betrayed*.

However the feeling of betrayal has spawned only a deeper *resolve* among the people that they will not acquiesce to the hypocrisy and blatant unfairness that condemns Israel at every turn, exculpates the Palestinian Authority and provides fertile ground for a renascent ugly anti-Semitism.

In recent days, the Jews of the Diaspora have gathered by the thousands in their respective communities, in solidarity with Israel. We must see this as just the beginning. Israel needs us to be at its side, steadfast, a collective antidote to the toxic lies and distortions that are flowing increasingly into the mainstream poisoning minds away from the truth.

Freedom's highest price

Along with all Canadians, we mourn the deaths of Sgt. Marc Léger, Cpl. Ainsworth Dyer, Pte. Richard Green and Pte. Nathan Smith, who died last week in Afghanistan, killed by the "friendly fire" of an ally. It is an oxymoronic term, friendly fire. Like all clinical terminology, it is designed only to categorize rather than to explain. It speaks to the intent of the brutal act, but is silent, as all such terminologies must ultimately be, to the effect.

But that effect, we know, is the abrupt, nightmarish, devastating, irreplaceable loss of a person deeply loved. No words can ever explain or describe that loss; nor can they abate something so unabatable. To the families and friends of the men who died, we convey our heartfelt condolences. They died on a field so far away, defending us, literally, in Canada. They paid freedom's highest price. It is a debt we will always owe them, but alas, will never be able to repay. We pray their memories will be for blessing.

LET OUR PEOPLE GO...

IN PRISON IN IRAN: Javeed Beit Yakov, Ramin Farzam, Nasser Levi Haim, Farzad Kashi, Shahrokh Paknahad, Farhad Saleh, Hamid Tefileen and Asher Zadmehr. **MIAs:** Ron Arad, Zachary Baumel, Tzvi Feldman, Yehuda Katz, **AND** Elchanan Tannenbaum, kidnapped.

Dry Bones

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..THEN HIS MISSION WAS A FAILURE.
TRUE.
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THEN IT ALSO WAS NOT A BIG SUCCESS.
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World indifferent to anti-Semitism

Montreal MP Irwin Cotler recently noted that the "human rights" agenda has now become a mask for anti-Jewish expression. His observation was particularly timely, given the decision by the UN Human Rights Commission, whose antipathy to Israel is well-documented, to send a "fact-finding mission" to the Middle East.

Interesting, isn't it, that "human rights" groups and "peace" activists seem to be concerned almost exclusively with the fate of the Palestinians in the current crisis, while paying virtually no attention to Israeli casualties.

Of course, Adolf Hitler didn't consider Jews "humans" either, and he also always stated that if not for the aggression launched against civilization by international Jewry, the world would be at peace. Many leftists in the past, too, were hostile to Jews – after all, one famous 19th-century quip described anti-Semitism as "the socialism of fools."

Here in Canada, the indifference to Jewish concerns extends to the domestic scene as well. The recent arson at Anshei Minsk Synagogue in Toronto and the vandalism at Temple Israel in Ottawa passed with hardly a word of notice in the national media. Only with the third attack, an arson at Congregation Agudas Israel in Saskatoon, did the media pay attention. And even then, few will call it anti-Semitism. Imagine if any of this had happened to a mosque – the outcry denouncing such vandalism as racist would have been heard immediately across the land, from the prime minister on down.

Henry Srebrnik
Charlottetown, PEI

* * *

Avoid use of guilt

Regarding David Freudmann's letter in the *CJN* issue of March 27 ("No one basks in compliments"), let's stop laying a guilt trip on Jews who are afraid to visit Israel now, given that Jews there are being blown up or shot nearly every day, both in public and private locations, in major cities and small towns.

The Torah says with regard to mitzvot, "You may live by them," and the rabbinic tradition adds, "and not die by them." The Torah also says, "For your own sake, be most careful," which means, according to tradition, that one need not expose oneself to avoidable danger. There are plenty of other ways to support Israel: buying Israeli products, investing in Israeli companies, giving to tzedakah, lobbying world governments and media on Israel's behalf. Those who wish to visit should be encouraged to do so, but let's not be harsh on those who choose not to at this time. Above all, let us pray for calm to be restored throughout our homeland.

Michael Sidlofsky
Toronto

* * *

Let us join together and keep rallying

As a Canadian Jew who was born and raised in Israel, I attended the March 24th rally for Israel at Mel Lastman Square. The event felt like a roller coaster ride and brought up a lot of emotions – sadness, joy and hope for a brighter future. What we take for granted in Canada, people of Israel consider a dream: a dream and a wish for a nation without fear and the need to continually defend its place in the global community.

Although I represent only one voice, I believe that we all need to realize that we live in a global community. Actions and attitudes of one affect us all. Peace is everyone's responsibility – we cannot take it for granted. The Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington were a global tragedy. People who lost their lives in the World Trade Centre were of different colours, religions and nationalities. War hurts everyone, directly or indirectly.

During the rally, we stood united to express our solidarity for Israel during these difficult times. We listened, we cried, we chanted in joy and hope "*L'shnah habah b'Yerushalayim*." The sense of togetherness and shared pain was absolutely incredible.

Rallies are a means of expressions of our concern and identity. They bring people together for a common goal, and they allow people to join hands with likeminded people and to let others know that the cause is real. By choosing not to participate, we only ignore the problem. This is not to criticize anyone but to unite Jews of all backgrounds during this time of crisis. Let's build a better future for our children. Let us unite and let the world know that we are serious about peace. Your voice matters – let it be heard.

Moti Kordasz
Toronto

* * *

Boycott French goods

Anti-semitism in France is nothing new. It's been far more prevalent there than in any other western European country since World War II. So it comes as no surprise that since the current escalation of violence in the Middle East, virulent incidents of vandalism, arson and anti-Jewish protest have risen sharply.

According to a recent *Newsweek* article, the French ambassador in London, Daniel Bernard, was quoted calling Israel "that shitty little country." The article went on to say that Jean Le Pen, a long-time xenophobic anti-Semite, is expected to garner 10 per cent of the popular vote in the upcoming election for the presidency. Imagine: one person in 10 is in favour of an anti-Semite to preside over France. Pretty scary stuff!

Jews worldwide should boycott all French goods. Organize through your shul, by word of mouth or through any other Jewish organization. Together we can send a message to France that their view of Jews and Isreal will not be tolerated. If you can live without such French imports as frogs' legs, snails and tree fungus, you'll be OK. And great wines are produced all over the world these days.

If you believe in this message... pass it on. It won't be long before we are a force far greater than one in 10.

Joel Goldman
Toronto

Letters are welcome if they are brief, in English or French, typewritten with lines double spaced, and of interest to our reading public. Readers are cautioned not to make sweeping claims against persons or institutions which they cannot verify, as libel laws are very stringent. We reserve the right to edit and condense letters, which must bear the sender's address, phone number and both handwritten and typed signatures.
Letters sent by e-mail must also include the sender's municipal address.

Israel's and Canada's histories deeply intertwined

The following is the second part of a two-part article. Part 1 was published last week.

By JOHN ROSS

Of the 11 members (Australia, Canada, Czechoslovakia, India, Guatemala, Iran, Netherlands, Peru, Sweden, Uruguay and Yugoslavia) who served on the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), Justice Ivan Rand of Canada became the leading implementer of the Zionist dream for a separate independent Jewish state in Palestine.

Rand's role in UNSCOP was quite remarkable because Canada and the United Kingdom (U.K.) had hoped that Rand would recognize that the Balfour Declaration was the source of the problems in Palestine. The decision they had expected from Rand and his fellow UNSCOP members was a final recommendation to simply "amend" the terms of the British Mandate by formalizing the Jewish immigration restrictions set out in the White Paper to be official United Nations (UN) policy.

Such a measure, they believed, would help deflect criticism from the British government and place it upon the UN, thereby allowing the British to continue enforcing their decision to restrict Jewish immigration into Palestine.

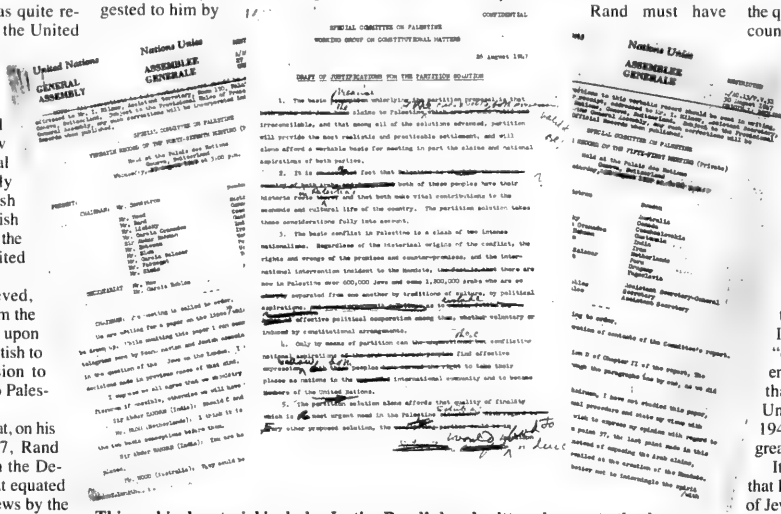
It was therefore no accident that, on his way to Palestine in June 1947, Rand received a briefing report from the Department of External Affairs that equated the annihilation of six million Jews by the Nazis to the killing of 800,000 Muslims by the Mongols in Baghdad in 1258. Not only did this memorandum state that it was "futile" to determine whether the Jews or the Arabs had suffered the most, it also suggested that any solution for Palestine must recognize the need to rebuild Islamic culture from the devastation inflicted upon it in the 13th century.

Nor were the words of the British High Commissioner in Palestine unintentional when he advised the UNSCOP members that the thorny issue of immigration into Palestine would soon pass because Jews would not want to immigrate to Palestine once they had been settled in other countries around the world.

Yet a few weeks later, when the UNSCOP members had left Palestine and had gone to Geneva, Switzerland, to write their report, Rand distanced himself from the views of the Canadian and British governments. He saw himself as a member of a committee of the UN and accountable only to the UN rather than as a delegate of a country.

On Aug. 6, 1947, Rand prepared his own memorandum for a solution to the problems in Palestine, advocating partition and the establishment of an independent Jewish state. Over the next three weeks, he gradually convinced a majority of the committee members to adopt this position and to give control over the Negev to the Jewish state. He also singlehandedly and successfully opposed the anti-partition members who challenged the validity of the Balfour Declaration as the primary basis for the British Mandate. And he reaffirmed the legality of the Balfour Declaration and suggested it was the White Paper of 1939, with its restrictive limits on Jewish immigration, that was the illegal document and the real source of the problems in Palestine.

What caused Rand to so forcefully renounce the political line suggested to him by the Canadian and British governments, and to echo the words of David Ben-Gurion and Chaim Weizmann in their addresses to UNSCOP? It is difficult to find the exact moment when he decided to follow the Zionist position, as this would normally be an exercise in pure speculation. But having read his private correspondence, I would argue that the primary influence on his decision was the contact and correspondence he had with Jews living in Palestine.



This archival material includes Justice Rand's handwritten changes to the documents that eventually led to the creation of Israel.

Unlike the other UNSCOP members who were isolated and cooped up away from the "rank and file of Palestine," Rand was invited to many social engagements. He was also extended every kindness from the Jews of Palestine. This was especially true of those Jews who had emigrated from Canada. Their letters to Rand as a "fellow countryman" reflect the sincere graciousness and warm hospitality that epitomized the noble ideals and principles of Zionism. Most importantly, they succeeded in exposing the fallacy that lay behind the anti-partition positions of the British High Commissioner and Canadian External Affairs.

One of Rand's first letters was from Moshe Novomeysky of Upper Talbieh, Jerusalem, who was the directing manager of Palestine Potash Ltd., a public company that had the concession for processing chemicals from the Dead Sea. He thanked Rand for the pleasurable exchange of views they had while spending the afternoon together at the Dead Sea, and asked if they could meet again. One of the leading industrialists of Palestine, Novomeysky planned to build a railway to the Mediterranean. He was also a member of the "Brandeis group," an economic corporation that had been guided by former Justice Louis Brandeis of the U.S. Supreme Court to invest in Palestine. Rand must have been a most interested audience because, prior to his appointment to the Canadian Supreme Court, he was lead counsel for Canadian National Railways and was deeply involved in many capital projects of this nature.

Rand also received a letter from Bernard Joseph of Rehavia, Jerusalem, a Canadian lawyer who left Montreal in 1922 to immigrate to Palestine and who became a leading member of the Palestine bar. This letter explains the significance of Rand's interest in the Palestine Economic Corporation as Joseph wrote to Rand that he was "interested to read in the *Palestine Post* that you recently published as essay on the late Brandeis whose friendship I had the privilege of enjoying." Rand was quite an admirer of Brandeis, who was a fellow graduate of Harvard Law School and who specialized in business and commercial law. It is most interesting to note the remarkable similarities between these two justices, as their careers, their commitment to higher education and their social activism on the bench for which they both became famous mirror each other in virtually every respect.

From the collective settlement of Ein Hashofet came a letter from Ms. M. Bloomstone. She warmly invited Rand, as a fellow Canadian, to visit her on the 10th anniversary celebrations of her settlement that was located in the quiet hills of Ephraim. A letter similar in nature arrived from Molly Lyons Bar-David, who, in her own charming and inimitable way, invited Rand to Beth Mamoud at Arnona, Jerusalem, to share in their Shabbat. In extending her heartfelt hospitality, she wrote about her birthplace in Tisdale, Saskatchewan, and proceeded to list some names in the Canadian legal profession in order that Rand might not think her a "terrorist." But most importantly, she addressed the question of why Jews emigrate from free countries such as Canada to Palestine. The answer, she explained, was that "I couldn't resist the challenge of Palestine and couldn't divorce myself from the fate of my people in Europe, nor ignore the implications of both; this, despite the fact that I was happy in Canada and (except for isolated occurrences and childhood sorry memories) was in no need for personal salvation."

All of these letters showed Rand the personal and human side of Zionism, and undoubtedly made him much more sensitive and receptive to the need for an independent Jewish state. If these Canadian acts of "kindness" or "chesed" were indeed the spark that enabled Rand to write the UNSCOP report that set the wheel in motion toward the United Nations resolution of November 1947, then all Canadian Jewry can take great satisfaction.

It would be a serious mistake to believe that Rand's concern for improving the lives of Jews ceased after he helped to initiate the creation of the State of Israel. In 1950, he wrote and delivered the landmark decision of the Supreme Court of Canada that struck down restrictive covenants that had prevented land from being sold to Jews. The case of Noble and Wolf v. Alley was an appeal from a decision of the Ontario Court of Appeal that had ruled in favour of discrimination against Jews in respect to private property rights. But Rand refused to let stand the argument from the respondent's counsel, who claimed that "his client's property would depreciate in value if Jews were allowed in as owners." Stopping counsel in mid-speech, Rand said, "If Albert Einstein and Arthur Rubinstein purchased cottages there, the property values would increase, and the associatjon should be honoured to have them as neighbours."

Rand was a true friend to the Jews of Israel and of Canada. Given the momentous importance of the two contemporaneous and courageous decisions that helped us at home and abroad, we should recognize the fact that the history of Israel and Canada may be far more intertwined than we will ever know.

John Ross practises law in Hamilton, Ont.

More about pessimism

I recently shared with my readers the profound pessimism that has possessed me in my analysis of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. While for a long time, I seemed to be rather isolated in this regard, I now note that others, too, are taking a similar point of view.

Rabbi Gunther Plaut in Toronto

It is my profound belief that there will be no peace in the Middle East until the Muslim/Arab world is ready to recognize the legitimacy of Israel – in any form or fashion. Unfortunately, I see no sign on the horizon that this is about to happen in the foreseeable future. There was a Saudi plan to this effect a few weeks ago, but we have not heard of it lately, most likely because it has been shelved.

I have said this before and I will repeat it: Israel can stand on its head and fulfil all the demands made of it – however unreasonable they might be – but it will not matter. The only way in which it can satisfy its neighbours is to disappear, and that desire, fortunately, does not and will not exist. Which means that the conflict will go on.

When and how Arabs will convince themselves that Israel is here to stay, I cannot foretell. I am afraid, however, that it will take some time – until a new generation has been raised that is willing to recognize the reality of Israel as a permanent feature in the Middle East. Without this, conflict will continue in one form or another – more violent at one time and less so at another. But peace is not the absence of conflict. It is an acknowledgement that all sides have a legitimate right to exist, and that acknowledgement has been absent in the past and is, unfortunately, not on the horizon in the near future.

I have held this pessimistic view for a long time, and I will be the first one to be happy when my prognosis is overturned by events and my pessimism is proven wrong.

But this column is not meant to make the readers feel good; its main purpose is to convey my opinion with regard to the state of the Jewish world. I wish that I could see signs that would allow me to abandon my pessimism and replace it with an optimistic view.

Halevai – I wish it would indeed come to pass.

What is the proper name for this?

The jury may still be out on what name to give this bloody mess but there is now little doubt among Israelis as to what the country is up against. It looks like war, sounds like war, feels like war and, with the terrible number of civilian and military casualties mounting, it certainly hurts like war.

Robert Sarner in Jerusalem

Israel is at war, pure and simple. It may be an unconventional war with no agreed upon name, but it is war just the same, no less hellish than traditional military conflicts. And to think that the worst may be still to come…

War, so much part of the country's past, pervades the present. Never before has war hit so many Israelis so painfully, so insidiously, so indiscriminately, so close to home. Yet for quite a while, many people seemed in denial, not seeing the feud with the Palestinians for what it had become.

If anyone was still unsure whether the country was actually at war, the recent mobilization of 30,000 reservists and hundreds of tanks deployed in the West Bank (and along the northern border) should have dispelled any lingering illusions.

This was not supposed to be. Not according to the Oslo Accords that Israel and the Palestinians signed in Washington, D.C., in September 1993. The famous handshake between the late Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on the White House lawn was to have paved the way for a new, improved Middle East. How distant those days now seem. Sadly, the peace process that Oslo ushered in proved more process than peace.

In recent weeks, the process has been one of escalating war as hostilities reached a new level of ferocity. The month of March was especially brutal, the worst in Israeli history in terms of Palestinian attacks on soldiers and civilians, of which 125 were killed.

Each Israeli has their own take on when the unrest that erupted in September 2000 degenerated into war. The right, which had long warned of an armed conflict with the Palestinians, was quick to call the violence part of a larger, more ominous campaign. They even gave it a name, the Oslo War, since they believe it was the result of the Oslo Accords.

The left generally took longer to see the violence as an armed conflict. Some even referred cynically to IDF actions as the War to Defend the Settlements, as if soldiers were primarily protecting controversial Jewish communities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

From the outset, the Palestinians christened their struggle the Al Aqsa Intifadah in honour of the Islamic holy site on Jerusalem's Temple Mount where rioting broke out 19 months ago. Since then, they have portrayed their fighting as their war of independence for a Palestinian state.

Most of the media, especially the foreign press, have avoided using the term "war." They prefer "intifadah." It's catchy, colourful and, as it means "uprising" in Arabic, suggests a nobler backdrop to Palestinian violence.

There is nothing noble about the Palestinians' war of terror, whose obscene violence has killed some 450 Israelis, wounded thousands and deeply traumatized the society.

The other day, when I wrote the first draft of this column, I began with a lament that I was reduced to being thankful that Israel had just gone more than a week without suffering a terrorist attack. I explained that I shuddered to think what might still happen between the time I sent in my column and when it would be printed a week later.

Sure enough, within an hour, the column was obsolete. A Palestinian suicide bomber struck a bus near Haifa, killing eight. Two days later, another terrorist killed six people in a bombing in central Jerusalem.

As I write this, Israel is preparing to mark its 54th Independence Day. It is anything but a happy birthday. Apart from the nation's children, few people are in the mood to celebrate, because of all the sorrow from Palestinian atrocities and fear of those still to come. We have Nobel Peace laureate Yasser Arafat to thank for that.

Readers can contact Robert Sarner at rsarner@netvision.net.il.

The return of Israeli grit

On our 54th Independence Day, Israeli Jews are again united, mobilized and determined in way that is reminiscent of the 1950s and '60s. The self-doubt and self-deprecation, expressed in the post-Zionist fad of the affluent 1990s, is gone. Instead, patriotism is back in fashion, with far more cars and buildings decorated with Israeli flags than in previous years.

Gerald Steinberg in Jerusalem

The Israel Defence Forces' operation to eradicate terrorism, launched after the Passover seder massacre in Netanya, has generated broad support, similar to the American support for the war against Al Qaeda after Sept. 11. High school students who might have gone to peace demonstrations or rock concerts a few years ago are now collecting gift baskets for soldiers fighting Palestinian terrorists in Jenin and Ramallah. In reserve units, the turnout is over 100 per cent, with many volunteers showing up to fight with their buddies and for their families.

Despite some losses in the hand-to-hand fighting to locate and destroy the explosives factories scattered in the Palestinian cities, morale in the IDF is very high, and the successes are beyond expectations. Key terrorists have been captured and interrogated, leading to the location of many more. While some Palestinians bombers have gotten through and "sleepers" have been scattered to keep up some attacks, Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat's ability to sustain these attacks in future months has been crippled. This is shaping up to be Israel's greatest military victory since 1967, and a recovery from the loss of confidence during the Lebanon War.

For the vast majority of Israelis (80 per cent, according to the polls, meaning all but the radical left fringe and the hostile Arab minority), the Oslo experiment is now seen as a disaster. Many of the politicians and intellectuals who supported the fiasco that brought Arafat and his terror network into Israeli cities have either recanted or been removed to the edge of political life.

Labor Party members are trying to get the public to forget its role in Oslo, and the policies of the party's new leader, Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer, are hard to distinguish from those of Prime Minister Ariel Sharon.

And although some old-guard Bolshevik professors in the universities are trying to play up the marginal movement of anti-war reserve officers, most academics keep their distance. In contrast, Benny Morris, a leader of the "new history" movement, has recanted, admitting, "The PA has emerged as a virtual kingdom of mendacity, where every official, from President Arafat down, spends his days lying to a succession of western journalists."

The old Israeli intellectual left's major influence was in Europe, where Palestinian propaganda is gospel. Today, Israelis respond to the ritual condemnations and threats of boycotts from ignorant and arrogant Europeans in terms of a natural disaster – tragic but unavoidable.

However, Israelis still expect a higher standard of morality and intellectual integrity from the United States, and Washington usually delivers. Despite Israelis' and Americans' shared goal of removing Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and his regime of terror, Israelis are not going to continue to play the role of sacrificial lamb. Arafat is using anti-Israeli demonstrations in Arab capitals to buy his old friend Saddam some insurance, and U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell and the State Department are still allowing "the Arab street" to make policy.

Nevertheless, Sharon has held his ground instead of meekly accepting American demands to "withdraw immediately." As a result, Powell and his entourage (some of whom have been dispensing bad advice for a decade) have found that expecting Israel to end Operation Defensive Shield prematurely was a non-starter. Convinced by the strength of the Israeli position and policy, Washington has accepted the Israeli position, surprising much of the world (including many Canadian officials).

Despite the difficulties of the current situation, Israelis are confident that, over time, our policies will be vindicated, and this conviction is far more powerful than all of the mass demonstrations, boycotts, and ritual denunciations at the United Nations. The rising support and pro-Israeli rallies, not only in Washington, D.C., but also in Canada, Paris and even Rome, also show that, eventually, the truth will emerge and Israel will be vindicated.

The Kirshner File

Bush has been tactically inconsistent on Mideast

Israel's re-occupation of parts of Area A, the autonomous Palestinian areas in the West Bank, brought out glaring inconsistencies in U.S. President George W. Bush's Middle East policy.

Sheldon Kirshner in Toronto

In reacting to Operation Defensive Shield, launched by Israel on March 29 to counter an unprecedented wave of Palestinian suicide bombings and shootings that claimed the lives of scores of Israelis, Bush has zigzagged furiously.

On March 31, three days after the Passover massacre in Netanya in which 28 Israelis were killed, Bush expressed understanding of Israel's military offensive, its biggest since the 1982 invasion of Lebanon. Bush's sympathetic words, uttered just hours after Hamas bombers blew up a restaurant in Haifa, causing 14 deaths, led Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon to assume that Bush had given him a green light to root out terrorism in West Bank cities like Jenin, Ramallah and Nablus.

Yet, on April 4, Bush drastically shifted course, thereby straining relations with Israel. Speaking as a "committed friend of Israel," conceding Israel's "right to defend itself from terror" and blasting Palestinian Authority (PA) Chairman Yasser Arafat for not consistently opposing and confronting terrorism, Bush urged Israel to halt its sweep and withdraw. When Sharon balked, saying he required more time to finish Operation Defensive Shield, which cost Israel 29 soldiers, Bush retorted that he expected him "to heed (his) call" and pull back Israel's forces "without delay."

In an attempt to mollify Bush, Sharon ordered a withdrawal from Qalqilya and Tulkarm and, subsequently, from 24 villages. But on April 11, after Israel swept into two new Palestinian towns – Bir Zeit and Dahariya – and Sharon declared that the operation would not end until Israel achieved its aims, the United States joined the United Nations, the European Union and Russia in calling for a ceasefire and Israel's "immediate" withdrawal.

Bush's dramatic *volte face* prompted a former presidential national security advisor, Zbigniew Brzezinski, to accuse the Bush administration of "strategic incoherence," a charge heatedly denied by the White House.

All rhetoric aside, no amount of official denials could disguise the fact that Bush, tactically at least, had conveyed a decidedly mixed message. In broader strategic terms, however, he and his senior officials, from Secretary of State Colin Powell on down, have been reasonably consistent.

Like his predecessors, Bush supports the land-for-peace formula – the basis of all Mideast diplomacy since the 1967 Six Day War. He believes that Israel's occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and the Golan Heights, as well as its settlements there, are inherently inconsistent with a peaceful resolution of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

To this, Bush and Powell added another element to the equation: the necessity for a two-state solution in which a secure Israel coexists with a viable Palestinian state. It is a vision that Ehud Barak, more or less, articulated at the Camp David summit in July 2000 and later at Taba. This explains why the United States sponsored and voted for a United Nation Security Council resolution on March 12 endorsing an independent Palestinian state.

And in keeping with Bush's war against international terrorism since the indelible events of Sept. 11, 2001, the United States has pushed and prodded the PA to make a 100 per cent effort to curb terrorism and end violence as a means by which to attain political objectives.

But when it comes to Israeli forays into Area A, fully under the administration of the Palestinians, Bush has not been consistent.

Sharon ordered the first such raid, into the northern Gaza Strip, last April after Hamas fired mortars into Sderot, a development town in the Negev Desert near Sharon's ranch. When Powell heard that Israel might not pull out its troops for days, weeks or months, he denounced the incursion as "excessive and disproportionate," and asked Israel to desist from such assaults in the future.

Sharon defiantly ignored his admonition. In the aftermath of Al Qaeda's attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, Israel intensified its retaliatory raids into Area A. Bush complained, leaning on Israel to reach a quick truce with the PA. Bush was eager to build a coalition against Al Qaeda and to unseat the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Since he also sought to recruit Arab countries into the budding coalition, he needed a measure of calm in the Mideast.

With the Taliban ousted and Al Qaeda routed, Washington relaxed its pressure on Israel, all the more so after a renewed upsurge of Palestinian attacks against Israeli civilians in December, January and February, the breakdown of yet another ceasefire, and Israel's interception of a Palestinian ship carrying tons of Iranian weapons and munitions.

The mood in Washington seemed clear. If the United States, invoking the Bush Doctrine, could fight terrorism in Afghanistan, why did Israel not have a right to hunt down terrorists in the adjacent West Bank and Gaza?

The Pentagon and Congress, but not necessarily the State Department, adopted this view. No one, therefore, was surprised when Powell pointedly questioned Sharon's policy of increased military pressure against the PA. Powell believes that Palestinian terrorism can best be dealt with through a sustained political process.

George W. Bush

In accordance with this philosophy, the United States backed three separate United Nations resolutions on March 12, March 31 and April 4 calling for a ceasefire and an immediate Israeli withdrawal, and Bush, on March 14, described Israel's incursion into Ramallah as "not helpful."

Bush was concerned that Israeli raids – a source of seething anger and bitterness in the Arab world – might generate regional chaos, endanger pro-U.S. Arab regimes in Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, raise the price of Arab crude oil and undermine Arab backing, lukewarm at best, for his emerging plan to topple Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

At the same time, Bush added the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Fatah faction basically controlled by Arafat, to a U.S. list of foreign terrorist organizations. Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine were already on that list.

Powell wound up his third trip to the region last week with little to show for his mediation efforts. A ceasefire, the key to ending the present crisis, eluded him. But Powell managed to wring two important concessions from Israel: a timeline for an Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian towns and an acknowledgement from Sharon that he may yet sit down at the same negotiating table with Arafat, who is still penned up at his besieged compound in Ramallah.

Prior to Powell's departure on April 17, Sharon announced that Israel would vacate Jenin and Nablus, but not Ramallah and Bethlehem, where Palestinian gunmen and some of the suspected assassins of Israeli cabinet minister Rechavam Ze'evi, murdered last October, are said to be holed up.

On April 18, in yet another contradictory remark, Bush said he understood why Israel is keeping troops in Bethlehem and Ramallah. Nevertheless, as Powell wrapped up his mission, Israel and the United States were still far apart on several fundamental issues: Israel's incursions into Area A, Israel's settlement policy in the territories, Arafat's future role, and the point at which political negotiations should commence.

Israel, in responding to Palestinian terrorism, will continue to hit Area A. These raids, which have already resulted in the widespread destruction of the PA's political and police apparatus, will surely complicate Israel's relationship with the United States, its chief ally and patron.

At his final press conference in Jerusalem, Powell described Israel's settlement policy as destructive. But Sharon and many of his ministers staunchly reject that position.

Despite Sharon's apparent willingness to let Arafat negotiate on behalf of the Palestinians, Sharon still regards him as his nemesis, as "irrelevant" and as an "enemy" to be isolated and marginalized. Before he acceded to Powell's request to include Arafat in any talks, Sharon had relegated the Palestinian leader to the status of persona non grata, and had tried to persuade Powell not to meet with Arafat in Ramallah, claiming that such an encounter would be a "tragic mistake." Bush and Powell harbour deep reservations about Arafat's sincerity, but like Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, they regard him as an indispensable negotiating partner.

Finally, Sharon – though not Peres – wants a ceasefire to take root before the parties address the Mitchell recommendations, which were unveiled last April. The United States and Israel were in accord on this issue until quite recently. But of late, Washington has had a change of heart, and now Powell speaks of aggressively moving into political discussions to satisfy Palestinian demands.

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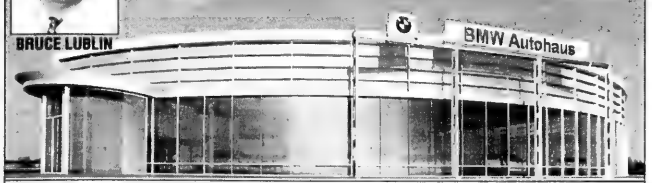

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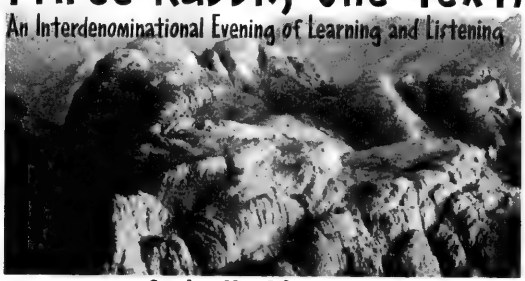

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Mideast Crisis: The Homefront

Frustration with anti-Israel coverage

"I think the people in your studio... are living on a different planet."

So stated David Horovitz, a moderate who supported the Oslo process of Israeli-Palestinian reconciliation, and editor of the liberal bi-weekly *Jerusalem Report* magazine. Horovitz was speaking on a special three-hour CBC Radio "This Morning" program considering perspectives on U.S. foreign policy.

According to Reports
By **PAUL MICHAELS**

Horovitz had been listening to a one-sided panel consisting of John MacArthur, publisher of *Harper's* magazine; Christopher Hitchens, columnist with *The Nation*; and Martha Brill Olcott of the Carnegie Endowment. All were critical of U.S.-Mideast policy and U.S.-Israel relations, seeing them as entirely in favour of Israel. (Interviewed from Jerusalem, Horovitz was the only speaker in the entire program to present Israel's case. He was immediately balanced by Jonathan Kuttab, a Palestinian human rights lawyer.)

"I hate to puncture the complacent air of Israel gang-bashing that characterized the first 20 minutes of your show," Horovitz said. "Israelis don't think that American policy under the Bush administration is hopelessly biased towards Israel [which] has endured a year-and-a-half of terrorism.

"Extraordinarily... instead of pressure on [Palestinian Authority Chairman] Yasser Arafat, who has the largest proportion of armed men per capita of any regime in the world... to use his forces to stop the suicide bombings, instead of increased pressure when it became clear that Mr. Arafat, far from failing to thwart them, was actually inciting them, encouraging them, funding them – every time that Israel, in desperation, attempts to move into Palestinian cities to try to stop the bombings it gets told to get out and never go back. For Israelis, this is all absolutely incomprehensible, especially [after the] American assault on Afghanistan."

Horovitz's incredulity concerned the major double standard in judging Israel. One side is espoused by Hitchens who, while lucid about the terrorism confronting the United States, remains clouded about Israel. His general belief is that former Israeli prime minister Ehud Barak did not make generous offers at Camp David that Arafat could accept, and that Israel's military operation in the West Bank is designed to continue its "colonial" rule. The implication is that the Palestinians have no option but to resort to violence as "justified resistance."

This, of course, is the favourite tactic of Israel's detractors. If one denigrates Barak's efforts, then one can rationalize, if not justify, the carnage that has been inflicted on Israelis over these many months.

Hirsh Goodman writes in the April 22 issue of the *Jerusalem Report*: "There is much argument about Ehud Barak's legacy. But there is no denying what he offered the Palestinians: 94 per cent of the West Bank, a division of Jerusalem, a land swap, an equitable solution to the refugee problem and imaginative thinking over the Temple Mount – as a basis for negotiations. Arafat refused."

Unfortunately, such denial is widespread among critics pursuing their relentless anti-Israel outlook.

Paul Michaels is director of communications for the Canada-Israel Committee.

BAYT SERVICES: Yom Ha'atzmaut/Yom Hazikaron ceremonies at Beth Avraham Yoseph Congregation were attended by approximately 2,000 people. In Perlis Hall, which was filled to capacity, the audience watched videos memorializing veterans of Israeli wars and terror victims. Rabbi Baruch Taub gave an address, praising Israel and its supporters as well as the Canadian government for its recent stand at the United Nations human rights conference. The ceremonies closed with a performance by members of Bnei Akiva, the Mizrachi youth group, the BAYT Lev Achim Choir and evening services for Yom Ha'atzmaut. Above: youth dancing to the music of the Toronto Shorashim Band.

Israel is on the line. It's an emergency.

Sunday, April 28 is **Israel Emergency Sunday**, when a UJA Federation volunteer will be calling on behalf of **Israel Emergency Campaign 2003**.

The severity of Israel's crisis has compelled us to initiate our campaign four months earlier than we originally planned. Increased gifts to **UJA Federation Israel Emergency Campaign 2003** will be designated directly for social service programs to meet current emergency needs on behalf of Israel's vulnerable, including victims of terror. These are specially earmarked funds over and above our normal allocations to Israel.

A steady stream of terror is dealing a devastating blow to Israeli society, as the government is forced to shift funds from social programs to defense. We need to mobilize every member of our community to assist Israel during this emergency.

You can help by volunteering to call community members on Israel's behalf from Sunday, April 28 to Thursday, May 2 and by responding generously when contacted by a UJA Federation telethon volunteer.

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Jewish group to ignore plan to control rallies

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Members of the United Israel Action Committee (UIAC) intend to ignore statements made by both CJC and Palestine House that all demonstrations in front of cultural centres, places of worship or schools will be halted.

Meir Halevi, a spokesperson for UIAC, a grassroots group that advocates for Israel, said flatly in a telephone interview that his group will decide where its next demonstration will be held.

"Public statements do not mean anything to me."

Ed Morgan, chair of Canadian Jewish Congress, Ontario region, said however, that CJC's statement was an appeal for reason and proper conduct.

"I can only appeal to reason. Would we want to face a Palestinian demonstration every time we took our children to school or extra-curricular activities? We should not do that to them either."

Morgan insisted that parents should not have to be afraid to send their children to Hebrew school or to classes in Jewish community centres, and that he is optimistic that both communities will act in good faith.

The community will rely on the police to issue warnings, if necessary, "but we hope it doesn't come to that," he said.

CJC called upon factions within the Jewish and Palestinian communities to halt protests after a Jewish group protested in front of Palestine House on March 24 and April 14. The Palestinian community responded by saying they will begin targeting Jewish centres.

Rashad Saleh, president of Palestine House, said in a telephone interview from Ottawa that he will not support any demonstrations held in front of cultural centres or places of worship.

"We are opposed to the demonstrations except in front of consulates and embassies, and they will not be allowed. [I am speaking] for everyone in the Palestinian and Arab communities."

All of us, as Canadians, value the right of free association, Morgan said. "We also value the multicultural harmony of Canadian society. For that reason, it is important to express our political views in the right time and place, and to avoid targeting community centres that run programs for children and families.

"With passions as high as they are, the safety of all is of paramount concern at CJC. As we pray for peace in the Middle East, we must also reconfirm that inter-ethnic intimidation and violence has no place in Canada."

Grassroots rallies set for consulates this week

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — A couple of weeks ago, just after she'd heard about yet another suicide bombing in Jerusalem, Annette Hoffman felt at her wits end.

Overwhelmed by the terrible toll the bombings had taken on the people of Israel and uneasy about simply carrying on with her life as though nothing had changed, she decided to take action.

A real estate agent by profession, Hoffman got on the phone and began calling friends and colleagues. With the help of her childhood chum, Inna Zaslavsky, Hoffman organized a solidarity rally that is scheduled to take place at the Israeli Consulate, 180 Bloor West, on Friday April 25 at 11 a.m.

"We're just a bunch of average people who can't keep silent any more," Hoffman said.

Rachel Turkienicz tells a similar story. She felt "frustration at the alarming increased rate of overt anti-Semitic attacks in Europe."

Events in France were particularly disconcerting and despite the belated condemnation of attacks on Jews voiced by French political leadership, she felt public statements critical of Israel were fanning the flames of hatred aimed at Jews.

She too decided it was time to act and, starting with phone calls to her Torah study group, Turkienicz organized a series of evening vigils outside the Consulate General of France, 130 Bloor West. Neither a protest nor a rally, the vigils will demonstrate "we stand in support and solidarity with the Jews in France so they don't feel alone and think the world Jewish community is not supporting them."

A second aspect of the vigil is to show "we're supportive and heartened they [the government of France] has taken note of the problem," she said.

The vigils will be held Monday to Thursday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. beginning on April 24 with an option of adding lunchtime events if response warrants. Although news of the events spread initially by word of mouth, Turkienicz has enlisted the help of Canadian Jewish Congress, which has assisted in logistical matters and is helping to co-ordinate attendance to ensure a presence each evening.

Congress, too, has been concerned by events in France, which has seen more than 300 anti-Semitic incidents occur in the last month alone, including synagogue arson, cemetery vandalism and attacks on individuals.

Ontario Congress officials recently met with France's consul-general in Toronto, Hujues Goisbault, while a second Congress delegation met with the French consul in Moncton.

"We were met with considerable goodwill. [Goisbault] seemed personally insulted that it was happening in his country," said Simon Rosenblum, director of public policy for Congress' Ontario region.

The Middle East was also discussed, and Congress voiced concerns that France's policy was showing "a heavy tilt in favour of the Palestinians and less than a sincere concern and sympathy for what Israel needs to do to confront terror," he said.

Turkienicz said the vigil participants will ask the government of France to consider that "their voting record at the UN has not been helpful for the Jewish community."

The dinner party comments by a French diplomat that Israel was a "shitty little country" could "promote internal discord directed at Jews," she added.

Like Turkienicz, Hoffman felt she could no longer keep silent as world events unfolded.

"We want people to know the Jewish community is not going to be quiet and function like nothing is going on. Something is going on. We're too silent, Toronto has been too quiet," she said.

Hoffman said that while she is a novice at organizing public demonstrations, her ultimate goal is to present a "united Jewish nation" standing in solidarity with Israel. She believes the Jewish community is receptive to her idea.

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STATEMENT OF SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

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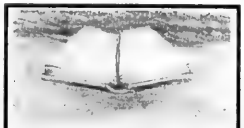
Jewish Life

Lag b'Omer - a taste of joy

By RABBI MORDECAI ZEITZ



In the period between Pesach and Shavuot, called the Omer, we count 49 days (seven weeks). For a period of 33 days, we are considered to be in a status of semi-mourning – we don't go to weddings, we don't listen to music and we don't groom ourselves normally. Then, in the midst of this counting, there comes a day of joy and celebration – Lag b'Omer – the 33rd day of the Omer. Semi-mourning practices are lifted and simchahs abound. On Mt. Meron in Israel, the traditional first haircuts are given to children amidst great celebration. Lag b'Omer is an oasis of celebration in the midst of mourning.

In a way, this is the special ingredient of Jewish continuity. Regardless of the pain and suffering in our lives, and the toll this pain has taken on the well-being of the State of Israel and its citizens, we still persist in living and celebrating life in as normal a fashion as possible. The Lag b'Omer factor is our ability to focus on the positive and not become overwhelmed by the negative. While we might grieve again tomorrow, today we find reason to live and to celebrate that precious gift of life.

But why must we be constantly subjected to such suffering and grief? What prevents the breaking out of Lag b'Omer and thus the eradication of pain? Is there something we are missing that allows us only a taste of joy rather than a full diet of simchah?

While there are many explanations, I believe the history of Lag b'Omer itself contains the answer. Tradition tells us of the plague that killed 24,000 of Rabbi Akiva's students. The reason for this terrible plight was the fact that they did not treat each other with respect. But on the 33rd day, the plague stopped and the rest of the students were spared.

Is it possible that there was a sudden love-in that lifted the plague? It's hard to imagine a 24-hour turnaround in human relations. It doesn't happen so quickly. These matters of human interaction and attitudes take time.

Lag b'Omer made them realize, as it does us, the way life can be and consequently, they began celebrating life rather than destroying it. Just stopping to realize the consequences of unbridled hate and prejudice, of creating barriers rather than bridges, of being exclusive rather than inclusive, should prompt us to seek a cure for the plague that engulfs us. That's the Lag b'Omer potential. That alone is worthy of celebration.

It's easy to put the blame elsewhere. But the cure has to start with us, which means we have to recognize the problem. Consider digging down deep into a mineshaft. Loads of dirt are brought to the surface, worthless except to the person who has the expert eye and recognizes a special quality in a particular chunk. The dirt is hosed off under tremendous pressure and a gem emerges. The artisan polishes it and it seems perfect. It seems fit for a king's crown. Yet the expert eye sees a flaw that others seem to have missed. With all the qualities, there is still something missing.

The Jewish people and the State of Israel have emerged as shining gems, after having been subjected to the tremendous pressures of anihilation throughout the ages. Have they not earned their rightful place? Is there still something missing that prevents a total Lag b'Omer life?

The singular flaw that remains is our lack of Jewish unity, of treating each other with respect. We have the right to disagree, but we must do so with reverance and a tolorance for a divergence of views. Not being able to achieve that unity prevents the brilliance of the gem we have to share with the world to shine through. Whether in North America or in Israel, the challenge of Lag b'Omer starts with us. It is the challenge to start a campaign of unity of spirit and purpose and respect amongst our families, friends and Jewish communities and to then expand this cycle of tolorance and mutual respect to the wider community of humankind.

Rabbi Zeitz is the spiritual leader of Congregation Tikvah in Montreal.

Mordecai's protest instructive in current climate

By ELLIOTT MALAMET

"These are the times that try men's souls," wrote Thomas Paine famously in the wake of the American Revolution. Jews are used to having not only our souls tested, but our bodies battered and our reputations sullied. We have more than endured; we have enriched the world with our often undesired survival.

In crisis, however, much is learned about how we think, what we value, what we fear. Buzzing around the state of siege that characterizes present-day Israel, a lot of instant expertise vultures swoop in with their opinions. But it is the long view that education relishes, and just such a perspective is offered to us in the texts that have informed the Jewish consciousness for thousands of years. One of the most eerily insightful of those sacred writings, Megillat Esther, is well worth consulting at moments like these.

At the opening of Chapter 4, Mordecai sits down at the gates of the king's palace, his clothes ripped, his face black with ashes. Unafraid of public ridicule, contemptuous of "security issues," this Diaspora Jew makes a very public spectacle of himself in the eyes of his none-too-sympathetic gentile neighbours. But Mordecai is neither impulsive nor irrational. He realizes that, in the wake of Haman's genocidal decree, and the numbness of his "perplexed" fellow Jews of Shushan, the time for dinner-party conversation and shul lectures is long past. It is time for blatant and very obvious gesturing and protest in front of the whole world.

Even the queen is slow to pick up on Mordecai's insight, and her first reaction is to send him some clothes, to "cover him up" in front of the CNN cameras and make him seem presentable.

But Mordecai offers this famous rejoinder: "Do not imagine in your heart that you, of all the Jews, will escape... For if you insist on remaining silent at this time, relief and deliverance will come to the Jews from elsewhere, but you and your father's house will perish."

Although these words have a pleasing bravado, they seem illogical. Shouldn't Esther, of all people, be the one in the least amount of danger, being married to the king and well-ensconced within a palace that knows not of her Jewishness?

The Israeli writer Yoram Hazoni points out beautifully just why Mordecai's words are not a bluff. If Esther remains unmoved as her innocent brethren are slaughtered, if she remains silent and even feeling hapless while her people are under attack, then "she will have finally and completely returned to that condition of powerless, spiritless bondage, which as a Jew she should have left behind in Egypt."

Esther's moment of truth is the one that Jews the world over – all of us – face right now: to choose, again in Hazony's words, between "the horror which has reared itself up before her, the numbing paralysis of it; and picking up a stick and swinging with all her might, with anything and everything she has ever had in her, to smash it."

Truth is not an opinion poll. One can be right even if all others disagree. In his essay, *Civil Disobedience*, Henry David Thoreau encourages that one's life be "a counter-friction to stop the machine. [Do not wait until you] constitute a majority of one... Even suppose blood should flow. Is there not a blood shed when the conscience is wounded? I see this blood flowing now."

Jewish Life

Yiddish radio project

By MARK MIETKIEWICZ

Thanks to a lucky coincidence followed by almost two decades of hard work, we now have the opportunity to eavesdrop on a lost world: America's Yiddish speaking community of the 1930s, '40s and '50s.

You can now listen to the Yiddish Radio Project on the World Wide Web – and it's an opportunity you shouldn't miss **[http://yiddishradioproject.org/]**. The Web site points out that Yiddish radio flourished from the 1930s:

"In New York alone, 23 stations broadcast dramas, variety programs, man-on-the-street interviews, music, commercials, even editorials in rhyme... There were the searing dramas of Nahum Stutchkoff, which grappled with the difficult reality of Jewish immigrant experience; the mediation program of Rabbi Samuel A. Rubin, who resolved disputes among Jews too poor or disempowered to turn to the civil courts; the advice show of C. Israel Lutsky, whom many listeners trusted more than their rabbi; and the talent shows that turned the microphone to anyone in the neighbourhood ..."

This incredible radio series is the product of years of painstaking work by Henry Sapoznik. In 1985, Sapoznik was the sound archivist at the Yiddish research institute YIVO. He attended a rummage sale and walked away with some old-fashioned discs with Yiddish labels that said, "WEVD... WBNX... Yiddish Melodies in Swing... Stuhmer's Pumpernickel Program... Life is Funny with Harry Hirschfield, sponsored by Edelstein's Tuxedo Brand Cheese." He put the first disc on the turntable and heard: "From atop the Loews State Theater Building, the B. Manischewitz Company, world's largest matzah bakers, happily presents Yiddish Melodies in Swing..."

Sapoznik realized the importance of his find. "It was simply unbelievable, unlike anything I'd ever heard. I felt like I was being transported back in time to the real, living moment of history. I was transfixed."

Sapoznik spent the next 17 years hunting down more discs, restoring their clarity and creating a marvelously entertaining radio documentary series. The series, which is divided into 10 segments, each running from 15 to 20 minutes, will be airing weekly until May 21 on National Public Radio in the United States. And you can listen in for free any time you'd like thanks to the Internet **[http://cityguide.lansingstatejournal.com/fe/things/020320_yiddishradio_6d.asp]**.

In the episode Yiddish Melodies in Swing, we hear how the song *Bey Mir Bist Du Schein* caused a sensation both inside and outside Yiddish circles. And in the segment on Yiddish radio commercials, we hear how crooner Seymour Rexite was a singing sensation for four decades.

Have you heard *Surrey with a Fringe on Top* sung in Yiddish? Now you can. There's also the bittersweet story of "Charles A. Levine and His Flying Machine." Levine became a hero to America's Jewish community when he became the first man to cross the Atlantic in an airplane – as a passenger! Unfortunately, fame didn't bring happiness for Levine. And then there was the matter of the FBI. But you'll have to listen in to find out more.

What is particularly wonderful about the Web site is that it has so many extras. There's an essay about Brooklyn Yiddish radio by Sapoznik, and you can hear audio snippets of the biggest singers who have recorded *Bey Mir Bist Du Schein*, as well as *The Star Spangled Banner* in Yiddish... and a jazzy version of *Dayeinu*.

A lovely twist is that Henry's mother, Pearl, is featured in some of the episodes, reminiscing about what it was like to tune in to Yiddish radio during its heyday. You can also hear her explain the meanings of some common Yiddish words such as *kibbitz*, *kvesch*, *luftmensch*, *shvitzer* and even *mamzer* **[http://www.npr.org/programs/atc/features/2002/yiddish/words.html]**.

Pearl Sapoznik never explains the word *kvell*. But you can certainly hear the pride in her voice whenever she mentions her son's name and his work in creating the Yiddish Radio Project. Don't miss this delightful "Web seite."

CORRECTION

In last week's column, "Buying Israeli on the Web," we printed incorrect information about shopping via the Internet. It should have read: "Any page asking for credit card or other private information should be 'secure'... should have a Web address that begins with **https://**." We apologize for the error.

Mark Mietkiewicz is a television producer in Toronto with an interest in the Internet. He can be reached at highway@rogers.com.

Author says we must speak out

Books
Bernard Baskin

***Principles of Spiritual Activism*, by Avi Weiss: KTAV Publishing House Inc., 2002, $18.95 (US).**

If activism on behalf of the Jewish people is alive and well, then much of the credit must go to Rabbi Avi Weiss, senior rabbi of the Hebrew Institute of Riverdale, N.Y., and national president of the Coalition for Jewish Concerns – Amcha.

Rabbi Weiss has organized and taken part in hundreds of demonstrations, hunger strikes and acts of non-violent civil disobedience. In addition to his unremitting efforts on behalf of Soviet Jews and his defence of the State of Israel, he has confronted and denounced such anti-Semites as David Duke and Louis Farrakhan.

He led the protest against the presence of a Catholic convent at the Auschwitz death camp and excoriated Mayor David Dinkins of New York City for police inaction when Jews were being attacked during the 1991 Crown Heights riots.

Why is activism necessary? How is it best achieved or undertaken? These are some of the basic questions the author deals with in this thoughtful and lively compilation of about 40 brief articles and essays written in recent years for a wide variety of Jewish newspapers and journals across the United States.

In discussing his protest in Poland at Auschwitz-Birkenau, Rabbi Weiss writes that it is possible that 50 years from now, all that will be left at these and other camps will be Christian symbols and houses of worship. People may then come to assume that the Holocaust was directed at Catholics, or that the Vatican courageously fought to protect Jews from their Nazi tormentors.

Yet "the truth is that not only did the Vatican largely fail to help Jews, but it actually assisted Nazis to flee to places of refuge after the war."

Rabbi Weiss maintains that the more frequently and loudly one speaks out for a beleaguered community, the more that community is protected. In 1987, when he led a group to Rome to protest the Vatican's embrace of Austrian president Kurt Waldheim, the Jewish community was "paralysed with fear." By the end of his visit, however, he had persuaded 500 Jews to accompany him in a protest march to Vatican Square. "I spoke to the group about Titus, who, after the destruction of the Second Temple, marched the Jews down the Tiber River as slaves to build the Coliseum. Today we marched as free Jews. We were not grovelling; we stood strong."

In the constant battle on behalf of Jewish rights, the author insists that rabbis and religious leaders must adopt a moratorium on antagonism directed at other Jewish groups. To do otherwise would be foolish and self-defeating in the face of unremitting hostility and never-ending problems.

Of the many articles Rabbi Weiss submitted to newspapers, only a few were refused publication. One that was suggested that the size of a financial donation ought not to be the sole criterion for Jewish community leadership. He wrote, "It is distressing when every board member of an organization is a high-income earner and is expected to contribute large amounts. Such boards by definition do not represent the people and do not provide a place for other talents that could be of good use. Only a balance of individuals can adequately represent the community and properly assess its needs."

Despite having had several heart attacks, the author remains an unreconstructed activist. The events of Sept. 11 underline his conviction that, in our time, every concerned and thinking Jew must become a spiritual activist. There is no other valid alternative.

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Canadians join sea of support in Washington

By ANNA MORGAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Close to 1,000 members of Toronto's Jewish community joined a crowd of more than 100,000 in Washington, D.C., last week in a ground swell of support for Israel.

UJA Federation of Greater Toronto chartered a plane and several buses to bring hundreds of people together with other Canadians who drove through the night to march to the U.S. Capitol building to hear politicians, writers and religious leaders speak to the We Stand With Israel Now and Forever rally.

Observant and secular Jews of all ages came to hear leaders speak out in unambiguous opposition to terrorism at what several speakers called the largest gathering in support of Israel ever held in the United States.

The event, which included participants from across the United States and Canada, was organized in less than a week by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and United Jewish Communities.

Toronto lawyer Barry Naiberg, who joined the sea of people with his daughter Robyn and her husband Jason Goldberg, said everybody just wanted to show their support of Israel and America. "They weren't there to make political statements," Naiberg said.

Given the anti-Semitic acts occurring all over the world, it is important to come together to show support for Israel and America – Israel's greatest friend right now, he said.

Sharpshooters were positioned atop the Capitol building and helicopters flew intermittently over the crowd during a hot day that caught many unprepared. More than 100 people were treated for heat exhaustion.

Julia Koshitzky (inset) paused for a moment to say kaddish for her mother. She was among the 1,000 Canadians who trekked down to Washington D.C. to join in the rally. Seen in photo on left (from left) Joseph Shier, Rabbi Moshe Shulman, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, Judy Shier and Ari Weisberg.

From left, Joseph Shier, Rabbi Moshe Shulman, Rabbi Reuven Tradburks, Judy Shier and Ari Weisberg.

But the crowd was vocal and excited during the event, which began with the singing of *Hatikvah* and the proclamation by Janet Parshall, representing the National Religious Broadcasters, that Christians and Jews will never vacillate in their support for Israel.

Natan Sharansky, Israel's minister of housing recalled the rally in December 1987 in Washington when Jews demonstrated in solidarity with Soviet Jewry.

"Jewish people are once again struggling with evil and it threatens all the free people around the world," Sharansky said, adding that "if we let the world know that the Jews of the Diaspora and the Jews of Israel are united, we will succeed."

Writer and Nobel Peace Prize laureate Eli Wiesel said that "terrorism knows no borders and therefore the opposition to terrorism must know no borders."

"We are here to let Israel and her soldiers know that they are not alone," Wiesel said.

The crowd booed U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz's comments about the suffering of the innocent Palestinians and an eventual Palestinian state, but cheered former New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani's affirmation that "we are all here… to support America, Israel and all those who oppose terrorism."

To chants of "Rudy, Rudy," Giuliani described Israel as "an oasis of democracy in the middle of authoritarian governments."

He reminded the crowd that after Sept. 11, "Israel stood with us shoulder to shoulder while others refused to condemn the violence.

"We remember that… and we are not going to cower or back down."

Giuliani said churches and mosques have never been treated as fairly as they are under Israeli rule and that Israel must be commended for its belief in the rule of law and its respect for human rights.

"Peace must be based on reality," Giuliani said. "Let us be clear. There is no moral equivalency between Israel and the Palestinian Authority."

But "there is a difference between a country that believes in democracy and one that harbours terrorism."

Former Israeli prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, who was recently appointed spokesperson for the Israeli government, thanked the American people for standing up for good over evil.

"No greater friend has ever been in the White House," Netanyahu said.

"Like America, Israel did not seek this war. It was forced upon us by barbarians, by an enemy that sends children to die and kill other children."

"Arafat is not a partner for peace," Netanyahu said.

The root cause of terrorism is not the deprivation of national civil rights, Netanyahu told the rally.

If that were the case, leaders such as Mahatma Ghandi and Martin Luther King would have resorted to terrorism in pursuit of their rights.

But they were democrats, not terrorists, Netanyahu said, adding that "the root cause of terrorism is totalitarianism.

"From Lenin to Stalin to Osama to Arafat – those that fight as terrorists rule as terrorists – whether in Afghanistan, Iranistan, Iraquistan or Arafatistan."

But people are no longer fooled by Arafat, Netanyahu said. "They know that Arafat is simply Osama with good public relations."

Netanyahu said the Washington rally sends a message to the anti-Semites of the world: "We are not afraid."

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Mideast Crisis: The Homefront

NDP's demotion of Robinson fails to impress

By RON CSILLAG
Staff Reporter

Not even a personal telephone call from New Democratic Party leader Alexa McDonough has convinced Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress (CJC), that the NDP has changed its "biased and simplistic" stance on the Middle East.

McDonough called Landy last Thursday to explain her decision to demote MP Svend Robinson for his controversial statements on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Robinson will remain as foreign affairs critic, but McDonough will assume responsibilities for the Middle East.

"She expressed a certain sense of regret not dissimilar to her [public] statements," Landy told *The CJN*, "but she did not back off [from her belief] that her party's Mideast position is balanced."

Landy said he's pleased McDonough "reached out" to the Jewish community, but "I don't believe it has changed our view of her party's position on the Middle East."

In a statement, CJC called McDonough's move a "half-measure" that doesn't go far enough to restore the NDP's credibility.

That credibility was shattered, say Jewish officials, with Robinson's widely-covered attempt earlier this month to visit Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat at his besieged Ramallah headquarters in a show of support. Television pictures showed a flak-jacketed Robinson arguing with an Israeli soldier at one checkpoint, and then getting pushed forcefully by a second soldier at another crossing.

On his return, Robinson said Israel was guilty of "torture and murder."

Robinson's "anti-Israel bias was a longstanding matter of public record, well before his recent cheap stunt in Ramallah," CJC stated. "His distinct lack of impartiality disqualifies him from such a sensitive position in the NDP shadow cabinet and he should have been stripped altogether of his role as foreign affairs critic. How can the NDP expect the Canadian public to take seriously a spokesperson on international policy who cannot comment on one of the most pressing issue in today's foreign relations?"

The issue came to a head last week following a scathing column in the *National Post* by former Ontario NDP premier Bob Rae, headlined Parting Company With the NDP. Rae criticized Robinson for taking sides in the Mideast dispute, saying that if the MP's trip to the West Bank had been "a solitary event, it might have been possible to brush it off as yet another escapade from a histrionic crank... Mr. Robinson's views are apparently now the official stand of the federal New Democratic Party. They are not mine."

The next day, McDonough issued a rebuttal, saying the NDP remains "committed to the right of Israel to exist within secure borders and the right of Palestinians to their homeland.

"Let me again state clearly the New Democratic Party will not be part of a critique of Israel that includes the promotion of the hatred of Jews.

"For us, there is no justification for suicide bombers targeting innocent civilians," she said. "Nor do we support the horrifying and counterproductive Israeli military action in the occupied territories."

The day after, McDonough announced she was demoting Robinson "because of a regrettable public perception that the NDP has abandoned its longstanding balanced position, which supports the right of Israel to exist within secure borders and the right of Palestinians to a homeland." However, she called Robinson a "conscientious" critic.

She also distanced herself from remarks she made recently that equated Israeli military action with terrorism, saying, "I think it is not helpful in this situation to talk in those terms."

Robinson, who is reportedly is planning a trip to Baghdad, said he won't be silenced.

While condemning suicide bombings, he told reporters he "will continue to condemn the appalling brutality and violence of the Israeli government in its military operations."

He blamed the media for misrepresenting his motives as anti-Semitic. "It is painful to me personally to hear these allegations. I have fought anti-Semitism and all forms of discrimination all my life and will continue to do so."

Later that day, he took part in an anti-Israel protest on Parliament Hill.

Robinson is "clearly out of sync with his leader and his party," said Joseph Wilder, national chair of the Canada-Israel Committee. "I can't imagine that a Canadian legislator can find values in common with a corrupt dictatorship."

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Toronto celebrates Yom Ha'atzmaut

Aliza Israel, Michael Bloom, Tara Bloom, Amir Dodick, Nadia Sapiro and Karin Salzman near Earl Bales Park.

Toronto Heschel School kids celebrate.

Manya Yuchtman, 97, at Earl Bales Park.

Israel's 54th birthday was celebrated around the city at schools, synagogues and receptions. The community came together for a march which began at the Bathurst Jewish Community Centre and ended at Earl Bales Park with music and dancing. According to organizers, there were about 15,000 participants at the UJA Federation and Israel Now corsortium-sponsored event.

Ontario Attorney General David Young and Thornhill MPP Tina Molinari at Israeli Consulate reception.

Marching to Earl Bales Park

Earl Bales Park celebrants.

Yael Matlow, Brenna Singer, Naomi and Orli Matlow and Gillian Singer at Earl Bales Park.

Robbie Daniels, Laura Charny and Ally Daniels at Holy Blossom festivities.

Gillian Horenfeldt and Ben Barth at Community Hebrew Academy Richmond Hill carnival.

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Sunday, April 28

THE ISRAELI PSYCHE

Prof. Moshe Kaveh, president, Bar-Ilan University, Tel Aviv, lectures on The Israeli Psyche Today, 7:30 p.m., Beth Tzedec Congregation. 415-781-3511.

ORAYNU SCHOOL

Oraynu Congregation for Humanistic Judaism Children's School open house. Find out about Sunday classes, bnei mitzvah and the curriculum focused on a secular humanistic perspective. 10:30 a.m. at St. Andrew's Junior High School, 131 Fenn Ave. RSVP 416-385-3910.

FROM OUT OF OUR PAST

The United Jewish People's Order and Mayworks Festival of Working People and the Arts present From Out of Our Past: A Peoples' History Cartoon Exhibit featuring the work of John Williams. Exhibit opening and reception, 4-6 p.m. at Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. RSVP 416-789-5502.

RAISING CHILDREN

The entertainment & cultural committee and Shaarei Shomayim Brotherhood present **Sol J. Goldstein,** child and adolescent psychiatrist, and educator **Ruhama Goldstein** speaking on A New Way of Raising Children: Parenting – How to Make It Work – Spare the Rod – Nurture the Child. 8 p.m. at the synagogue.

SCHOOL REUNION

If you lived in New Glasgow, St. Lin or Ste. Sophie in Quebec and attended the Little Old School House, a reunion is taking place 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Vichy Restaurant, 3500 Cote Vertu, St. Laurent. 416-466-9853.

Monday, April 29

TO MARK LAG B'OMER

Join Beth Radom for an evening bonfire at Earl Bales Park at 7:30 p.m. to mark Lag b'Omer with music, singing and dancing. Bring a lounge chair.

WINGATE BRANCH,

Wingate branch, Royal Canadian Legion, election meeting of officers for the new executive board is 7:30 p.m., Zionist Centre, 88 Marlee Ave. 416-782-5024.

THE FLAME WITHIN

Rekindling the Flame Within, lecture series by **Rabbi Michael Skobac** of Jews for Judaism, continues with Jews in the Lotus. 7:30 p.m., Shaar Shalom Synagogue, 2 Simonston Blvd. Thornhill. 905-889-4875.

GIANT RUMMAGE SALE

Good used clothing and household items in excellent condition. Tremendous bargains, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., Pride of Israel Synagogue, 59 Lissom Cres.

Tuesday, April 30

WORKSHOP FOR PARENTS

Shearim Hebrew Day School/Dr. Abraham Shore Academy workshop for parents is on Making Our Children Independent Learners, with educational consultant **Dori Levine**. 7:30 p.m. RSVP **Doris Wexler** 415-636-9568.

Continued on page 23

UJA Federation announces nominees

TORONTO – Alan Sandler, Nominations Committee Chair for UJA Federation of Greater Toronto, has announced the nominees for the Board of Directors and Individual Representatives to Council.

Elections will be held during UJA Federation's annual meeting on Tuesday, June 4, 2002 in the Conference Centre of the Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst Street at 8:00 a.m.

In accordance with the new by-laws, the governance consists of a Council, a Board of Directors and an Executive Committee. The Executive Committee will be elected by the Board of Directors from among the Directors. No nominations can be made from the floor during the annual meeting. However, any member of the Jewish community may be placed in nomination by complying with the following by-laws:

"Only members of the Federation who have made a financial commitment to the United Jewish Appeal in respect of the previous year, and are in good standing with the United Jewish Appeal, shall be eligible to serve as an individual or Group Representative on the Council.

"Any 20 Representatives may nominate any individual member of the Federation for election to the Board of Directors and the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair, provided that: (a) any one Individual Representative may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the Board of Directors; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the Federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of Council.

"Any seven members may nominate any individual member of the Federation for election to the Council provided that: (a) any one member may nominate not more than three nominees for election to the Council; (b) such nominations shall be in writing and accompanied by the written consent of the nominee; and (c) such nominations shall be delivered to the Federation at least 21 days before the annual meeting of Council."

Nominated for Chair of the Board is Ralph Shedletsky and Vice-Chair of the Board is Leslie Gales. Nominees for the Board of Directors include: Ronald Appleby, Brent Belzberg, Lesley Binstock Offman, Lawrence Bloomberg, Michael Bregman, Karen Chisvin, Peter Cohen, Peter Ekstein, David Engel, Judith Finer-Freedman, Ron Frisch, Marty Goldberg, Leo Goldhar, David Goldstein, Toddy Granovsky, Louis Greenbaum, Marshall Kesten, Warren Kimel, Igor Korenzvit, David Koschitzky, Julia Koschitzky, Howard Lichtman, Glennie Lindenberg, Baila Lubek, Jack Mintz, Barry Naiberg, Neil Nisker, Elliott Peranson, Morris Perlis, Allan Reitzes, Naomi Rose, Alan Sandler, Jacques Sayegh, Hinda Silber, Howard Sokolowski, Carole Sterling, Lawrence Tanenbaum, Cyrel Troster and Henry Wolfond.

The following Individual Representatives are to be elected for a two-year term 2002-2004 to the Federation Council: Sandra Atlin, Marlene Axmith, Arna Banack, Donna Bank, Tobie Bekhor, Arthur Benjamin, Marc Benjamin, Austin Beutel, David Wm. Brown, Robert Cherniak, Karen Chisvin, Jeffrey Cohen, Roz Davidson, Yale Drazin, Susan Fenwick, Bernard Fishbein, Abe Glowinsky, Alison Himel, Brian Goldberg, Jeffrey Goldfarb, Stephen Goldhar, Sheldon Goodman, Harry Gorman, Dr. Shawna Granovsky, Abraham J. Green, Judy Gwartz, Michael Halbert, Barbara Hennick, Genya Intrator, Cheryl Jackson, Lynn Kirshin, Leslie Klein, Henry Koschitzky, Ruth Ladovsky, Judy Libman, Thomas Lobel, Agi Mandel, Howard Meyer, Paul Morton, Neil Nisker, Gilbert Palter, David Peltz, Dr. Jill Reitman, Gerald Richler, Gerald Ross, Sheila Rother, Laurie Sheff, Jacques Singer, Michael Serruya, Marlene Sklar, Fran Sonshine, Pamela Medjuck Stein, Carole Sterling, Arthur Stern, Raymond Stone, Ken Tanenbaum, Mark Waldman, George Wasserstein, Dodi Weill and Cecille Zaifman.

In addition to the Individual Representatives listed, each Group Member of the Federation shall be entitled to two representatives on the Council (Group Representatives). Any Group Member which has membership in good standing in excess of 100 persons residing in the Greater Toronto Area shall be entitled to one additional Group Representative on the Council. "Group" means any charitable, educational, social, cultural, religious or recreational agency, organization or congregation, unincorporated or incorporated (without share capital) whose activities are carried out primarily in the Greater Toronto Area (including the main Greater Toronto Area branch or division of national organizations), having a Jewish membership of at least 25 persons, or such other agency or organization which may be accepted by the Directors.

The Canadian Jewish news
presents an important
Town Hall Meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.
The Barbara Frum Library, 20 Covington Road
on the subject of
Anti-Semitism on Campus: Helping our Students Cope
Keynote Speaker will be:
Michael Jankelowitz
Director, Campus Israel Affairs, Hillel and Representative of the Jewish Agency for Israel
The public is encouraged to attend. Light refreshments will be served.

What's New

Continued from page 22

Wednesday, May 1

EMOTIONAL HEALTH

Best-selling author **Rabbi Tzvi Freeman** speaks on The Mystical Keys to Emotional Health and Happiness 8-9:30 p.m. at the Jewish Russian Community Centre, 18 Rockford Rd. Sponsored by RJCC's Institute of Torah Study. Registration/information **Chana Weisberg** 416-222-7015.

Thursday, May 2

BONDS LUNCHEON

Women's Division of State of Israel Bonds Golda Meir Luncheon honours **Marvelle Koffler**. For information, **Raquel Benzacar-Savatti** 416-789-3351.

A JEWISH THANKSGIVING

MaTaN style of Torah learning in a shiur on Shavuot: A Jewish Thanksgiving, with educator **Shani Taragin**. Meet MaTaN's founder and educational director **Malka Bina**, recipient of Hadassah's 2002 Woman of Distinction Award. 8 p.m. at Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. Information 416-787-6752.

SENIORS' SAFETY

Seniors' Safety Symposium noon to 4 p.m. at Baycrest Centre, 2nd floor, Abe Posluns Auditorium, 3560 Bathurst St. Topics include fraud prevention, fire safety, and home and personal safety. 416-785-2500, ext. 2297.

And What Else Is New

JEWISH FOLK CHOIR

The Toronto Jewish Folk Choir concert highlighting the Yiddish songs of **Mordecai Gebirtig** with soprano **Claire Klein Osipov**, tenor **John Botten**, narrators **Sydney Perlmutter** and **David Abramowitz**, conductor **Esther Ghan Firestone** and pianist **Lina Zemelman**, Sunday, May 5, 3 p.m. at Havergal College. 416-489-7681 or 416-444-2332.

LECTURE SERIES

The Ancient World – Current Issues lectures by **Prof. Shaye J.D. Cohen**, visiting scholar at Beth Tzedec Congregation.

Thursday, May 2, 7:30 p.m. The Legacy of Judaism in Christianity.

Friday, May 3, Shabbat dinner (reserve) following 6:30 p.m. kabbalat Shabbat service, Brit Milah and Covenant: Where are the Women?

Saturday, May 4, service at 8:45 a.m. What Makes the Torah a Jewish Book? Shabbat luncheon follows (reserve), with Judaism: Theology or Legal System? Seudah shlishit 7:30 p.m.: The Dead Sea Scrolls.

Meal reservations by April 29. 416-781-3511.

NCSY CONVENTION

Join high school teens from across Canada at the annual National Conference of Synagogue Youth convention May 2-5 at the Delawana Inn. 905-761-6279, ext. 23.

TABLES OF DISTINCTION

Tables of Distinction, a chance to view 30 different decors created by notable experts in their fields, Monday, May 6, at the Sheraton Centre Toronto. Fund-raiser of the Women's Auxiliary of Baycrest Centre with proceeds going to a Rotman Research Institute Fellowship. Also includes a mystery auction, a Mother's Day boutique and café. 416-2500, ext. 2049.

JUDAISM AND HEALING

Toronto Jewish Healing Project full-day conference in Judaism and Healing, Wednesday, May 22. Topic is Job: Perseverance in the Face of Adversity. Keynote speaker, **Rabbi Reuven Bulka**. For information and registration materials, **Etta** 416-944-3359.

SOLEIL CHAPTER, JWI.

Soleil chapter, Jewish Women International, is calling all members, former members and guests to join in celebrating its 25th anniversary, Thursday, May 9, at 8 p.m. at Hava Nagila, 718 Centre St., Thornhill. Complete supper and festivities. **Marlene** 905-886-4347 or **Edith** 416-630-4193 before May 1.

MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

Adath Sholom Sisterhood Mother's Day Dinner, Tuesday, May 14, 6:30 p.m. Full-course dinner, lots of fun, including bingo. Call 416-635-0131 to reserve.

LEDBURY REUNION

Did you or anyone you know attend Ledbury Junior High School? A Ledbury school reunion is June 29, 2-6 p.m., 95 Falkirk St. Teachers and students, all years, are welcome. 1-877-859-3192.

HEBREW FOR KIDS

Beth Israel Hebrew classes for children held at Alexander Mackenzie High School, Richmond Hill, Sunday mornings. **Lillian**, 905-770-1082.

JF&CS WORKSHOPS

Jewish Family & Child Service workshop series at Lipa Green Building, 4600 Bathurst St. For information or to register, **Shawna Sidney**, 416-638-7800, ext. 215.

New Country – New Home: for Russian and Hebrew-speaking women who have been in Canada more than 2 years to discuss and deal with transitional issues, starting Monday, May 6, for 6 sessions, 9:30-11:30 a.m. To register, **Tanya Korobchevski** 416-638-7800, ext. 204.

Today's Woman: Making It Happen – learn additional skills and coping strategies, starting Tuesday, May 7, for 4 sessions, 7-9 p.m.

BAYCREST CHALLENGE

If you love to run or walk, come out to the Baycrest Challenge on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12. Point-to-point run/walk route from Baycrest Centre through scenic Earl Bales Park system. Events include 5K and 10K runs, 5K walk for families and all-new Mother and Child 1K Run. Family carnival at finish line. To register, 416-256-RUN.

CLUB FOR THE BLIND

The Hebrew Club for the Blind, established almost 50 years ago, provides social programs for visually impaired members. Club meets the first Monday of each month at Bathurst Jewish Community Centre. Club welcomes new members and volunteers of all ages. For membership, **George Kline** 416-633-3524. For general inquiries, **Ben Bauer**, co-ordinator, 905-731-7447.

HEBREW COURSES

Keren Hatarbut Institute of Hebrew Studies, 788 Marlee Ave., is taking registration for summer courses for adults, teenagers and preteens, in conversational Hebrew, all levels. Courses run Tuesday mornings May 21-Aug. 20; Wednesday mornings, May 22-Aug. 21; Thursday mornings and evenings May 23-Aug.22; Friday mornings May 24-Aug.23. **Joseph Klinger** 416-787-0197.

FOR SENIORS

Aluma Canadian Israeli Club meets 7 p.m. Thursday at 15 Hove St. (B'nai Brith Building). April 25, political lecture, **Gide Anavi.** For information, **Menachem Wallach** 905-731-7748 or **Malka Colla** 416-630-5771.

LZA Senior's theatre outing includes Stage West Dinner Theatre on June 26 to see *Joseph*. Call **Libby** 416-782-2059 or the office 416-630-9444. Senior's Cultural Club meets every Thursday at 10 a.m. at the Borochov Cultural Centre, 272 Codsell Ave.

Earl Bales Seniors' Club: Membership open for 2002; Spring shopping, Square One, May 2; Casino Rama May 1, 15, 29; Saturday dances 7:30 p.m. April 27, May 11, 25; Sunday dance with live band May 5, 19; Thousand Islands May 28-31. 416-395-7881.

BERNARD BETEL CENTRE

Bernard Betel Centre for Creative Living, 1003 Steeles Ave. W. 416-225-2112.

Bible Study with **Kolya Shimrat** begins Monday, April 29, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Register at first class.

Portraits by **Edith Altschuler,** Tuesday, April 30, 10-11:30 a.m. **Barbara Zigler**, ext. 134.

Thornhill Community Band, Tuesday, April 30, 7-8 p.m.

Israeli Club Etrog for Hebrew-speaking persons, meets 7 p.m. Tuesdays. April 30, Thornhill Band concert; May 7, movie. **Anna** ext. 110.

BATHURST JCC

Bathurst Jewish Community Centre, 4588 Bathurst St. 416-636-1880.

Sunday, April 28, Stars of the Century ballet gala at the Toronto Centre for the Arts. ext. 269 or 271. For tickets, call Ticketmaster 416-870-8000.

Opening May 12: New show at the Koffler Gallery. Regarding Landscape, organized by curator **Gregory Salzman**, represents a survey of contemporary landscape works by Canadian, American and European artists. On view currently at the Koffler Gallery, the Art Gallery of York University and the Museum of Contemporary Canadian Art. Show runs through to June 30. Call ext. 380.

Sunday, May 19, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Shavuot event at the Jewish Discovery Place Children's Museum. Make dairy treats, create spectacular flowers, sing along, learn about 7 kinds of fruit mentioned in the Torah. Ext. 456.

MILES S. NADAL JCC

Miles Nadal Jewish Community Centre, 750 Spadina Ave. 416-924-6211.

Lunch and Learn Thursday, April 25, at noon, with **Prof. Harold Troper**. Topic – None Is Too Many: Twenty Years Later. Co-sponsored by the Michael Bernstein Chapel of the Miles Nadal JCC.

Friday, April 26, 4:30-6 p.m. meet Toronto Jewish Film Festival director **Garry Beitel**. He discusses his acclaimed documentary *My Dear Clara* (Canada, 2001). Reception follows screening of the film at the Bloor Cinema as part of the Toronto Jewish Film Festival.

Vendors and volunteers are needed for Festival on Bloor, a celebration of the arts in the Annex. Sunday, June 9, noon to 6 p.m. 416-925-3755.

SINGLES EVENTS CAN BE FOUND ON PAGE 24

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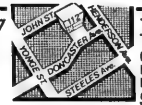

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For rates or to place an ad, please call
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The CJN encourages readers to direct any queries they may have on an upcoming event to the event's organizers.

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Mideast Crisis: The Homefront

Jews came out to pray and express their support for Israel at the rally in Ottawa last Sunday. [Vera Gillman photo]

Standing beside Israel from a distance

By SHIRA HONIG
CJN Staff

Despite the early hour, everyone on the bus was in high spirits. Beneath the calls to friends and snatches of laughter, there was a sense of anticipation.

Led Zeppelin's *The Immigrant Song* carried toward me from a few rows up. Some people read, some slept; others played cards. One girl munched on a muffin from her kosher catered lunch. For the next four hours, the energy of 55 people travelling from Toronto to Ottawa to attend last Sunday's rally for Israel on Parliament Hill was held in check.

Along the way, people expressed their reasons for participating in the event with sometimes grave, yet always hopeful and determined, remarks.

Joyce Sasson, a mother of three students who were also attending the rally, said we have to "join together, unite from the whole spectrum." She hoped, she said, to "finally present a voice to the Canadian government and to Canadian society at large that we are who we are and that we support Israel as Jews and as Canadians."

Avi Collins felt it was important to take his son Yoni, 7, to the event. "I believe it's my duty as an Israeli citizen and as a Jew – and as a Canadian – to show... Israelis that we stand beside them even from a distance."

Ruth and Albert Edelstein recalled the community gatherings in Toronto after World War II, before the Jewish state was established.

"We can remember as teenagers the rallies going to Maple Leaf Gardens or to Massey Hall, where the marches took place in support of trying to establish the state of Israel," Albert said, adding that today, he felt it was necessary to show his support for Israel, "rather than just sitting at home and hoping somebody else will do it...

"We have children and grandchildren on these buses," he said. "It's one way of showing these kids that it can cover all generations."

A.J. Goldberg, a student at Community Hebrew Academy of Toronto (CHAT), came to the rally, he said, "to show that Jews will always unite under pressure, to show that they're never going to give up... and still have a good time."

Sandy Benayon, a teacher at the same school, said she and the students attended because it was an important historical event.

"Our students learn a lot about Jewish history, but right now they're living it," she said.

As I stood among the tightly packed crowd – warm despite the cold air – listening to the throaty cheers of 20,000 people, watching a solitary, multi-coloured kite with an Israeli flag snake through the pale blue sky, I pondered that last remark.

Comment

Keynote speaker Rabbi Michael Melchior, Israel's deputy foreign minister, asked: "What is civilization? Civilization is the recognition that certain values – human life, truth, tolerance, love of parents for children – are sacrosanct, and that no goal or political objective can justify violating them."

In front of me, a young boy stood with his arms wrapped tightly around his mother. A lump rose in my throat.

It was an emotional *Hatikvah*. Afterward, Judith Hooper, who returned from Israel just a week before the rally, said to me, "[The situation there is] just the way we think it is, and a little worse.

"I think we came together as Jews to give ourselves a little courage. If it's no good in Israel, it won't be so *freilach* [happy] here. We're strong and we have to stay strong."

Miriam Anidjar added, "I think we've shown the world, not only Israel, that all the Jews across Canada think about [Israelis], care about them and are on their side."

United. Strong. Pained, yet determined to continue. Clichés, all. But during these historic times, the words carry new resonance. The majestic Peace Tower clock chimed its half-hour. This time, as many times in the past, these words have been taken to heart.

Thousands rally in nation's capital

Continued from page 1

Israel Ambassador Haim Divon thanked the crowd for its strong support. "When Israel was calling, this is the answer. You are here answering our call. You are here with us and behind us in our fight against terrorism," he said.

While acknowledging the many groups of Christian friends who joined the peaceful demonstration in solidarity with Israel, Levitz informed the crowd that numerous members of Parliament had been invited to attend, but had declined.

The lone MP in attendance was Joe Volpe, the representative from Toronto's Eglinton-Lawrence riding. While comparing the values of Parliament to those of the Jewish people, Volpe tried to assure the crowd that every member of Parliament would agree with him.

A child holds the Israeli flag. **[Vera Gillman photo]**

"There is not a member of Parliament in this place, your home, that would disagree for one moment that the people of Israel, the Jews of Canada and elsewhere, symbolize those values which we promote every day in the halls behind us," he said. "This is a time that Canada stands beside its friends. This is the time that Canada stands for Israel."

In response to Levitz' announcement that other MPs had been invited to attend, Volpe said, "[Mount Royal MP] Irwin Cotler speaks for all of us."

In his address, Cotler referred to Israel as "the drama and development of civilization itself, the first nation of humankind.

"Israel is not a CNN clip," he said.

"The Jewish people are the only people amongst the world who still inhabit the same land, pray to the same God, speak the same aboriginal language – Hebrew – and bear the same name, Israel, as we did 3,500 years ago," Cotler said.

With strong words, he noted that while most people think that we wouldn't have the State of Israel without the Holocaust, it's the other way around: if there had been a State of Israel, there wouldn't have been a Holocaust.

"There are many good people in this country, non-Jews as well as Jews, who believe that this is not just a Jewish cause but a just cause, for Israel asks for nothing else but the right to live in peace with its neighbours," he said.

Rev. James Christie, senior minister of Southminster United Church in Ottawa, came to pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

"I have come to weep for Israeli and Palestinian alike, all grandchildren of Adam and Eve," he said.

Rev. Christie came to the rally because his Jewish friends had asked him to, he said. "And so as a friend to my friends, I declare again… that the right of Israel to exist in peace and security is inviolable."

Keith Landy, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, spoke out against terrorism.

"Terrorism is not situational, terrorism is not divisible, terrorism is not a buffet where you pick and choose your targets," he said to strong applause. "You cannot say no to al-Qaeda and yes to Hamas, Hezbollah and the Al-Aqsa Brigades. You cannot say yes to cave-to-cave sweeps and no to house-to-house sweeps. You cannot say no to terrorism everywhere and yes to terrorism somewhere. So here is what I do say… Let no one sacrifice Israel's security on the altar of political expedience."

Landy expressed gratitude to the Canadian government for its efforts in Geneva where Foreign Minister Bill Graham pledged to Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister Rabbi Michael Melchior to fight the systemic anti-Israel bias of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

"My friends," Landy said, "we acknowledge that Israel has many supporters across all political lines in this noble edifice behind us. Our government, a true friend of Israel, has done much; it can do much more. The Canadian Alliance has also shown itself to be a dependable and principled friend of the State of Israel.

"We urge other political parties to speak out on behalf of Israel's right to exist as a Jewish State in the Middle East and to defend itself properly and effectively. And if you have the word 'democratic' in your party's name, do not forsake the only state in the entire Middle East that truly *is* democratic. In a region of repressive dictatorships and dynastic despotisms, Israel stands as a beacon of democracy with a system of laws and a culture of human rights that increasingly looks to our own Charter of Rights and Freedoms for inspiration."

Rabbi Melchior began his address with words of condolence from the government and people of Israel to the government and people of Canada for the deaths of four soldiers in Afghanistan, "for the terrible loss in the fight for democracy and decency."

He then assured the crowd that "the echoes of [your rallying] and your friendship… are reaching Jerusalem. The echoes are telling us that this war which has been forced upon us is a crucial war, not just for Israel but for civilization itself."

On the eve of his departure for Brussels to attend meetings of the World Jewish Congress, Rabbi Melchior said, "Today we see anti-Semitism spreading once again like a plague, with attacks throughout Europe raising painful spectres of the last century… Anti-Semitism, like terrorism, breeds in those places where there is no courage to confront it, and believe me, I am bringing this message with me to Brussels."

"This fight seems overwhelming," Rabbi Melchior concluded. "But our people, from its earliest days, have found ways of crossing such seas. I pray… we will cross this sea as well."

Rabbi Reuven Bulka, spiritual leader of Congregation Machzikei Hadas in Ottawa, arrived at the rally directly from Israel, where he was part of a solidarity mission made up of representatives from seven cities across Canada.

"I am able to tell you from being there for a few days that there is no question that we need Israel and Israel needs us," he said. "What we saw was a people who are resolute and determined in fighting terror but a people who are still infused with love and refuse to capitulate to hate."

The rally, which also included a request to support Israel from Harvey Wolfe, chair of the World Board of Trustees of Keren Hayesod/United Israel Appeal, concluded with the singing of *Hatikvah*.

Don't miss next week's issue of The CJN *for an interview with Rabbi Melchior. More rally photos can be found at www.cjnews.com.*

Rallies held in Montreal, Vancouver. See page 36.

Beth Jacob V'Anshe Drildz (BYAD) and
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Sunday April 28th, 2002

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9:00 a.m. **Registration**

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Research Fellow in Hematology Oncology at the Hospital for Sick Children • Ph.D. Candidate Jewish Medical Ethics, University of Toronto

12:15 p.m. – Lunch & Learn
Stem Cell Research: Medical Miracle and/or Moral Meltdown
RABBI EDWARD REICHMAN, M.D.
Attending Physician, Montefiore Medical Centre, N.Y. • Assistant Professor, Albert Einstein College of Medicine

2:00 p.m.
The Ethical Aftermath of 9/11: Risk Taking, Triage and DNA Evidence in Jewish Law
RABBI EDWARD REICHMAN, M.D.
AVRAHAM STEINBERG, M.D.

3:15 p.m.
Care, Consent and Capacity: The Treatment of Dementia
NATHAN HERRMANN, M.D., FRCP(C)
Chief of Geriatric Psychiatry, Sunnybrook and Women's College Sciences Centre • Associate Professor, Department of Psychiatry, University of Toronto
RESPONSE: Rabbi Edward Reichman, M.D.

8:00 p.m. EVENING LECTURE
The Role of Authority in Science & Medicine vs. Religion & Jewish Law
AVRAHAM STEINBERG, M.D.

Fees: Adults $36, Students $20, Physicians $50 *(with accreditation certificate)*
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Israeli youth talk about life in a conflict zone

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — On a recent visit to Toronto, two Israeli high school students and their teacher said their lives in Israel can be summed up by the words they once read on a banner.

"We cry and cry and cry, and then we pick ourselves up and continue," said Rivka Bejell, who together with her students, Hagit Krakow, 16, and Nir Kallawa, 17, were speaking to students at Vaughan Academy.

The three, who also spoke at CHAT and Havergal College, were here as guests of a group of congregants from Holy Blossom Temple who had visited their school, Lycee Municipal Masorati Alliance Israelite, while visiting Israel last December.

The aim of the Israelis' visit was to allow others to hear what it is like for youth to live in a conflict zone.

"Things happen daily; every day we bury at least four people. We don't talk about it every day, however. We try to get our lives back to normal," said Krakow.

The Passover massacre was not soldier against soldier, said Krakow. "It was soldiers against innocent civilians. In one second, everything changed. It just doesn't end."

Bejell said that the people killed at the seder were people without family. "They were getting together to try and enjoy the holiday. Why did the Palestinians choose these people to show their hate?"

Asked by a student in the Grade 11 20th century world history class if they support the policies of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Bejell replied, "Definitely. How can we let these things happen? We can't live in fear for our lives. We have to stop the terrorists. There is a price, but it has to be done."

The difference between the Palestinians and the Israelis, said Krakow, is that Israelis value human life. "When Israel goes into the territories, it's going in only to take away guns. Israeli soldiers risk their lives trying not to kill the innocent. When we go into refugee camps, we tell people not involved to get out. We go in to take terrorists and weapons."

Hallawa said the army rule is not to shoot unless it is in defence. "The value of life is the most important thing."

Meanwhile, he said, Palestinian children go to "summer camps" and learn to shoot guns and learn about hate. "They are indoctrinated with hate and they grow up with warped ideas of Jews and of Israel. It is very difficult to fight these lies. Things have to change from the top."

Asked if they are frustrated and upset about the world opinion about Israel, Krakow said, "Yes, we feel isolated and alone. We feel the people outside of Israel hate us. The media does not bring out the whole picture."

They handed out a sheet of photos of the 415 Israelis killed by terrorists in the past 18 months. "This is a situation that cannot be tolerated," said Bejell.

"We are working against hate which has not limits and does not value life. We have seen mothers at a Palestinian funeral talk about 'the cause.' It makes us flip," said Bejell.

Israeli teacher Rivka Bejell with her students, Nir Kallawa and Hagit Krakow, 16. [Carolyn Blackman photo]

In response to a question about how the conflict can be resolved, Krakow said the problem lies with the Palestinian leadership. "They don't let people have an opinion. Once the leadership changes, maybe things can change. As long as this leadership is in power, there is no solution."

Bejell said the events of Sept. 11 were an eye-opener to the world. "People discovered that terrorists can strike anywhere; the main issue is hate. The world has to fight terrorism and it has to be careful. It is not only Israel against the Palestinians. It is the free world against terrorism."

A student who had lived in Israel for several years said she did not know how they dealt with the constant stress of daily life in Israel.

"Living in the situation," said Krakow, "is easier than reading about it from far away. It is not a bad life; we are just going through a rough period. We love our life.

"Every day we have to be strong; we don't let fear control our lives. In order to keep sane, we have to live normal lives. We live in a different reality. We have to get used to a terrible situation.

"We are determined we will not run away. I believe Israel is the home of the Jews, and I want my children and my grandchildren to grow up there," she said.

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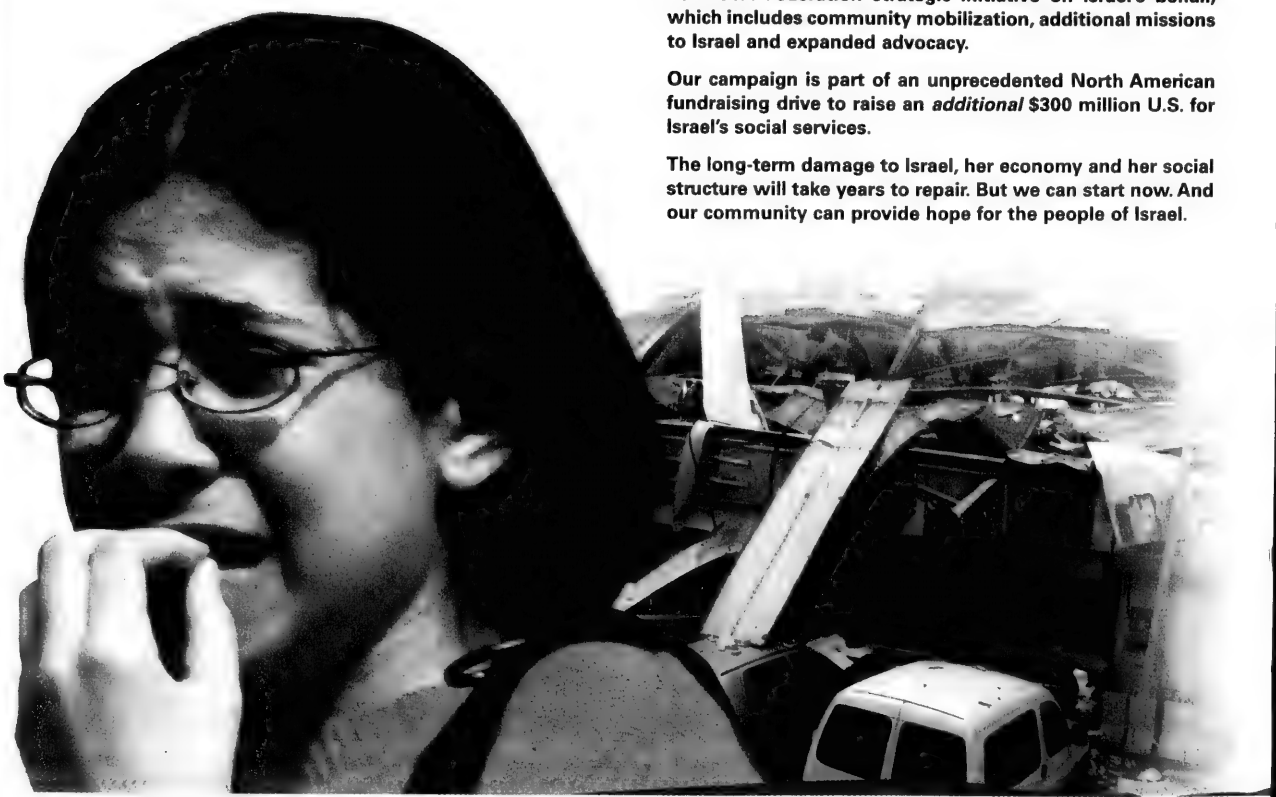

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McGill's new principal has strong ties to Israel

Her appointment breaks an important gender barrier

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Heather Munroe-Blum, McGill University's new principal, forged strong connections with Israeli universities while she was vice-president of the University of Toronto.

Munroe-Blum, whose appointment was officially announced last week, was hired by U of T in 1994 to take charge of research and international relations.

In this capacity, she strengthened U of T's academic ties with Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, the Weizmann Institute and Al Quds University in east Jerusalem.

A 51-year-old convert to Judaism, she was born in Montreal, raised in Toronto and attended high school in Hamilton.

The first woman to be named McGill's principal, Munroe-Blum is a psychiatric epidemiologist by profession. She began her career in psychiatric social work.

Heather Monroe-Blum

Munroe-Blum, whose husband is a Hollywood screenwriter, will leave her position at U of T in June.

She will then take extensive French lessons in the hope of becoming fluently bilingual.

"This is an opportunity I welcome," she said in an interview. She can already speak and read French.

Munroe-Blum, who has a teenage daughter, takes up her duties at McGill on Jan. 1, 2003.

She has a renewable five-year contract.

She will succeed Bernard Shapiro, who retires in December after an eight-year term.

The chair of McGill's board of governors, Robert Rabinovitch, said Munroe-Blum is a "creative, innovative [and] decisive" person.

Asked whether she was surprised by McGill's decision to select a female principal for the first time in the university's 181-year history, she replied, "I didn't think a lot about that, but I was delighted to be chosen."

Noting that her appointment breaks an important gender barrier, Munroe-Blum said, "It's wonderful that the leadership of public and private institutions in Canada is becoming more diversified. But there is a lot more room to go further in that."

During her vice-presidency at U of T, support for research doubled.

In 1999, she was one of the authors of a provincial government report, *Growing Ontario's Innovative System: The Strategic Role of University Research*.

As a psychiatric epidemiologist, she led investigations into the distribution, prevention, course and treatment of major psychiatric disorders.

She also served on the Prime Minister's Advisory Council on Science and Technology's Expert Panel on Canada's Role in International Science and Technology.

Munroe-Blum, who lived in Montreal until the age of three, is the daughter of Donald and Dorothy Munroe. Her mother is deceased. Her father is a retired salesman.

She attended high school in Hamilton, obtained a BA and a bachelor's of social work degree from McMaster University, a master's degree in social work from Wilfrid Laurier University and a PhD in epidemiology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Then she joined McMaster's faculty of health sciences.

Leonard, her husband, has written screenplays for such movies as *Meatballs*, *Stripes* and *Feds*.

She converted to Judaism when they were married in 1970.

"I've been Jewish much more of my life than not," she observed.

Their daughter, Sydney, is 16 and attends a private girls' school in Toronto.

Munroe-Blum has been actively involved in the Jewish community.

She is a member of the research committee of the Rotman Research Institute at the Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care and is on a committee on the redevelopment of the Jewish community in downtown Toronto.

She is also associated with the Canadian Society of the Weizmann Institute and the Canada-Israel Industrial Research & Development Foundation.

Her mother-in-law, Mary Blum Devor of Montreal, is a psychologist, who lives in Jerusalem part of the year.

Munroe-Blum's late father-in-law, Sidney, was a labour unionist, head of the Toronto Labour Committee and second national director of the Jewish Labour Committee in Montreal.

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Mazel tov Rhoda & Harvey Schleifer on your 50th anniversary. Love, Debbie, Jack, Adam, David, Rory, Cheryl, Allan, Samantha and Brandon.

Heidi & Paul announce the birth of their son Alexander Samuel Giannoulis, who was six months old on March 26. Mazel tov from your family.

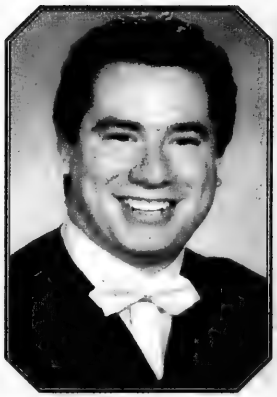
Mazel tov Adrienne & Charles on your 20th anniversary. Love from your children and grandchildren, Adam, Ken, Elana, Aaron and Jeremy.

Mazel tov to Sam & Lucy Ber on your 50th wedding anniversary from your children and grandchildren with all our love.

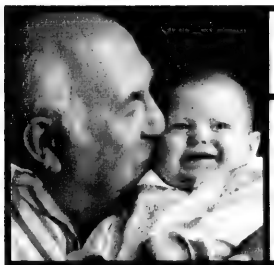
Happy 21st birthday Brian Baum, from your parents Shirley & Louis Baum, brothers David and Jeffrey and grandparents Genia & Kalman Baum.

Happy eighth birthday Samantha Roth. Love, Mom, Dad, Stanley and Avi.

Mazel tov Harry & Shirley Farbstein on your 60th wedding anniversary on April 5. We wish you continued health and happiness. Love, the Farbstein family.



Mazel tov to Jeffrey Baum on being called to the bar from your parents Shirley & Louis, brothers David and Brian and grandparents Genia & Kalman Baum.



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Glick kept composing despite illness

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Srul Irving Glick, composer-in-residence and choir director at Beth Tikvah Synagogue for the past 32 years, lost a lengthy battle with cancer last week at age 67, but his spirit lives on in his music.

At his funeral last week, approximately 900 people paid tribute to Glick, and three choirs – the Beth Tikvah Choir, the Toronto Children's Chorus and the Amadeus Choir – performed his works.

Glick won several awards for the Judaic component of his music, among them the J.I. Segal Award for his contribution to Jewish music in Canada and the Kavod Award of the Cantors Assembly of America. He received a Governor General's medal for his contribution to Canadian culture in 1993, and was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada in 1994.

Obituary

Under Glick's guidance, Beth Tikvah won two awards from the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism for the best musical program for a synagogue in North America.

Beth Tikvah's cantor Avraham Keller recalled being enriched by Glick's "capturing, heartwarming smile" and the twinkle in his eye. "Your giant soul has touched so many people and contributed in so many ways," he said. "Your music spoke so well for your neshamah, your soul."

As recently as a month ago, Glick was still composing, working on a piece about tikkun olam (healing the world), said Rabbi Roy Tanenbaum of Beth Tzedec Congregation, who co-officiated with Beth Tikvah's Rabbi Wayne Allen. "In his hospital room, he had his keyboard and his headphones… He was still hoping to be part of a major event in June and another in October."

Glick's work, which has been performed on at least five continents, involved the task of connecting people to God, said Rabbi Allen. "Srul was a God-intoxicated man, but he was not always that way. It took some disconnection from his roots to realize how important that was in his life. He ultimately found his way back."

He lived with a "total commitment of bringing God into his life and into the lives of others," said Rabbi Allen.

Born in Toronto, Sept. 8, 1934, Glick was one of the five children of Cantor David Glick and his wife Chaika. After completing two music degrees at the University of Toronto, he studied composition in Paris, France. A prolific composer, his work ran the gamut from klezmer to chamber music.

His compositions were infused with passion and mixed "the familiar melodies of our traditions with the grand struggle of reaching upward to God," said Rabbi Allen. Passion characterized Glick's life as well, said the rabbi. "He conducted with passion, he studied with passion, wrote with passion and he loved with passion."

After Glick returned to Toronto, he taught theory and composition at the Royal Conservatory of Music and at York University, and worked as a full-time music producer at the CBC from 1962 to 1986, with the exception of a sabbatical year spent in England and Israel.

In a January 2000 interview, Glick recalled his time at the CBC as very exciting. "We felt like we were building music in Canada…and that we were giving artists a chance to make their names and their careers," he told *The CJN* at the time.

Glick had "the gifts of depth of understanding and the power to see beyond the here," said his sister Elaine Carlebach. "Srul also received the gift of being the ultimate of whom he was meant to be," she said.

Carlebach recalled the captivating stories her brother told, his talent for painting, and his charm, sweetness, intensity and, sometimes, impatience. He brought out "the depth he knew we all had, always challenging until we shared the insight. Being with Srul was a constant feast. He was a true renaissance man."

Glick is survived by his wife Sara, children Julie, Paula and Stefan Glick; stepchildren Lisa Farun, Tobi Bongard and Daphna Wunch; grandson Matthew Bongard; brothers Earl, Norman, Danny, and his sister Elaine Carlebach.

Hazikaron service at Beth David

A standing-room only crowd joined the Consulate General of Israel in a Yom Hazikaron assembly held at Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Synagogue on April 15. Speakers included Meir Romem, Consul General of Israel; Zahavit Ben Hillel, Consul, State of Israel; and Rabbi Phillip Scheim of Beth David. After a moment of silence to begin the service, memorial candles were lit. Readings, poems songs and prayers commemorated the fallen soldiers. Green balloons were displayed at community Yom Ha'atzmaut celebrations in honour of the Israel Defence Forces. Seen is Romem with his wife, Rosalind.

JIAS works on UJA campaign, looks to own future

By FRANCES KRAFT
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Vickie Dubrovsky, national president-elect of Jewish Immigrant Aid Services (JIAS) and chair of JIAS Toronto, is a lot more confident about the future of JIAS Toronto than she was last fall.

Last October, a grass-roots group known as the Russian Jewish Initiative (RJI) convened a meeting to present an impassioned case that JIAS Toronto be allowed to continue as an independent agency. The group raised concerns about the possibility of JIAS being folded into another agency following the formation of a transition committee by UJA Federation of Greater Toronto and JIAS Toronto to examine immigrant services and ways of integrating the agency more closely into the federation system.

The transition committee was disbanded after it made its recommendations and was replaced by a new committee that will focus on delivery of services to immigrants in Toronto.

Although discussions are still ongoing and the details have yet to be completely worked out, Dubrovsky is confident that JIAS has a future here. But, she said in a recent interview, "it would be arrogant to think only of ourselves right now."

Dubrovsky was referring to JIAS' involvement in UJA Federation's Campaign 2003, which is being launched four months ahead of schedule due to the situation in Israel.

JIAS Toronto, which according to acting executive director Mila Voihanski deals with 12 to 18 new families a week in formal intake sessions, has not been involved in the campaign in the past.

The Toronto area is home to about 45,000 Russian-speaking immigrants, Dubrovsky noted. With its connection to that sector alone, JIAS is able to reach roughly one quarter of Toronto Jewry, she said. "Traditionally, that's not the part of the community that has been [actively raising funds]."

Also, she noted, newcomers may be financially unable to give and the concept of tzedakah, other than to family and friends, varies from one country to another.

Voihanski noted, however, that the situation in Israel has prompted a "tremendous number" of phone calls from members of the immigrant community asking how they can help. "They still associate JIAS with the Jewish community, regardless of how long they've been here," she said.

JIAS has instituted its own fund so that people can donate to the general campaign directly through its office. They have also been in contact with local Russian-language media to let people know how they can support Israel here.

"We want to come across to the immigrant community as working with the federation," said Voihanski.

"Which we are," added Dubrovsky.

In the meantime, JIAS Toronto continues to operate as a branch of JIAS Canada, although ever since last summer, the Toronto and Montreal branches have been funded by their respective local federations, while money for JIAS Canada, which serves other Canadian cities, is funneled through UIA Federations Canada.

Roughly half JIAS Toronto's $1-million budget comes from UJA Federation, while the rest is government funding.

JIAS Toronto's fiscal year ends June 30, by which time negotiations with UJA Federation are expected to be wrapped up.

"We do understand that there needs to be an update," Voihanski said, referring to the needs of today's immigrants, who generally have a better grasp of Western economy and society than their counterparts who came from the Soviet Union 20 or 30 years ago.

Other possibilities for change include becoming more proactive in creating partnerships with other community agencies, Voihanski said.

"Things are still very much taking shape," said Ed Segalowitz, vice-president, community planning and development for UJA Federation.

"I can't give you a picture today, but I'm very positive and hopeful that we do have and will continue to have good quality services," he said. A stand-alone agency is "an idea that we've embraced and that we're heading towards."

VISITING IN ISRAEL: Mark Waldman, one of the chairs of UJA Federation of Greater Toronto's new Jewish Venture Philanthropy Fund and new vice-chair of UJA's Major Gifts Division, recently participated in an emergency UJA leadership solidarity fly-in to Israel. While in Jerusalem, Waldman visited the Hadassah Hospital with Moti Mizrahi, a survivor of the March 9 attack at Moment Café. The 30-year-old Mizrahi suffered major injuries to his skull, a crushed and partially severed arm, and took shrapnel one centimetre from his aorta. Doctors call him a living miracle.

Rabbi and cantor show their solidarity

By CAROLYN BLACKMAN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Two special guests davened at Shaarei Shomayim Congregation on the eighth day of Passover.

Rabbi John Moscowitz and Cantor Benjamin Maissner of Holy Blossom Temple took the short hop up Bathurst Street in order to show their solidarity with other Jews.

"Now more than ever it is time for all Jews to stand shoulder to shoulder in support of Israel. What unifies us as Jews is far more important than what separates us," said Rabbi Moscowitz.

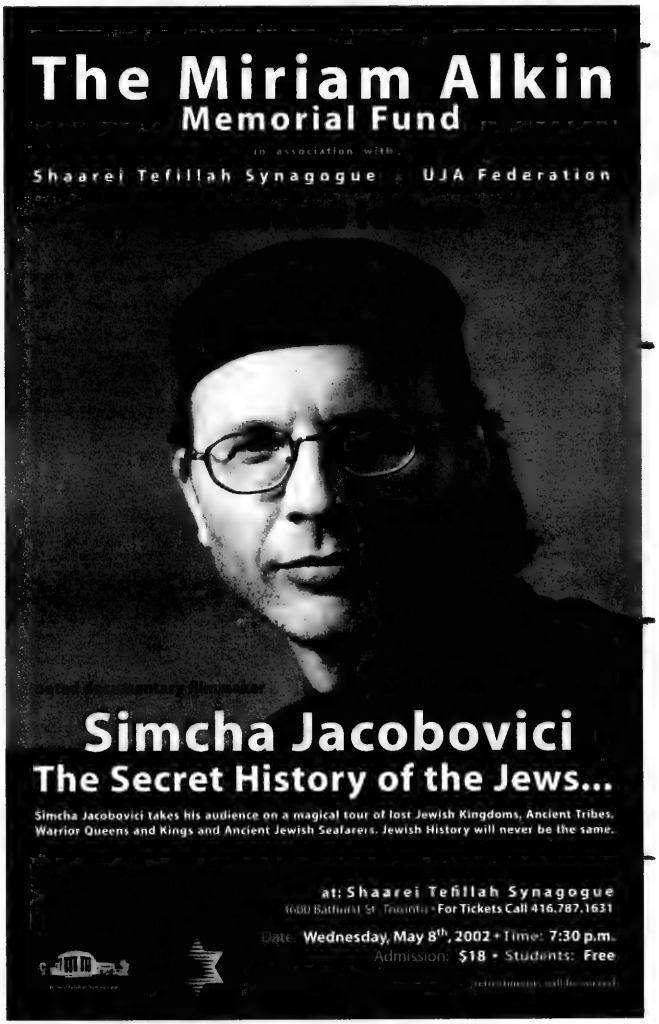
Rabbi Moshe Shulman, spiritual leader of Shaarei Shomayim, said the rabbi and cantor made an important statement by attending the services.

"Israel needs Diaspora Jews to stand together. It is necessary for the sake of the unity of Jewish people and for the centrality of Israel in our lives," he said.

Rabbi Shulman said they were warmly received by the congregants who were "touched by their presence in the synagogue."

Although there are usually a number of services going on at Shaarei Shomayim simultaneously, that day there was only one because he wanted everyone to say Yizkor together for the victims of terror in Israel, he said.

A list of victims was handed out, and all congregants were asked to stay and pray for "their extended family. It was that sentiment that made it particularly appropriate that Rabbi Moscowitz and Cantor Maissner be there," said Rabbi Shulman.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גידי קורן וחברים

Koren from left to right:

A line for those not reading Hebrew

-"You Israelis do not look good on TV these days with all these tanks" said to me a friend." -"So you prefere us the way we look good , with blown up buses, tears and death, fire and daily funerals? Well, then we prefer to look bad".

מה יהיה

מנהיגת הפלנגה הדמוקרטית החדשה של קנדה, אלקסה מקדונף קבעה שכנסיית ישראל לערים ערביות וחיפוש הטרוריסטים היא נרעה לפחות כמו התאבדויות הטרוריסטים. מדובר באשה מהוגנת, בעלת חינוך טוב שקובעת שאסור לישראלים יהודים לחנן על חייהם בלי להיחשב לפושעים. איך זה ייתכן? הרי לא שמענו את הנברת מגנה את הטרור עצמו, ואם כן ניתתה, לא הניעו הדברים לתודעת הקהל. מסקנה: כדי שהשמאל הליבראלי יזדהה עם יהודים- על היהודים להתפוצץ קודם, או להישלח לתאי גאזים. אין בכל זה דבר חדש שלא ידענו, אבל צריך להודות שכוו עוצמה של בורות, שטאח וגועניות כבר לא ראיט הרבה זמן.

בהפגנה מול הקונסוליה הישראלית בטורונטו נכחו יהודים ופלשתינאים, מאה חמישים סך הכל. זה לא הפריע לנברת רחל גורמן לאמר לכתב "טורונטו סטאר" ש "החשתתפות הזו מראה את הדאגה הגוברת לנוכח האלימות הישראלית בשטחים". אתם תבנתם את זה? כל יום מתפוצץ טרוריסט ולוקח איתו ישראלים ומה שמדאיג אשה יהודיה, יתכן אפילו ישראלית, זה האלימות של צה"ל. מאיפה מוצאים את האנשים האלה? אחד ברק הציע לפלשתינאים בחיים את כל מה שהם עושים עבורו טרור עכשיו. מה המסקנה? הטרור הוא כלי פוליטי של האיסלם הבינלאומי. חבל שהליבראלים לא מבינים את זה. כשזה יגיע אליהם, כשמחבל יתפוצץ כאן זה יהיה מאד מאוחר. בוש דווקא תבין את זה לא רע. אבל גם עליו יש לחצים אדירים.

החיים הזולים יפורם שימעוני

באחד מערבי הפיצוחים של ששי התפתח ויכוח קולני בין ישראלים שהרעיד את קליפות הנהרעים. הנושא היה כמובן המורח התיכון ומאבק הדמים בינינו לבין בני הדודים. בלהט חילוקת דעותיי לאמר שקשה מאד להתמודד נגד אויב שלא מתרגש יותר מידי ממחיר הדמים שמשלמים בניו ובנותיו, ולמרות דעות התנין שוזלות מעיני הראיס ומקורבין, מסקר הקורבנות במאבק לשחרור פלשתין לא מזיז שערה אחת מוקנו הדליל של חבוט הנערך. מיותר לציין שדעתי לא היתה מקובלת בלשון חמעטה על משתתפי השיחה, רובם משכילים אזרחי הארץ הקדושה. המתווכחים טענו שאין חבדל בין אם יהודיה לאם ערביה, וכו"ל לגבי האבות. וזה נשמע נהיא נכון ונוגע ללב. חבל רק שאותם צדקים לא ראיים כיצד כל יום מופיעים הורים נאים של מתאבדים ובראש מורם מספרים לצופים בעיקר ברשתות טלביזיה ערביות, איזה כבוד נפל בחלקם וכמה ישמחו להקריב למען המטרה את בניהם ובנותיהם הנהדרים, וכידוע לכל הורה כזה יש הרבה נהדרים. מיותר לציין שעל תמורה כספית עבור כל מתאבד אין איש מדבר. ואם זה לא מעיד על כמה זולים חיי אדם מה כן. דוגמא נהספת לאהבת החיים אצל בני חדודים הם הלוויות בתך אנו חוזים יום יום באדיבות סי אן אן. על המסך הקטן ראיים כיצד נשא הקורבן על כתפיים חסונות כאשר מסביבו ים אדם. ומסביב לארון בתוך החמון חזועם בולטים דעולי פנים חמושים בכפיה וקלצ'ניקוב יורים אש שוטפת לעבר השחקים כאילו מישהו רוצה לחטל לחקת יונים או סתם לנקב את העננים. מאחר וכבר תמיד העדפתי את שעורי החתעמלות על מדעים, הידע שלי בפיזיקה צנוע, אך את חוק ניוטון אני זוכר מתקופת חילמודים בענין כוח המשיכה של כדור הארץ. אז במלים אחרות אותם קלעים שנורו, אחרי שסיימו לנקב את העננים, חוזרים בשרקה חדה לכוון האדמה, ויש להניח שתוך כדי מאצם הם נתקלים בים האבלים ובאותה הזדמנות מנקבים גם כמה ראשים או איברים אחרים. או לאלה שעדיין לא השתכנעו שחיי אדם אצל הפלשתינאים לא נחשבים- חבל על זמנם וחבל גם על זמני.

באותו ענין

דברים שאמרה נולדה מאיר באותו ענין:

" יהיה שלום עם הערבים ברגע שהם יאהבו את ילדיהם יותר ממה שהם שונאים אותנו".

משהו טוב לפוף

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Cotler decries 'occupation' of his Montreal office

Continued from page 1

He said, "people chose not to exercise their right to speak and give expression to their grievance, but chose to enter under false pretenses, illegally occupy an MP's office, intimidate employees, and effectively assault the very values that underlie this free and democratic society."

Cotler said the group entered his office on the pretext that they were constituents looking for assistance. When it turned out they had come to protest Canadian foreign policy, Cotler said his staff agreed to talk to them.

"However, they rejected any discussion, announced that they wished to occupy the office, and told my staff to 'leave for your own security.'"

They had brought food and sleeping bags with them, indicating they were prepared for a long stay.

"My staff, consisting of a Québécoise, Irish-Canadian and Iranian-Canadian – a representative expression of a francophone and multicultural Quebec – insisted on remaining, saying that it was not for them to leave but for those who were occupying the office to do so."

The group refused and locked themselves in the boardroom. Police had to break down the door to remove them, but they reportedly did not resist arrest.

At the time of the incident, which lasted for about two hours, Cotler was delivering a statement on the Middle East in the House of Commons, which called for the withdrawal of the Israeli military from Palestinian towns, humanitarian aid to Palestinians, and eventually a Palestinian state, he said.

"But even if my statement had been less fair, this would not have countenanced the illegality committed. Those who occupied my office did not appear to care about my statements, or to peacefully discuss and protest Canadian foreign policy in the Middle East, which in yet another irony has been characterized by many Jews as being too critical of Israel," he said.

Second Cup issues apology

By JANICE ARNOLD
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — The Toronto-based head office of the Second Cup coffee chain issued a swift apology after an employee at one of its franchises in Montreal allegedly ordered three young women carrying Israeli flags out of the shop.

"Second Cup deeply regrets the incident that took place at the café at 1465 Crescent St... on April 17, 2002," the company said in a statement the following day.

"The actions of the individual in question in no way reflect Second Cup's operating philosophy. We do not tolerate negative comments or discrimination under any circumstances. We are investigating this incident further to ensure it never happens again and have reiterated our non-discrimination policy to all our cafés."

Alton McEwen, Second Cup CEO, told *The CJN* in a telephone interview from California that he had personally telephoned one of the three women, Lesley Sherman, 22, the day of the incident and issued a written apology to her and the others, Hila Sharabi, 24, and Zmira Shalva, 31.

News of the women's complaint circulated quickly after they e-mailed their version of events.

After participating in the April 17 Israel rally downtown, the three friends entered the Second Cup with small Israeli flags in their hands. One went toward the washroom but was allegedly told by the employee, whose name has not been released, that they would have to order first, said Sherman, a McGill University student.

The exchange then turned hostile, according to Sherman. "She said, 'We don't want you or 'that' in here, pointing to the flag. Then she said, 'You are all to blame for what is going on in the Middle East.'"

Sherman said she wants an apology from the employee as well, calling the incident "a blatant act of anti-Semitism," even though the woman did not use the word "Jews" or "Jewish."

McEwen told *The CJN* he could not comment at this time on what disciplinary action, if any, might be taken. He said the head office is reviewing the operations of this franchise.

"This is an unfortunate incident, something which we do not condone, but I think people should keep some perspective when we have so many great operators in Quebec," McEwen said.

Ottawa expresses solidarity with Israel

By DIANE KOVEN
Ottawa Correspondent

OTTAWA — Record numbers turned out two nights in a row for Yom Hazikaron and Yom Ha'atzmaut gatherings, to show their solidarity with Israel.

The community also donated over $25,000 to the emergency campaign for Israel during the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration.

The largest crowd ever, came to Congregation Machzikei Hadas for a Yom Hazikaron ceremony co-sponsored by the Embassy of Israel. Sombre readings interspersed with songs by Hillel Academy's students recalled those who have died defending Israel.

The memorial candle was lit by sisters Irit Beck and Noga Reiss, whose brother, Yoram, died on Jan. 11, 1972, while serving his country. Two sons of another brother are now serving in the Israel Defence Forces.

Gerry Levitz, the president of the Jewish Community Council of Ottawa, said we must honour the soldiers of Israel who have fought and died. "How can we honour them?" he asked. "One way is to celebrate what they have given us, the State of Israel, by participating in the Yom Ha'atzmaut celebration."

Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon began his remarks with these statistics: "19,181 young men and women gave their lives in the last 54 years to defend the State of Israel. In the last two weeks, two dozen joined this parade of the fallen," he said. "They fell and sacrificed their lives in the fight against terrorism. When will this parade of the fallen end?... When are we going to be accepted? In the meantime, we have no other choice but to fight and to weep over the 19,181 young, brave men and women."

The following night at the Soloway Jewish Community Centre, Divon told the audience of over 1,000, "You should all have your heads high, full of pride, and with your love, your devotion, your commitment and support, we shall continue enjoying a very flourishing and successful Medinat Yisrael."

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Advertising Feature

CHOOSING THE BEST START

When Rhonda Cartoon went looking for a preschool for her daughter Jesse, 3½, she sat in on classes at four different schools. Cartoon, a private investigator, carefully examined the building, playground, quality of teaching instruments and even the configuration of the washrooms. "I was looking for the best possible environment and I hoped it would be a Jewish school. Once I got to Associated, I stopped my search.

"At Associated I found a warm, loving and caring environment with established teachers," says Cartoon. "They're very respectful of 'little people issues.' They treat each child as an individual and their experience enables them to work with the whole group."

Bet Hayeled (Preschool) supervisors Surie Nagel and Susan Herberman say, "Our goal is to give each child a positive first experience in schooling, to be nurturing and warm, and to welcome every family into the school no matter what their background." To make sure these "little people" get the very latest in educational advances, their curriculum follows the Ontario Ministry of Education's preschool curriculum.

At the Bet Hayeled, children get their foundation in Jewish learning. Shabbat and *Chagim* (holidays) are celebrated with songs, class trips, *brachot* (blessings) and *tefillot* (prayers). Children are taught to appreciate the land and people of Israel and to understand the importance of *tzedakah* (charity).

Classrooms are divided into a variety of activity centres, such as writing, math, blocks, painting, water and sand, and dramatic play. Children are encouraged to move freely from centre to centre, learning how to make choices and become independent thinkers. Carefully structured play allows children to work together, take turns and respect the feelings of others.

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Hands-on experiments with bubbles, magnets and electricity instill a curiosity for the natural world. The Early Years Music Programme, which combines instruments, musical theory and creative movement, provides an introduction to Hebrew and English songs. By the end of Kindergarten, children will recognize letter shapes and sounds in both English and Hebrew.

Older students act as role models for the younger children. Once a week, the Reading Buddy programme pairs preschoolers with older students for one-on-one storytelling and arts and crafts.

For parents like Cartoon, food allergies are a real concern. It was a relief to find out that Associated is a **nut aware** school. " I had the most confidence in their ability to understand this serious allergy," she says.

Should a child exhibit behavioural or academic exceptionalities, he or she will be referred to a staff consultant. A speech and language consultant can determine if speech therapy is needed. If a child displays emotional difficulties, Jewish Family and Child Service is called upon to work with staff and parents.

Cartoon is convinced that by choosing Associated, she has chosen the best start for her daughter Jesse. " I want her first schooling experience to be positive. My first impressions left me with such a good feeling that I enrolled her right then and there," she says.

There are over 260 students in Nursery and Junior Kindergarten in twelve classes at the Posluns (Neptune) and Kamin (Atkinson) campuses. For more information on choosing the best start for your child, please call: 905-889-3998.

Coast to Coast

'Mega' rally held in Montreal

By DAVID LAZARUS
Staff Reporter

MONTREAL — In an outpouring of support for Israel, Montreal Jews last week gathered for a rally the likes of which the community has never experienced.

Young and old, hand in hand, in wheelchairs and Nikes and with voices raised in song and spirit, a crowd estimated at between 10,000 and 25,000 came to Phillips Square at noon April 17 and then marched west along René Lévesque Boulevard to Place du Canada to cheer Israel on its 54th birthday, listen to rousing speeches and affirm their solidarity with the Jewish State.

By any measure, it was the largest and most purely emotional outdoor show of solidarity with Israel ever put on by any Jewish community in Canadian history, said rally participant Rabbi Reuben Poupko.

"I just couldn't believe it," he told *The CJN*. "I thought there would be 7,000 or 8,000 people. But these numbers were just unbelievable."

Indeed, the two-hour rally under a brilliant, warm sun, seemed to come as a much-needed morale-booster for a Jewish community demoralized by suicide bombings and the frustration of seeing Israel cast around the world as the villain in its fight against terror.

"The State of Israel just has to survive," rally participant Phyllis Pinchuk said.

"We want Israel to know it is not alone," echoed Miriam Assouline-Rosenstein. "Most of my family lives there, and whatever we can do from far away, we want them to know we're here supporting them."

People draped themselves with huge Israeli flags, waved thousands of smaller flags, sang, danced and held placards in support of Israel and peace. A small plane flew over the throng, trailing the sign: "Stand tall for Israel."

At Place du Canada, the huge crowd repeatedly punctuated speakers' remarks with cheers and impromptu bursts of singing and applause. The event's main speaker, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Rabbi Michael Melchior, vowed that Jews will not be cowed by terror.

"We came here to say yes to peace, no to terror, no to death," said Israel Singer, executive director of the World Jewish Congress. "That is the message the Montreal Jewish community is sending to the world. We will be victorious!" As the crowd continued to roar, Rabbi Poupko defended the conduct of the IDF in its hunt for terrorists in the midst of worldwide condemnation.

"Their hearts are pure and their hands are clean," Rabbi Poupko said of the IDF. "The Jewish people and the Jewish State are here to stay."

Dignitaries at the rally included representatives from the federal and municipal governments and several ethnic organizations.

The appearance of several dozen pro-Palestinian and haredi anti-Zionist protesters at Phillips Square, the latter of whom wielded virulently anti-Israel signs and engaged in a few bitter verbal exchanges with some of the pro-Israel ralliers, threatened to tarnish the event.

However, their marginal presence did not appear to affect the overall spirit.

1,000 turn out in Vancouver

By LAUREN KRAMER
Special to The CJN

VANCOUVER — About 1,000 people rallied outside Beth Israel Synagogue on Sunday in support of Israel, demonstrating an outpouring of passion for the Jewish State.

The crowd that showed up near Oak Street was clearly unanimous in its support, carrying banners, waving Israeli flags and, as the rally ended, singing songs of peace.

The rally was organized by the Israel Action Committee for the Lower Mainland (IAC), a group that was founded a year ago and is now supported by the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and the Canada-Israel Committee.

"People sit at home and watch television and they see what's happening and they see the commentary, and at such times there's a real urge to get together as a community and communicate our solidarity with the people of Israel," said IAC co-chair Michael Elterman. "There's also an urge to send a message to our government that remaining a true friend at these times is very important to us as a community. The rally accomplished that."

"We were expecting a good turnout, but we were overwhelmed by the numbers and by the calibre of the crowd," said IAC co-chair Naomi Frankenburg.

"They came with banners and flags, full of enthusiasm, concern and love for the State of Israel. It was the biggest rally the Jewish community of Greater Vancouver has ever had, and I hope it sent a message of our desire for peace."

Speakers included Jonathan Berkowitz, who spoke on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, Rev. Ken Smith and Israeli Ambassador Haim Divon.

Divon told the community to remain "strong and tough," saying that the Israeli Defence Forces had no alternative but to fight against the terrorism of Palestinian suicide bombers.

Jordana Corenblum, youth director at Beth Israel, said she was impressed by the presence of young Jews and by the many Christians who turned up, carrying signs that read "Christians Support Israel."

But she added that she nevertheless felt helpless. "I wish there was something more proactive we could do than carry signs, rally, sing and dance."

A second rally in the city was held later the same day by a coalition of local Palestinian groups. They gathered outside a fund-raising dinner held by the Jewish National Fund (JNF), and according to Frankenburg, the group was "screaming for blood."

Hana Kawas, who spoke on behalf of the Canada-Palestine Support Network, was quoted as saying that the State of Israel and the JNF have for years planted the seeds of apartheid in the Middle East, by dispossessing native Palestinians and instituting discriminatory land laws.

"The contrast between the two rallies was very dramatic and impressive," Frankenburg said.

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Camp Ramah honours Hamilton couple

By JULIA KOLLEK
Hamilton Correspondent

HAMILTON — For the past 48 summers, Rabbi Israel Silverman and his wife Gloria have never gone away for a vacation.

Instead, they have devoted their time to generations of Camp Ramah campers and staff, particularly at camp in Utterson in the Muskoka region of Ontario.

But this summer will be different.

Rabbi Silverman, rabbi emeritus at Hamilton's Beth Jacob Synagogue, and his wife, a longtime community volunteer and former principal of the Beth Jacob Hebrew School, have decided to leave the Camp Ramah family. In recognition of their dedication, the camp will be honouring them with a lunch at the Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am synagogue in Toronto on April 28.

The Silvermans still plan to go up to camp for the first week this coming summer, "but our lives are different now," explained Gloria.

"We want to spend some time with our family, and we want to travel, as we've never been able to take time to do that before."

Ruth Slater, director of development for Camp Ramah in Toronto, said the Silvermans have left an indelible mark on camp life.

"Having that continuity is unique," Slater said. "They really personified the camp spirit that the best way to teach Judaism is to live it, and they helped to bring a strong Hamilton presence at the camp which has been an important part of our growth.

"People see them as parents to our campers. They certainly shaped my Ramah experience when I was young, and over the years they raised generations of campers there – including their own children and grandchildren."

As camp rabbi, Rabbi Silverman was involved with every realm of Jewish education at the camp, including supervising teaching, services, and overseeing kashrut.

Gloria trained counsellors and staff, and was especially involved in integrating Judaism into the camp's arts activities.

"Gloria brought the most amazing artists to Ramah. They always took the notion of art and were trained to take it into the Jewish context, which allowed campers to experience it this way. The children didn't just do pottery – they learned how to make everyday Judaica like mezuzot and challah boards," Slater said.

Sheldon Disenhouse, chair of Camp Ramah's board, recalled the impact the Silvermans had on him when he was a Ramah staff member 20 years ago.

"Rabbi Silverman guided me on religious issues, and Gloria was such a good sounding board. You knew that she had so much knowledge and experience behind her.

"I still remember taking a walk at camp with her and telling her some of the problems I was struggling with in my job there. The guidance she gave me as a teen have helped me in my role as lay leader at Ramah today," said Disenhouse.

Reflecting on what she has accomplished, Gloria said: "Camp Ramah models Jewish life, and it isn't just the children who learn. Our teen counsellors and adult teaching staff learn too. This includes a large number of Israelis, and being at Camp Ramah changed their approach to Judaism, because in Israel the tendency is to be either secular or religious.

"Camp Ramah helped them to see a different kind of Judaism that they had never experienced before, and many of them went back and joined Masorti, the Conservative movement in Israel, as a result," she said.

"I'm sure there will be a big hole in our lives when we leave Ramah, but we will still be in contact, and that is very important to us."

Proceeds from the luncheon will go toward expanding the camp's facilities. For details and to RSVP, contact the Camp Ramah office at 416-789-2193.

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Barghouti capture is sweep's biggest coup

BY NAOMI SEGAL
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

JERUSALEM — There were some who saw an element of poetic justice in Israel's capture of Palestinian militia leader Marwan Barghouti, on the eve of Israel's Remembrance Day for fallen soldiers.

Leader of the Fatah Party's Tanzim militia, Barghouti, 42, has become a symbol – and co-ordinating force – of the Palestinian intifadah against Israel, which has claimed the lives of 469 Israeli soldiers and civilians since it began in September 2000.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon vowed that Barghouti would be tried for involvement in the murder of Israelis. He said Barghouti's trial would "be one of the greatest achievements of Operation Defensive Wall," the Israeli military campaign against terrorists in Palestinian cities that was launched at the end of March following a month of increasingly deadly suicide attacks.

When Sharon learned of Barghouti's capture, the Israeli daily *Ma'ariv* reported, he told close associates that he would have preferred to receive Barghouti's ashes in an urn. The reference was to Israel's trial and conviction of Nazi Adolph Eichmann, who was tried and hung and whose ashes were then strewn outside Israel's territorial waters.

With Palestinian groups already threatening retaliation, however, other observers suggested that Israel's seizure of Barghouti and a subsequent trial would only strengthen his standing among Palestinians and bring more grief to Israel. The military wing of Hamas said Israel's arrest of Barghouti had turned Israeli leaders, including Sharon, into legitimate targets.

Some senior Israeli security officials reportedly believe that instead of being put on trial, Barghouti should be expelled.

About one thing there was no debate: The April 15 capture of Barghouti in his Ramallah apartment hideout was a coup for Israeli intelligence and security forces.

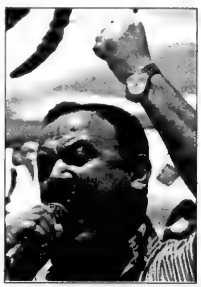
Barghouti went underground when Israeli troops invaded Ramallah at the beginning of Operation Defensive Wall on March 29. He was wanted by Israel, which claimed that Barghouti was closely involved in planning, directing and financing terrorist attacks.

At one point, Barghouti was believed to have taken cover with other wanted Palestinians in the Ramallah-area office of the Palestinians' West Bank security chief, Jibril Rajoub. When that group surrendered, however, Barghouti was not among them.

On April 15, Israeli security forces received a tip that Barghouti was hiding in a friend's apartment in the Ramallah neighbourhood of A-Tira, not far from Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's compound.

Israeli troops and special units quickly surrounded the building, calling on occupants to come out.

Most left of their free will. Following them, Barghouti's nephew Ahmed, a Tanzim militant also wanted for terrorist activity, surrendered.


Marwan Barghouti

Ahmed Barghouti told investigators that his uncle had fled when he suspected Israeli security forces were closing in. Another resident sent back to the building said Barghouti was not there.

Not believing the claims, members of a special unit entered the building. At the same time, troops outside spotted Barghouti by one of the building's windows, and Barghouti then gave himself up.

For months, even as it targeted other Palestinians who were organizing terrorist attacks, Israel declined to go after Barghouti because of his tremendous popular support.

As Shin Bet officials questioned Barghouti this week, he insisted he was a political figure and not a terrorist.

But the Israeli army described Barghouti as head of the Tanzim militia and founder of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade, a terrorist group that has carried out some of the most brutal attacks of recent months, killing scores of Israelis and wounding hundreds.

The head of Israeli army intelligence, Maj.-Gen. Aharon Ze'evi, said Barghouti was known to have directed, encouraged and financed terrorist activities, including the dispatch of suicide bombers.

Israeli security officials linked Barghouti to numerous attacks in which more than a dozen Israelis were killed, including a shooting attack at a bat mitzvah celebration in Hadera, a shooting spree on Jerusalem's Jaffa Road and a shooting at a Tel Aviv restaurant.

Israeli officials also want to examine Barghouti's relationship with Arafat to determine how much Arafat knew about Tanzim terrorist attacks and how involved in them he was.

Documents confiscated during the anti-terror campaign show that funds Barghouti received, including allocations authorized by Arafat, were used to finance attacks by West Bank terror cells, the army says.

Once considered a possible moderate successor to Arafat, Barghouti's views became more extreme in the intifadah. Heading an association of various groups involved in the uprising, Barghouti evolved into an outspoken advocate of armed struggle to achieve Palestinian aims.

According to *Ha'aretz*, it was Barghouti who recognized that Hamas and Islamic Jihad suicide bombings were gaining popularity even among secular Palestinians, and steered Tanzim toward the same methods.

"This is the intifadah of peace. I'm serious. This intifadah will lead to peace in the end," Barghouti was quoted as saying earlier this year. "We need to escalate the conflict. It will be hard. Many of us will be killed, but there is no choice. Every one of us is willing to sacrifice himself."

Barghouti also had no patience for Israel's refusal to negotiate under fire. Not only was violence compatible with peace talks, he told the *New York Times* several months ago, it was the best way to ensure that Israel accepted Palestinian demands at the bargaining table.

Barghouti first became politically active in the Fatah youth movement in the 1970s. Later, at Bir Zeit University in the West Bank, he served as head of the student council.

In the early 1980s Barghouti was arrested for terrorist activities and spent six years in Israeli jail, where he learned Hebrew. He was released in 1987 and deported to Jordan.

He remained politically active and ultimately joined Arafat and the PLO leadership in Tunis.

In 1994, in the wake of the Oslo accords, Barghouti returned to the West Bank and was elected to the Palestinian legislative council as a representative from the Ramallah district. But he was not a member of the Palestinian cabinet, and was critical of the Palestinian Authority's rampant corruption.

Barghouti built popular support by organizing regional meetings of Fatah branches in the West Bank. Under his leadership, Barghouti transformed the Tanzim in the intifadah from a kind of civil guard to a militia carrying out shooting and bombing attacks against Israelis.

At times, it also appeared that the Tanzim's violent agenda under Barghouti challenged Arafat's occasional calls for a ceasefire and demonstrated a power struggle between the two Palestinians.

But many Israelis believed that Arafat never was sincere when he called for ceasefires, and used the Tanzim to carry out terror attacks he could not sponsor directly.

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Applications must be received by May 3, 2002.

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Yom Ha'atzmaut in Jerusalem

By MORDECHAI BEN-DAT
Editor

Israel's official 54th Yom Ha'atzmaut (Independence Day) celebration began at sunset last Tuesday at Har Herzl in Jerusalem with the annual torch-lighting ceremony. More than 3,000 people attended.

The dramatic, colourful ceremony on the wooded western crest of Jerusalem was in marked contrast to the subdued celebrations throughout the rest of the country. Most public celebrations were scaled back; some municipalities even cancelled their celebrations altogether.

The evening was cool; a strong breeze blew hard from the west, and the clouds threatened rain. But the three-sided makeshift stands that faced the black basalt grave of Theodor Herzl were filled to capacity more than an hour before the ceremony began.

A fanfare of brass and bugle brought us all to attention. In crisp, synchronized formation, wearing their dark ceremonial uniforms, the Knesset Guard marched sprightly into the stadium from the east. Soldiers smartly carried the standards and colours of the various units of the armed forces. The crowd immediately joined the cadence of the march, clapping loudly and long in rhythmic beat to the music and the marchers' steps.

It was remarkable to see and to hear. It was also likely the only place on earth where an audience would become involved with the formality and austerity of a military tattoo. I cannot imagine, for example, the Queen's Rifles in Ottawa or the U.S. Marine Corps in Washington encouraging audience participation. Yet here in Jerusalem, the audience was as much a part of the ceremony as the bright, snappy display of flags and soldierly movement.

The feet-stomping, back-slapping, hand-clapping accompaniment by the audience redefined the procession. It was not a formal parade of soldiers in ceremonial uniforms; it was rather a homey, entertaining, "full-of-nachas" party by and for the children soldiers.

The Speaker of the Knesset, Avraham Burg, delivered a strong, impassioned message to the assembly. As every other public person had done that day in the their respective ceremonies, he made reference to the "situation."

"This year's celebration," he began, "is touched by sadness and anxiety." But he soon soared with poetic force when he promised the audience that "we will win this war because we cherish life above all. And in the struggle with those who revile life, we, who choose to live, shall always win the day."

At the end of his speech, Burg lit the central beacon from which the other twelve large torches received their flame. As soon as the central beacon was lit, the stadium erupted into cheering and more rhythmic applause. It was a cathartic moment for a people that was just finished marking Yom Hazikaron and now moving on to Yom Ha'atzmaut, "emoting" through *yagon to simchah*, from sorrow to happiness.

The celebration had now begun.

The theme of this year's torch-lighting ceremony was Children and Youth: Our Future and Our Strength. Twelve torches, representing the idealized unity of the twelve tribes of Israel, were lit, each by a different child.

The young torch-lighters represented the wide range of Israeli society: observant, non-observant; city-dwellers, kibbutznikim; newly-arrived, sabra; physically challenged, physically whole; Jewish, Muslim. One of the children was the son of a soldier killed this year during fighting. Another was herself the victim of a terrorist attack. Each torch-lighter told a little bit of themselves and of the values or the people on whose behalf the torch was being dedicated.

Each also pledged to the assembly that they were lighting the torch and affirming the values that each torch embodied *l'tifferet medinat Yisrael*, "for the glorification of the State of Israel."

As the final torch was lit, an enormous surge of emotion rose from the audience. Older people shed tears; younger ones whooped, cheered and called out with obvious delight.

The program ended with a display of fireworks and, in typical Israeli fashion, an invitation to the entire assembly to join with more than 100 youngsters who were suddenly swirling and twirling and leading folk dances on the floor of the makeshift theatre.

The audience only reluctantly disbanded later, walking slowly towards the street, trying to hold on as long as possible to the sense of celebration that has evaded them and their fellow countrymen for so long.

Earlier in the day there had been another reason to celebrate. It was announced that despite the "situation," 212 immigrants from Argentina had arrived at Ben Gurion Airport to start a new life. More than 500 more were expected by the end of the week.

They, too, would one day be able to pledge their commitment *l'tifferet medinat Yisrael*.

The writer was in Israel last week as a guest of the Ministry of Tourism and El Al Israel Airlines.

A SPECIAL GIFT: Two special immigrant flights from Argentina arrived in Israel on Yom Ha'atzmaut to mark 54 years of aliyah. Since the establishment of the State of Israel, 2,902,200 immigrants have arrived in the country. The immigrants who arrived on Independence Day will be absorbed in Jewish Agency absorption centres and in towns and cities throughout Israel. Jewish Agency chair Sallai Meridor said this group is the most important gift Israeli society received for Independence Day and that aliyah contributes to Israel's national strength.

The Week in Israel

April 15

• The European Union (EU) will not convene to review its trade agreement with Israel, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said. In a conversation with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Straw said Israel would not face EU economic sanctions because of its military operation in the West Bank, as several EU states had threatened in recent days.

April 16

• The UN Food and Agriculture Organization says hunger and malnutrition are on the rise in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "All available information points to a major catastrophe under way," the Rome-based agency said in a "special alert" highly critical of Israel.

April 17

• Israeli troops arrested 20 Jews who entered Joseph's Tomb in Nablus in defiance of army orders. Israel Radio said dozens of others were also arrested en route to the site. The compound has been under Palestinian control since it was seized by armed Palestinians in the fall of 2000.

April 18

• Israeli forces apprehended Hamas operative Husam Badran, a leader of the Hamas military wing in Nablus. Badran was detained and three other Palestinians were killed in an Israeli army operation in a village north of Nablus.

April 19

• Saudi Arabia's foreign minister blamed Israel for the failure of the U.S. peace mission. Prince Saud al-Faisal said Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's policies blocked attempts to stop the violence, ruining the mission by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell to secure a Middle East cease-fire.

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Germany suspects terrorism in Tunisian shul blast

By TOBY AXELROD
Jewish Telegraphic Agency

BERLIN — Echoing the suspicions of Israeli officials, Germany has taken the lead in investigating whether a truck explosion at a Tunisian synagogue was a terrorist attack.

On April 15, German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said the April 11 explosion on the Tunisian island of Djerba may have been deliberate.

"There are indications of an attack, but no final certainty," Schroeder said. The possibility reinforced the need to keep up the fight against global terror, he added.

That same day, German police arrested a man suspected of involvement in the explosion. The suspect was taken into custody in the western German city of Duisburg following a tip about a phone call made before the attack.

Fifteen people, 10 of them German tourists, were killed after a truck filled with natural gas reportedly crashed into the historic Ghriba Synagogue.

Tunisian officials sought to downplay the incident as a routine traffic accident, but Israel's foreign ministry said almost immediately that it was a terror attack.

A foreign ministry source said Israel had no hard proof, but noted that the synagogue is in an isolated place.

"To get there, you have to want to get there," the source said.

Tunisia ordered the wall that the truck crashed into – which was a likely source of evidence for an investigation – painted over within hours.

General view of the damage to the synagogue in Djerba. [Reuters/RSN photo]

Witnesses also voiced suspicions that the incident at the synagogue was intentional and was linked to ongoing Israeli-Palestinian violence, which has sparked attacks on Jewish interests across Europe.

The blue-and-white synagogue, located in the middle of an olive grove, is built on the foundations of one of the oldest synagogues in Africa and is a site of pilgrimage for Jews.

According to tradition, Jews first came to Djerba in biblical times, bringing a stone from the ancient temple of Jerusalem that is kept in a grotto at the synagogue.

An estimated 3,000 Jews live in Tunisia, about 1,000 of them on the island of Djerba. It is one of the oldest Jewish communities in the world, dating back more than 2,000 years.

Tunisia is a popular European vacation destination, and its Jewish sites attract many German visitors. The German foreign ministry said last week it was not putting out a travel advisory at this time.

Tunisian officials and local Jewish community leaders have been reluctant to see the explosion as anything but an accident.

At stake are both Tunisia's reputation as a tourist haven and as a place where Jews and Muslims live together peacefully.

But even the Tunisian government conceded last week that it was pursuing leads beyond its original "tragic accident" theory.

German authorities, meanwhile, are interviewing survivors of the explosion in hopes of finding clues.

The blast occurred as a busload of German tourists was visiting the synagogue. Also killed were a French citizen and four Tunisians, one of them a tour guide.

Tunisian officials initially said the driver of the truck was among the dead and that his body had been burned beyond recognition, but this was countered by witness accounts.

Survivor Helmut Eckert of Berlin, who was interviewed in Germany by the Federal Crime Bureau, said he had seen a small delivery truck parked in front of the entrance to the synagogue.

"A man got out, closed the doors. He walked away quickly toward the neighboring houses. Seconds later, the truck exploded. That must have been the perpetrator," Eckert told reporters.

Siegfried Muller, an eyewitness from Hamburg, said it definitely was not an accident. He said he saw the truck parked at the entrance before the tourist bus arrived.

German witnesses described the driver of the truck as about 30 years old, with short hair, wearing blue overalls with splashes of paint on them.

German journalists appear convinced that this was a terror attack.

Some reports discussed how the incident could bring the issue of terrorism home to Germans.

Other reports suggested that Germany should play a larger role in trying to resolve the Middle East crisis, because of the possibility of increased violence in Europe.

Still others assessed the possible damage to Tunisia's tourist industry.

The *Berliner Morgenpost* said the event's effect on tourism is secondary compared to its potential damage to the relationship between Tunisia's Jews and Muslims.

The *Frankfurter Rundschau* reported that Jews, Muslims and political leaders in Tunisia are desperate to believe this was not an anti-Semitic attack.

The explosion shocked people in Tunisia, the paper reported. A day after the explosion, the paper said, Muslims and Jews were trying to comfort one another in front of the synagogue.

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The Baycrest Centre Foundation

Canada's war crimes efforts rate a 'B'

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — If the investigation and prosecution of Nazi war criminals were a subject in school, Canada's performance would rate no higher than a B, according to a report release recently by the Simon Wiesenthal Center in Jerusalem.

In the period Jan.1, 2001 to March 31, 2002, Canada stripped three Nazi collaborators of their citizenship and continued to investigate 78 others, states Efraim Zuroff, author of the Wiesenthal Center's *Worldwide Investigation and Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals, An Annual Status Report*.

Although legal steps against war criminals is hardly a school subject, the report uses an A-to-F ranking system to evaluate national efforts and results achieved during the period in question.

Canada, along with Germany and Poland, fell in category B, "those countries which have taken the necessary measures to enable the proper investigation and prosecution of Nazi war criminals and have registered at least a moderate degree of success."

Wasyl Odynsky, Helmut Oberlander and Michael Baumgartner were all stripped of their citizenship in 2001, while Canada began proceedings to denaturalize Michael Seifert, a Vancouver resident. Seifert was convicted of war crimes in absentia by an Italian court.

Joining Canada with scores of B were Germany, which convicted two SS men of murder and Poland, which sentenced Henryk Mania, a guard at the Chelmno death camp, to eight years in jail for the crime of genocide.

The only country to rate an A was the United States, which either denaturalized or deported six nazi collaborators and which maintains 175 ongoing investigations.

Altogether, 454 investigations of Nazi war criminals are proceeding in 11 countries.

Four countries shared the dubious distinction of receiving an F, led by Syria, which has consistently refused to prosecute Alois Brunner or turn him over to any of the five European countries which have requested his extradition.

Brunner, who lives in Damascus, "bears direct responsibility for the deportation to Nazi death camps of 128,500 Jews from Austria, Greece, France and Slovakia," the report states.

Sweden, Venezuela and Colombia join Syria on the F list. A statute of limitations on murder prevents Sweden from doing anything about the many suspected war criminals who have found refuge there, while the two South American nations have refused to even respond to queries about suspects.

Despite the disappointments from some quarters, Zuroff notes that "efforts to prosecute Nazi war criminals continue and have even considerably increased in recent years."

Zuroff states that the Wiesenthal Center has lobbied reluctant nations to act against suspected war criminals and that action only results when "political will" exists alongside a receptive political climate and the existence of good evidence.

"The period under review was marked by an unusually high number of convictions obtained from different countries... Not surprisingly, with one exception, every court victory achieved in these cases was won in countries which have established special units or agencies dedicated to this specific objective."

Zuroff states that many of the court cases took place in "countries of refuge" like Canada and the United States, where suspects fled after the war.

Great Britain and Australia, meanwhile, achieved "dismal results," reflecting "their longstanding failure to effectively deal with the presence in their countries of numerous Nazi collaborators."

Under pressure from the Wiesenthal Center and other sources, Zuroff said the three post-Communist Baltic states have taken modest steps against local suspects, but too often it is token action against elderly men too frail to stand trial.

Zuroff was particularly critical of Austria, where "there has been absolutely no progress made and the country remains one of the least likely to prosecute any of its many unprosecuted Holocaust perpetrators."

European Jews to set up center to fight anti-Semitism

BY SHLOMO SHAMIR
Ha'aretz Daily Newspaper Ltd

JERUSALEM — European Jews are to set up a special centre to respond to anti-Semitic attacks and anti-Israel incitement, during an emergency meeting of the World Jewish Congress convening in Brussels this week.

The proposal calls for a European Jewish Information Centre modelled on the pro-Israel lobby AIPAC, that would respond in an organized and focused manner to outbreaks of anti-Semitism in Europe.

It is expected to win approval at the congress, which would allocate tens of thousands of Euros to the project.

The new centre is also expected to respond to what it sees as unfair media coverage of Israel and to provide background information on the Israeli-Arab conflict. It also plans to operate a Web site with updated information on current events.

Some 1,000 participants from 25 countries are expected to attend the conference, where they will be presented with a working paper on setting up such a lobby, including budgets, means of operation and the new body's mission.

The working paper states that the establishment of such a lobby is necessary due to rising threats against Jews, particularly in Western Europe, coupled with the worsening security situation in Israel from terrorism.

Meanwhile, three Jewish lawyers in two southern French towns became the latest victims of a spate of anti-Semitic attacks in France when they received letters threatening to "gas" them, police sources said yesterday.

"Dirty Jew. Because of [Israeli Prime Minister Ariel] Sharon and your racist intentions, you will be gassed on April 20," read one of the letters received on Friday by a lawyer in Montpellier and another one in Avignon.

The date cited in the letter is an apparent reference to the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday. Montpellier police are investigating the incident.

A police source said about a dozen Jewish lawyers in the Midi region in southern France had received anti-Semitic letters.

French police are now counting 10 to 12 anti-Semitic attacks daily, even in traditionally peaceful ethnic melting pots like the Mediterranean port city of Marseilles.

The Simon Wiesenthal Centre, which monitors global neo-Nazi activity, last week issued an advisory to its members urging "extreme caution" when traveling to France and Belgium.

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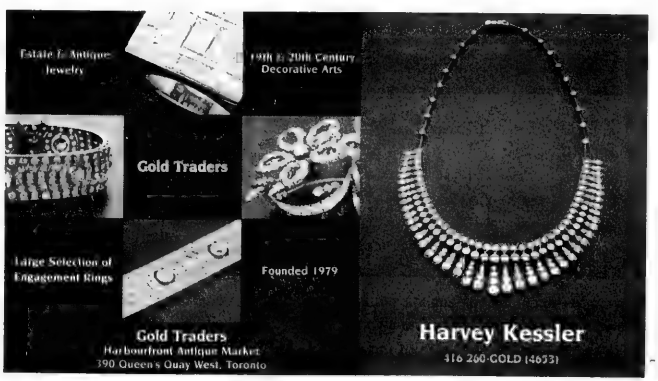

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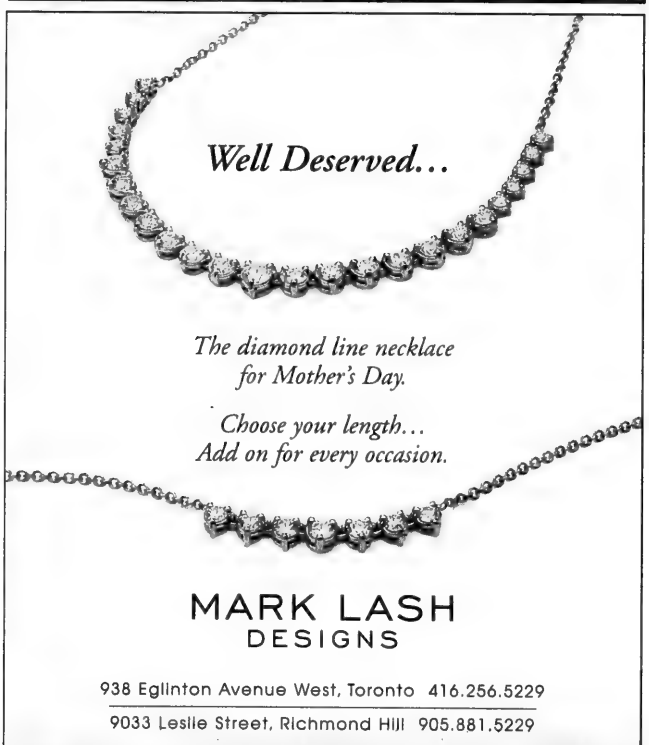

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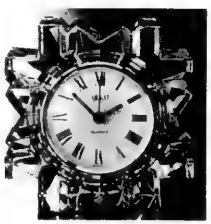

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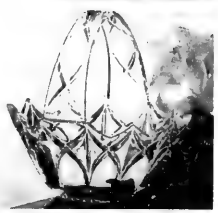

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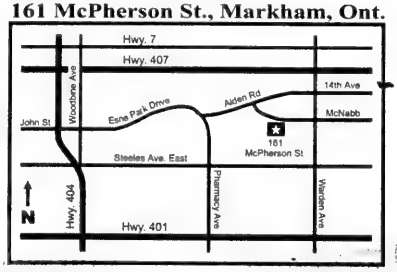

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Arts & Travel

India is a world unto itself

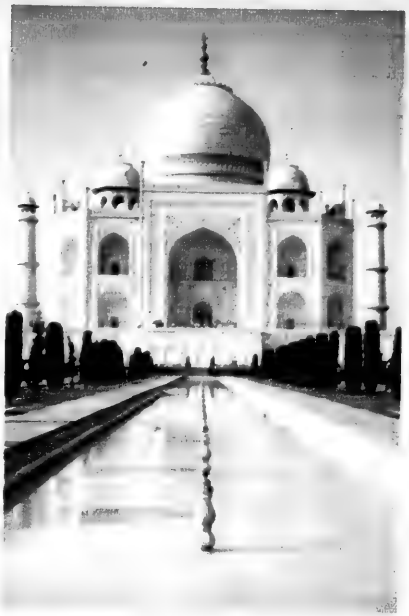
By
SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI — India is a feast for the eyes and an extravaganza for the senses, a nation the size of a continent whose sharply-etched contrasts are never less than jolting.

From the teeming bazaars of New Delhi to the pristine foothills of the Himalayas, India offers a cornucopia of rich, unforgettable travel experiences.

Never having been to India, whose logistical challenges are awesome, I decided that an organized tour would be most feasible. Looking for one that would be economical yet comprehensive, I chose Toronto-based Gap Adventures' three-week Sacred India odyssey, packaged by Intrepid Travel (www.intrepidtravel.com/aasia).

Promising an overview of India's northern rim, Sacred India delivered, exposing me to a small group adventure that left me physically and mentally exhausted.



The Taj Mahal [Sheldon Kirshner photo]

We – myself and 10 others ranging in age from 21 to about 60 – visited an array of places: Hindu holy cities radiating religious piety, charming mountain redoubts where the air was cool and refreshing, and a Muslim village deep in a forest that was preoccupied by a joyous life-cycle ceremony.

We also visited the sublime Taj Mahal, as well as a remote game park rife with tigers and cities with frenetic outdoor markets and stirring Islamic monuments.

In addition, we ventured into a sleepy town whose abandoned palace is now dominated by a colony of monkeys, and we relaxed in a lakeside resort crawling with foreign, and especially Israeli, backpackers.

Spicing up the itinerary was a thrilling whitewater rafting ride on the snaking, swirling Ganges River.

Throughout our travels, India continually bombarded us with striking images that induced no small measure of culture shock: the claustrophobic crowds spilling out of every urban pore, the monumental traffic jams and the fetid open sewers whose stench was only partially offset by wisps of burning incense.

Nor will I forget the armies of beggars in rags and saris, some horribly disfigured; the heartbreaking poverty afflicting the country; the terribly congested second-class compartments of Indian trains – a peek into Dante's inferno – and the hopelessly rutted roads connecting India's farflung states.

As a westerner, I was always surprised by the incongruous sight of cattle, revered in Hinduism, meandering lazily through the streets, and of packs of wild pigs foraging in mounds of garbage. And who can forget the site of a gentle, lumbering elephant being led down a busy street by his keeper?

I will always remember the shouts of tea vendors vigorously calling out, "Hello chai, hello chai," or the baby-falsetto wailing of Hindi female singers.

The memory of dusty rickshaw drivers – the wretched of the earth who peddle furiously in the heat for pennies – and of sadhus, who have renounced all forms of materialism and live off alms, are still fresh in my mind.

Also memorable were the nimble, acrobatic monkeys who brazenly grabbed buttered toast from my breakfast plate, and cavalierly returned for more, and the spectacle of men relieving themselves in full view of indifferent passersby.

My introduction to India was New Delhi, whose main point of interest, for me, was the cacophonous Chandni Chowk, the old shopping district.

Amid the chaos, I let myself be carried forward by surging crowds toward the pungent spice market, the book dealers, the handicraft shops and the textile emporiums.

In Haridwar and Varanasi, both on the banks of the sacred Ganges, I watched bathers on ghats (steps leading to the water's edge) cleansing themselves of their worldly sins, and Hindu priests in saffron robes launching magical leaf-like vessels, bearing lit candles, into the night.

Mornings in Varanasi, a centre of the silk industry, began with the low chant of Hindu prayers and the rites of street barbers plying their trade.

Just outside Haridwar, in the sedate compound of a Jain temple, I saw a woman with a broom sweeping furiously so no one would accidentally step on a wayward insect. The Jains, one of India's numerous religious sects, believe no living thing should come to harm.

In Nainital and Rishikish (which hosted the Beatles during their 1960s pilgrimage), I ran into aging American and European hippies, meditated in ashrams and temples and admired the so-called snow view – the crystalline snow-capped mountains of the Indian Himalayas brooding in the far distance.

We spent a night and part of a day in a Sunni Muslim village, near Rishikish, partaking in wedding festivities and enjoying a special meal of cold buffalo milk (sweet and nutty), plain white rice, mashed vegetables and chipati.

In Agra, a dilapidated city of no appeal and aggressive touts, I came face to face with the majestic Taj Mahal, a marvel of 17th century fantasy Moghul architecture.

And in Corbett park, a wildlife preserve established in 1936, I spotted deer, monkeys and elephants in the wild, but alas, no tigers.

Jaipur, a jewel in Rajasthan's crown, was surely one of the highlights, a pink-walled city of fabulous markets and the site of the Hawa Mahal, the pink-orange facade of a Moghul palace often featured in official Indian travel literature.

Jaipur was also the home of the inimitable Akram K., an antique dealer and free spirit who asked me to write a love letter for him. The object of his undying affection was a British nurse with whom he had a romantic fling six months earlier.

Lucknow offered the ruins of the Residency – a British compound where a 19th century revolt broke out, heralding the rise of the Indian independence movement – and the Imambara, a Shiite Muslim complex of uncommon beauty.

Bundi commanded attention by virtue of its crumbling hillside palace, now the unofficial residence of a pack of monkeys.

Pushkar, with its Western atmosphere, funky cafes and amazing fabric shops, was a haven of relaxation and a hub of Israeli tourists.

In short, India – planet India – was a world unto itself, an endless revelation that constantly held me in thrall.

Lonely Planet's guidebook on India, distributed in Canada by Raincoast Books, is concise and useful.

Eye on Arts

by Bill Gladstone

DUTCH MASTER VIOLINIST JOINS TOP KLEZMER DUO

Dutch virtuoso violinist **Monique Lansdorp** joins **Martin van de Ven** and **Brian Katz** in an evening of traditional klezmer classics, new, jazz-inspired and Balkan tunes and original compositions. One of the most popular Klezmer and Balkan violinists in Europe, Lansdorp has performed on dozens of CDs and toured with **Shura Lipovsky** and **Michael Alpert** of **Brave Old World** fame. She has also toured Europe three times with Katz and ven de Van; this is their North American debut.

"Don't miss this chance to hear one of Holland's treasures!" urges a press release. Mezzetta Cafe, 681 St. Clair Ave. W. Wednesday, May 1; first set at 9 p.m., second at 10:30. Reservations 416-658-5687.

* * *

Satok Lectures: The Satok School of the Arts presents a series of lectures by **Ronald Satok** and others on various aspects of the visual arts. Subjects include Light & Shade, Shadow & Reflection, **Antonio Gaudi**, **Pablo Picasso** and **Michelangelo**. The lectures coincide with the 70th birthday of Ron Satok, who was a sighted artist for 24 years and a non-sighted artists for the past 24 years.

As a catalogue explains, "We believe that our 'down to earth' presentation will remove the pretentiousness that surrounds much of the arts in general."

The series runs Tuesday evenings from May through December. The school is a non-profit arts organization and donations are invited. Lectures are $15 to $25 per session. 446 Ontario St. 416-967-0780.

* * *

Pettle Brothers: Adam Pettle's *Therac 25* is "a poignant one-act play about falling in love in the cancer ward of a hospital." Factory Theatre is presenting the play in Toronto for the first time since it had a brief run five years ago. The playwright is also the author of *Zadie's Shoes* currently running at the Winter Garden Theatre.

Adam Pettle and Patricia Fagan in *Therac 25*. Running until May 19. **[Nir Bareket photo]**

Adam plays the lead role, and his brother **Jordan Pettle** directs. 125 Bathurst St. $25 - $18 (previews $9.99). Previews April 26 to 30, runs May 1 to 19. 416-504-9971.

* * *

United Jewish Peoples Order: From Out of Our Past is an exhibition of the work of **John Williams**, whose cartoon-style art addresses Canadian history from the perspective of working people and their struggles. Presented by UJPO and Mayworks Festival. Opening Sunday, April 28, 4 to 6 p.m. Winchevsky Centre, 585 Cranbrooke Ave. Free. On view until the end of May.

* * *

Arts in Brief

• *Don't Tell Mama*, a cabaret show that pays tribute to the music of **John Kander** and **Fred Ebb**, features a cast of seven. It's at the City Playhouse in Vaughan April 25 to 28, and at Tallulah's Cabaret in Toronto May 7 to 12.

• Stage Centre Productions presents *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, about a seemingly foppish baronet during the French Revolution who is really a courageous hero. Fairview Library Theatre. $20-$10. May 2 to 18. 416-299-5557.

• The Pomegranate Guild of Judaic Textiles presents its fifth annual Seminar for Stitchers, a full-day event with a choice of five workshops. Shaarei Shomayim Synagogue. $55 members, $65 non-members. Sunday, May 5. 416-489-4689. E-mail pgseminar@mail.com.

* * *

At the Galleries

• New Spring Watercolour Show features paintings by Toronto artists **Myra Barook**, **Brenda Bornstein**, **Susan Cohen** and **Rosalie Seidelman**. Kathleen Gormley McKay Art Centre, 197 Main St., Unionville. April 25 to May 5.

• Marcia Rafelman Fine Arts showcases a group of photographers as part of a festival called Light Readings. 10 Clarendon Ave. Open house, April 27 and 28, noon to 5 p.m. 416-920-4468.

• Maslak-McLeod Gallery presents the paintings of Blossoms by **Margaret Florence Ludwig**. April 27 to May 14. Artist will be present April 27, noon to 5 p.m. 25 Prince Arthur Ave. 416-944-2577.

• Portraits, a show of works by **Vivian Reiss**, is on view at the Catch 22 Gallery. "Reiss unveils an exuberant show of portraits featuring Canadian dancers, artists, singers and performers." 112 Merton St. Opens April 30, 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Until May 18. 416-832-7845.

Self-portrait by Vivian Reiss. Portraits runs till May 18.

Israel Philharmonic soloists to visit Toronto

By BEN ROSE
Special to CJN

TORONTO — Eight soloists of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra (IPO) are making their first trip to Toronto to perform a program of music ranging from popular Broadway tunes to classsical masterpieces.

The concert, a Canadian premiere, will take place May 15, at York University, Burton Auditorium, 4700 Keele St. Special guest will be tenor Felix Livshitz, who is a soloist with the New Israeli Opera based in Tel Aviv.

The program, called Sounds of the Old City, will include a mixture of legendary Broadway and Hollywood hits, classical pieces and songs from the shtetl, as well as a salute to composers George Gershwin, Leonard Bernstein, Franz Kreizler, J. Bock and Charlie Chaplin, whose work as a composer is not as well known as his films.

The musicians will be led by arranger and violinist Alexander Povolotsky, of whom the IPO's director Zubin Mehta has said: "He has a great talent for arranging music of different instrumental combinations, epecially music of the lighter genre. His intimate knowledge of string instruments, being a wonderful violinist himself, gives him the advantage of bringing out quality that only a fine string player would know."

Povolotsky, whose daughter and son frequently play violin with him and the IPO, has recently recorded a CD of the trio's music, with works by Sarasate, Paganini, Wieniawski and Dvorak.

For more information, call Ella Tcheloznova at 416-491-3014.

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Legendary art collection from Weimar Germany

By SHELDON KIRSHNER
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — As part of the first Canadian-German festival from April 25 to June 1, the legendary Feldberg art collection will be exhibited here.

Consisting of self-portraits of mainly Jewish avant-garde artists, the Feldberg collection will be on display at the University of Toronto's Justina M. Barnicke Gallery at Hart House.

The self-portraits, from 1920s and 1930s Weimar Germany, are of such luminaries as Kathe Kollwitz, Max Liebermann, Josef Oppenheimer and Oskar Kokoschka.

Scorned by the Nazis, they belonged to a modernist movement known as the Berlin Secession, which opposed Germany's conservative aesthetics.

They were driven out of Germany by Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime.

The self-portraits were amassed by Siegbert Feldberg (1899-1971), a Jewish garment manufacturer from Stettin who enjoyed Berlin's rich cultural milieu.

A lawyer by training, he began to acquire the drawings, water colours and pastels in the early 1920s.

He and his wife Hildegard and their two sons left Germany in 1935 for India, bringing their collection of self-portraits with them.

The Feldbergs lived in India until the 1960s, after which they lived in Germany and Switzerland.

The Berlinische Galerie, Berlin's federal museum of modern art, bought the Feldberg collection of 130 works in 1976.

Like a time capsule, it preserves a long-gone era of Berlin art and cultural history.

Josef Oppenheimer.

The Toronto exhibition, the collection's first public showing anywhere, is in tribute of Hildegard Feldberg, who died in Canada in 1996.

Gallery hours at the Justina M. Barnicke Gallery are 11 am to 7 pm from Monday to Friday and 1 to 4 pm on Saturday and Sunday.

The Canadian-German festival is presenting a vast array of events, from a photo exhibition and a political symposium to concerts and movies.

It is being presented by the Goethe Institut, Inter Nationes, the German National Tourist Office, the German Wine Information Bureau, York University, the University of Toronto and the German-Canadian Business and Professional Association.

ANSWERS TO CROSSWORD PUZZLE ON PAGE 55.

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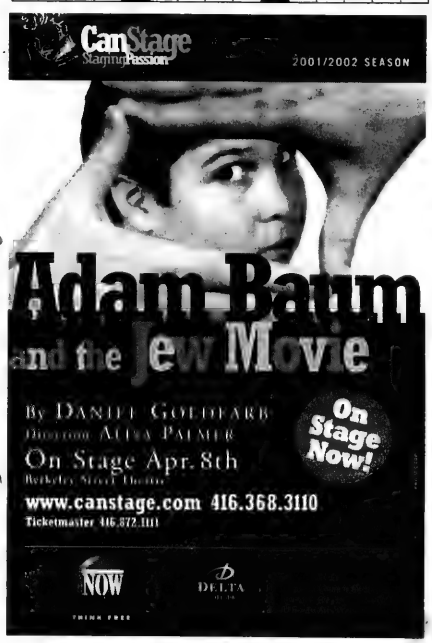


Focus *deals with intolerance, racism and anti-Semitism*

By LARRY ANKLEWICZ
Special to The CJN

Two new video releases recently crossed my desk. One is the fascinating drama *Focus*, based on playwright Arthur Miller's first published novel, and the other is the HBO telefilm, *Conspiracy*, which dramatizes the Wannsee Conference held by Hitler's henchmen in 1942 in order to determine the "final solution".

Focus is the more interesting film. It deals with intolerance, racism, anti-semitism and mistaken identity.

The story revolves around an ordinary man, Lawrence Newman (played by William H. Macy), who does not want to stand out from the crowd. He has a secure but boring job and his life has settled into a safe, uncomplicated mode.

Newman is prepared to continue with his rather unspectacular life until events overtake him.

Newman meets a sexy, outspoken woman (played by Laura Dern) and winds up marrying her. He also loses his job and finding a new one does not come easy.

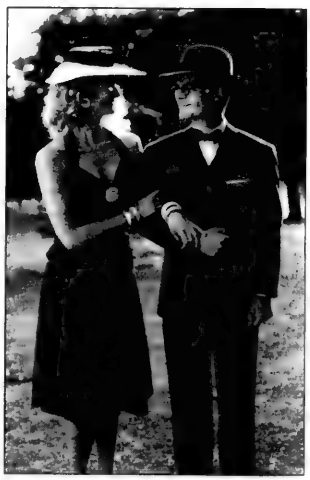
The film is set during World War II in a quiet neighbourhood in Brooklyn. But Newman's neighbours aren't willing to live and let live.

When a Jewish store keeper allows his relatives from Eastern Europe to move in with him, the bigots in the area view this as an invasion of their turf and join an anti-Semitic group in order to keep the area free of Jews.

At first Newman refuses to get involved. But then his wife is attacked because people mistakenly think that he is Jewish. Only then does Newman decide to fight back.

Although the story is set in an era that is almost forgotten now, the film looks at a number of disturbing issues.

Macy and Dern turn in sparkling performances, with David Paymer and Meat Loaf providing solid support.



Laura Dern and William Macey in *Focus*, now on video and DVD.

Focus is now available on VHS and DVD in most video stores and was released by Paramount Home Entertainment.

Conspiracy features Kenneth Branagh and Stanley Tucci, who portray Reinhard Heydrich and Adolf Eichmann, the organizers of the meeting that set the guidelines for the destruction of European Jewry. This video is also now available in video stores and was released by HBO Home Video.

It makes for fascinating viewing, although a previous, superior film called *Wannsee Conference*, produced in German, and filmed in real time, has been available for a number of years. Unfortunately, it may be very difficult to find copies of *Wannsee Conference*, therefore most of us will have to be content with the recent release.

Travel Talk

BY BILL GLADSTONE

B'NAI BRITH ORGANIZES SOLIDARITY MISSION TO ISRAEL

Right now is the best time for Canadian Jews to show solidarity with the Jewish state by visiting Israel, says a B'nai Brith Canada official who is co-ordinating a Summer Solidarity Mission to Israel for June 9 to 15.

Jewish communities around the world have always come to each other's aid in times of distress, said Avie Esakov, who lived in Israel 37 years before coming to Canada last year.

"The community that needs the most help right now is Israel," he said. "In the Gemarah it says, 'Kol Yisrael aravim zeh la zeh' – all of Israel is responsible for one another."

B'nai Brith is promoting the solidarity mission with the phrase, "Stand Tall Against Terror."

Highlights of the proposed trip include discussions with senior government officials, briefings by high-ranking military officers, meetings with the families of victims of terror, an update and review of the situation along the northern border, and a strategic assessment of the situation along the Golan Heights.

"I don't recall a time since the War of Independence that the civilian population of Israel has felt so pressed," Esakov said. "This is the time to show our support. Instead of having Jewish organizations decide to go to Auschwitz and not to Jerusalem, I think it's time they decided to go to Jerusalem and not to Auschwitz."

Although B'nai Brith officials are optimistically expecting 50 to 100 people to join the mission, Esakov said he would like "several hundred people going to Israel because this is when Israel needs it the most." By mid-April some 25 people had expressed interest in the trip.

The Canadian government helped persuade many Canadians to visit New York to show solidarity after Sept. 11, he noted, so Jewish organizations in Canada should be working to get planeloads of Jewish visitors to Israel.

Families are welcome on the 6-day, 5-night trip. The cost of $1,799 per person includes flights, deluxe accommodation, transportation, guide and most meals. Participants are invited to stay on and attend the World Zionist Congress as VIP B'nai Brith representatives from June 17 to 21.

For more details or to register, contact Avie Esakov in Toronto, 416-633-6224, ext. 140. E-mail, aesakov@bnaibrith.ca. In Montreal, contact Saulie Zajdel, 514-733-5377, ext. 22. In Winnipeg, contact Alan Yusim, 204-487-9623.

Esakov is also helping to co-ordinate a special effort through which Canadians may work for one week as volunteers for hospitals, the Magen David ambulance service and the army.

* * *

El Al Update: For understandable reasons, tourism to Israel has been down sharply in recent months, yet El Al's service continues as always.

"The traffic originating in Canada is very small, but there are a lot of Israelis going out of the country to Canada, and via Toronto to Los Angeles," said Stanley Morais, the airline's director of sales and marketing in Canada.

"If we would be dependent only on traffic originating outside of Israel, we'd be looking at a very difficult situation now," he said. "But El Al has increased its market share among Israelis, and Israelis are one of the most well-travelled people in the world."

El Al Israel Airlines recently began utilizing the Boeing 777s, the newest aircraft in its fleet, for its thrice-weekly Canadian runs. The 777s carry 282 passengers and have a slightly larger capacity than the 767s that were previously in use.

Another recent development is that the airline recently gained permission to take on local passengers from Toronto to Los Angeles on the final leg of its Tel Aviv-Toronto-Los Angeles flights.

"It's a good alternative to Air Canada or American Airlines, and it gives the Jewish community another opportunity to support Israel by travelling El Al," Morais said.

"They get the service and they get good El Al security. That's very important nowadays. Security is still at the top of people's list of what people want when they fly, and El Al is still the leader of that."

A market in Old Jerusalem. A B'nai Brith mission is encouraging people to show solidarity with Israelis by visiting the Jewish state. [IGTO photo]

CORRECTION

In our story "Playwright says Adam Baum is 'good for the Jews,'" (*CJN*, April 11), the phone number to get tickets for the play *Adam Baum and the Jew Movie* should have been 416-368-3110. Also, the play runs until May 11.

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Arab emirate welcomes observant Jewish liver specialist

By MYRON LOVE
Prairies Correspondent

WINNIPEG — Dr. Gerald Minuk, one of Canada's leading liver specialists, received a royal welcome in the small Arab emirate of Qatar in Februrary.

Surprisingly, he said, the fact that he is an openly observant Jew didn't seem to faze anyone.

Minuk has been invited to many countries, including Israel, to share his expertise in treating liver disease, but his invitation to Qatar was the first invitation from an Arab country.

"There is a real problem with hepatitis C [in Qatar]," he said. "About 10 per cent of the population is infected, compared to one per cent of North Americans.

"I was invited to come to Qatar to review the problem and recommend treatment and prevention measures."

The Qataris had first proposed that he come in September, but that was not a good time because of the High Holy Days, said Minuk, who is an active member of the Ashkenazi Synagogue, Winnipeg's oldest Orthodox synagogue.

"I didn't hear back from them, so I assumed that since they knew I was Jewish, they didn't want me to come," he said.

In January, though, he received an e-mail from the Qatari minister of health with apologies for not responding sooner – due to Sept.11– and he asked Minuk to come in February.

"I asked Rabbi Avraham Altein – the Lubavitcher rebbe in Winnipeg and the spiritual leader of the Ashkenazi shul – if I should go," Minuk said.

"He told me that of course I should go, but that I should go as a proud Jew, that I shouldn't try to hide my identity."

Minuk said that many colleagues who had travelled in the Arab world advised him to change his passport because of the number of Israeli stamps in it. He didn't though, and it made no difference, he said.

"I was treated as a VIP as soon as I landed. I was met at the airport by a limousine and an entourage of half a dozen local dignitaries."

He was put up in the best hotel in the capital, Dubai (home of Al Jazeera television) and whisked everywhere in limousines.

In between examining patients and giving lectures to medical personnel, he was treated to a celebrity tennis match, watching from the royal box, and taken to visit a Bedouin tent.

"Everyone was very hospitable," he said.

"What surprised me the most was their views on Israel. The concensus seemed to be that the Qataris have no problem with Israelis. They believe that the conflict is between the leaders of the two sides, not the Israeli and Arab people."

Minuk noticed that twice a day, many of his colleagues would steal away for prayer so he let it be known that he also had to take a break to say his prayers.

"I found a window in the hospital complex where I could be clearly visible, put on my tefillin and prayed Shacharit every morning," he said.

"The hospital director told me I was probably the first Jew to pray openly in the country. They respect people who respect their own religion."

The Qatari government was so impressed with Minuk, he said, they offered him a full-time job in the country. "I politely declined."

Spring Sprint to raise funds for brain tumour research

BRAMPTON, Ont. — Every year 10,000 Canadians are diagnosed with brain tumours and every year, researchers get closer to finding a cure for the condition that affects not only the patient but everyone in that person's life.

On Sunday May 5, more than 1,000 people from across southern Ontario will don their walking shoes and head to scenic Professor's Lake, 1660 North Park Drive (East of Highway 410, near North Park Drive and Torbram Road), to participate in the David Bloom Memorial Spring Sprint, raising funds for the Brain Tumour Foundation of Canada (BTFC).

"The foundation means the world to us," sprint chairman Lawrie Bloom said. "After David passed away last year, we brought in record numbers and this year we're going to beat that amount."

The Brampton Sprint is held in honour of David Bloom, who passed away last April of an astrocytoma – an inoperable cancerous brain tumour – at only 19 years of age. He was diagnosed with the condition at 17.

As a singer, actor, dancer and straight-A student, David's presence, charisma, enthusiasm and zest for life touched thousands of people not just in his hometown of Brampton but across the country. From shows at Paramount Canada's Wonderland to the Charlottetown Festival's Somewhere in the World, David always wowed the crowds.

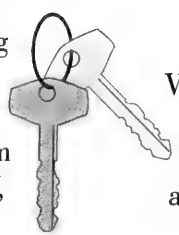
This year, Brampton will join nine other communities across Canada in holding a Spring Sprint. Brampton Mayor Susan Fennell will start the sprint and will be among the dignitaries at the event.

To date, the Brampton Sprint has already secured nearly $65,000 in corporate sponsorship – triple last year's pre-event tally – and is looking to beat last year's overall total of $120,000.

Pre-registration for the event is encouraged by obtaining a pledge-form package from the BTFC at 1-877-236-1927. All participants obtaining $30 or more in pledges will receive a 2002 Spring Sprint T-shirt.

Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. the day of the event, with the sprint starting at 10:30 a.m. Participants will walk, run or wheel the 3 kilometres around Professor's Lake. Festivities will continue until about 1 p.m. with live entertainment, an awards presentation, a silent auction, a door-prize raffle and barbecue.

Spring Car Show
Thursday, April 25th – Saturday, May 4th



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women seeking men

LOVING & CARING
Single Jewish female, 63 yrs, sensual, smart, good sense of humour, loving, caring, very romantic, enjoys a wide variety of interests, seeks male Jewish, 55-70 yrs, spontaneous, honest and romantic, for a long term relationship **AD#1033**

LOOKING FOR LOVE
A Jewish female, 50 yrs, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, loving, warm, caring, classy lady, seeks male, 60-68 yrs, tall, handsome, non smoker, kind, loving, sincere **AD#1230**

LONG TERM LOVE
Single female, classy, smart, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, kind, seeks Jewish male, 65-70 yrs, active, thoughtful, loving, romantic, ready for a committed relationship **AD#1441**

SPRING ROMANCE
Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5' 5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys **AD#1017**

HUMOUR & HONESTY
Single female, 56 yrs, non smoker, enjoys sports, dining out, long walks, movies, rides in the country, medium weight, 5' 4", divorced short brown hair, two grown children, strong sense of integrity, great sense of humour, searching for a single white male 60-65 yrs, with a great sense of humour and honesty. Honesty is very important. I'd like you to give me a call **AD#1209**

LOVER & BEST FRIEND
Single female, warm, caring, intelligent, passionate, slim, fit, outgoing, adventurous, creative, good sense of humour, enjoys nature, horseback riding, movies, travel, skiing, seeks male, handsome, affectionate, intelligent, non smoker, non over weight, successful and ready for romance. **AD#1131**

ROMANCE IS IN THE AIR
Single Jewish female, 64 yrs, smart, spontaneous, compassionate, good sense of humour, seeks male, 65-75 yrs, active, handsome, loving, kind, ready to share loving relationship **AD#1135**

SPRING ROMANCE
Single mom of 1 six year old boy, attractive, long dark hair, hazel eyes, 5' 5", 130 lbs, seeks single Dad's, 30-45 yrs, handsome, kind, loving, ready to share life's joys. **AD#1017**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch. **AD#1290**

LOVE & LAUGHTER
Single female, 55 yrs, outgoing, loving, fit, sincere, good sense of humour, enjoys the theatre, movies, long walks, seeks male with similar qualities and interests **AD#1221**

FABULOUS FIFTIES
Single female, mid fifties, professional, enjoys music, sports, long walks, travel, attractive, good sense of humour, loving, caring, compassionate, seeks male, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1090**

SHARE LIFE'S JOYS
Single Jewish female, sincere, smart, romantic, passionate, enjoys dining and dancing, movies, theatre, seeks male, Jewish 65-80 yrs, thoughtful, loving, with a wide variety of interests. **AD#1292**

LOVING & CARING
Single mom of one 8 yr old child, attractive, 32 yrs, good sense of humour, caring, sharing, wide variety of interests, seeks male, 32-45 yrs, prefer divorced with children and similar interests. **AD#1026**

TAKE A CHANCE
Widowed female, early 60's looks 50 yrs, kind, caring, compassionate, good sense of humour, enjoys travel, the theatre, dining and dancing, seeks widower, non smoker, with similar qualities and interests **AD#1283**

VARIED INTERESTS
Recently widowed 50 yr old lady who was married for 34 yrs, seeks a man with similar interests This outgoing person likes dancing, sports, dining out and travelling She works in science and engineering **AD#1548**

NAUGHTY & NICE
Single female, sensuous, witty, muscal, shapely, sweet, sassy, stylish, warm, loving and caring, wonderful sense of humour Seeks male 42 yrs to 52 yrs mature loving, honest, good sense of humour, similar qualities and interests **AD#1364**

LET'S DINE OUT
Single female, 55 yrs, enjoys dining and dancing, the theatre, a very popular oriented person, loving, caring, honest, warm hearted. Seeks male 45-65 yrs with similar qualities and interests to share life's joys with. **AD#1412**

FOXY LADY
Foxy lady with class, works out, dances, into the arts, fit, non smoker Seeks a male, 50-58 yrs, someone who knows the difference between intimacy and sexuality. Wants a best friend, lovers later Looking for a soulmate. Please respond **AD#1232**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature. **AD#1285**

MATCHMAKER
Matchmaker, matchmaker make me a match. Send me your info and picture, and I'll find you a catch. **AD#1290**

FUN TIMES
Attractive Jewish female, 36 yrs, 5' 7", medium toned build, auburn hair, blue-green eyes, enjoys dining and dancing, travel, bands, likes to have fun Seeks male, 5' 11" tall, full head of dark hair, above average looks, good person, good nature. **AD#1285**

STARTING OVER
Single, non smoking, professional lady, with 2 university aged children and a beautiful golden retriever, may be interested in you this 51 year old likes long walks, sunsets, dancing, movies, travelling, having fun, good friends and honest communications **AD#1128**

VEGAS MOMMA
Las Vegas momma, roll the dice and give my mom a call A kind, caring, compassionate, and vivacious woman widow Early 60's, looks 50's. Enjoys travel, theatre, fine dining, Caesar's Palace Who knows, you may have dealt a royal flush Seeking a non smoking male, similar qualities and interests. **AD#1258**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest Must have great chemistry **AD#1268**

INTELLIGENT FEMALE
Attractive Jewish female, intelligent, kind, easy going, enjoys outdoors, seeks honest man, non smoker, secure, for possible long term relationship **AD#1148**

DANCING, DINING
55 yrs old, divorced female, enjoys dancing, dining, plays, seeks male with similar interests. **AD#1078**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining **AD#1590**

SEEKING CLASSY MALE
Beautiful as a diamond, single female, attractive, slim, classy seeks Jewish male, 50-68 yrs, non smoking, to have/enjoy long walks, theatre, movies, dining. **AD#1590**

GREAT CHEMISTRY
I am a cute, intelligent, petite, cuddly, humourous, fit, widow I am 5' 2" tall, kind, honest, secure, lover of life, theatre, movies, music, travel, dining and art, and a school teacher. Seeking a male, 56-67 yrs, who is humourous, intelligent, secure and who has similar interest. Must have great chemistry. **AD#1268**

DINING ART
Young female, pretty, Jewish, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys dining, art, solid outings. Desires man, 43-53 yrs, professional, intelligent, trustworthy, non smoker, for mature relationship **AD#1301**

MONTREAL LOVIN'
Single female, 58 yrs, in Montreal, slim, fun loving, classy, enjoys aerobics, travel, art, music, dancing Seeks male, sincere, stable, traditional, kind and affectionate Let's share travel between Toronto & Montreal **AD#1338**

FULLY LOADED
Blonde bombshell with brains No surprises, seeks same type of guy who is secure Submit photo Must be a professional Time is limited, so hurry! **AD#1025**

SEEKS YOUNG AT HEART
Sexy, classy, attractive, slim, talented, intelligent, secular, non-smoking, multi-faceted lady who is fun, easy to be with and highly evolved seeks a man between 51-60 yrs who is young at heart and loves life. She likes the arts and working out **AD#1308**

HONEST PROFESSIONAL
Once again, divorced Israeli-Canadian, kind, honest, professional, easy going, down to earth, good listener, fun to be with, great sense of humour, enjoys long walks, cuddling, dining, dancing, travelling Seeks man, 50-60 yrs, same qualities and interests for long term relationship **AD#1112**

SEEKS SINCERE MAN
Friendly, down to earth, hard working, 39 year old lady, seeks a sincere, attractive, hard working man for a committed future She likes dancing, movies and the occasional restaurant Let's meet for a coffee **AD#1575**

SEXY SIREN
Sexy siren (LOL). Busy single mom, looking for a man, for those times she is free to share some time together. Dancing, dining, etc. **AD#1358**

YOUTHFUL BLONDE
Youthful, 50's, blonde professional, dynamic, fit, European background, loves to laugh, loves movies, theatre, travel, seeks male, professional or businessman with similar interests. **AD#1381**

EASY GOING
Jewish female, 45 yrs, easy going, enjoys outdoor activities, seeks non smoking male, a nice man who is secure, possibly divorced **AD#1141**

EDUCATED FEMALE
Jewish female, attractive, intelligent, kind, educated, seeks intelligent honest man, 70-76 yrs old. **AD#1579**

THE RIGHT CONNECTION
"The key is compatibility" Looking for someone who mutually clicks Our personalities have to mesh Honest, secure, 33 yr old, female, interested in developing a relationship with a guy 32-38 yrs See if our voiced blend **AD#1588**

LET'S MEET
Blonde haired, blue eyed, lady with an actual brain, seeks someone who is secure in his life and who is willing to submit a photo She says she is completely loaded with a complete package **AD#1142**

L'CHAIM
Fun loving, single, Jewish mom, attractive, intelligent, kind, fit, 5' 5" tall, good natured, seeks single Jewish traditional male, under 50 years who is 6 ft tall, handsome, established, exciting, caring, non smoker, who loves life **AD#1163**

A SOULMATE
Youthful, attractive, down to earth, single Jewish female,35 yrs old, 5' 2", short blonde hair, brown eyes, enjoys outdoors, skiing, skating, cycling, horseback riding, movies, music. Seeking a positive, handsome, athletic, single male, 33-43 yrs for long term relationship **AD#1223**

YOUNG AT HEART
Divorced Jewish female, late 50's, with grown children, young at heart, good listener, easy going, seeks man who is also a good listener, with a good sense of humour, enjoys movies, dancing, animals and doesn't smoke **AD#1196**

LIKES TO LAUGH
Vivacious, 50 yr old, downtown Jewish woman, who likes to laugh and just loves to travel, is looking for someone who is independent, and ambitious, but likes to have fun, also. She is looking for an honest relationship. **AD#1139**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship. **AD#1024**

FRIENDSHIP
Pretty Jewish young female, 5' 5", slim, hazel eyes, enjoys theatre, dining, arts, out of town excursions Desires a complimentary Jewish single male, 43-53 yrs, who is professional, intelligent, trustworthy, a fit non smoker for social outings, friendship **AD#1028**

HAS READY SMILE
Friendly, cooperative, positive, good natured, early 50's lady with a ready smile, seeks a single Jewish man, between 48 and 65 yrs, who is financially secure, intelligent, and has a good sense of humour, for a long term relationship **AD#1024**

LET'S SEE THE WORLD
Hello, you do not have to be perfect, just perfect for me I am a short, fat, blonde, blue eyed woman, who's divorced with 2 kids. I am caring, loyal, honest, intelligent, and semi-retired I seek a black man who is not skinny, must be well build, strong, funny, caring, non smoker, sense of adventure **AD#1136**

SERIOUS AND MATURE
Looking for a nice kind intelligent male, over 42 years with a good sense of humour, someone who is serious and mature She is shy, mature and keeps busy with a job and family Please reply **AD#1620**

A GOOD MATE
Single female, Jewish, 50's, attractive, 5' 6", red hair, blue eyes, works out, nice shape, seeks non smoking male, with a good heart, who can dance and is well groomed If you are a match, life is so precious and a good mate is hard to find **AD#1106**

WALKS & TRAVEL
49 yr old female, brown hair, green eyes, non smoker, enjoys dining, music, sports and travel, seeks male, 45-58 yrs, 5' 11", good natured, down to earth, honest and sincere. Please call **AD#1194**

ARE YOU READY?
Attractive Jewess, 5' 5", brunette, kind, fit, and fun loving, seeks dynamic healthy, honest, established, exciting, handsome, traditional, Jewish gentleman, 6 ft plus, between 45 to 5 yrs who is non smoker and who enjoys life **AD#1041**

men seeking women

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP
Single male, 5' 10", 180 lbs, salt & pepper hair, loving, kind, enjoys kids of all ages, likes movies, dancing, outdoor activities, bbq'ing, family life, watching TV in front of the fireplace, seeking female with similar qualities and interests for a relationship. **AD#1145**

CALL ME
Health pro, attractive, 5' 8", hazel eyes, good physical shape, likes to exercise, world travel, likes people who are open minded, happy secure, knows the importance of family/friends Looking for kind, loving heart, who's attractive, fit, and looking to build a family. **AD#1222**

LET'S GET TOGETHER
Loves movies, theatre, dining, dancing, has great circle of friends, enjoys sports, hockey, scrabble, backgammon, majong, cards, great sense of humour, good soul, looking for the same in a male: funny, charming, good sense of humour, who a willing to give more than 2 minutes. **AD#1396**

CALL ME
Single female, seeking intelligent friend & companion, who embraces life enthusiastically, creative, professional, well travelled & ardent scientist, seeking Jewish male, 60-70 yrs, who might share my interests as well as others. **AD#1030**

DYNAMIC
Attractive Jewish female, 5' 5", brown hair & eyes, kind, sincere, creative,seeks traditional jewish gentleman over 45 yrs young, handsome, over 6 ft tall, genuine, kind, intelligent, non smoker, financially stable, humourous to share in life's joys. **AD#1253**

DREAM COME TRUE
Single Jewish male, handsome, personable, loving, kind, understanding, enjoys dining, dancing, long walks, movies, family life, seeks female with similar qualities and interests, to dream with and share life's joys **AD#1179**

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
Single male, 30 yrs, never married, handsome, loving, passionate, enjoys ports, camping, outdoor activities, dining and dancing, movies, seeks female, 22-36 yrs with similar qualities and interests for long term loving relationship **AD#1424**

SHARING AND CARING
Divorced Jewish male, 2 grown children, handsome, fit, active, 5' 10", 175 lbs, athletic, very social, enjoys music, travel, and a wide variety of interests, seeks female with similar qualities and interests for loving relationship **AD#1340**

ATTENTION CAR BUFFS!
Single male, a cuddly caddie, vintage 1959, blue eyes. Exterior: Tall, handsome, good body. Interior: Compassionate, caring, outgoing, open minded, enjoys live shows, the theatre, singing, seeks white or pink caddie, 1962-1972, charming, warm, shapely, sincere and open minded **AD#1252**

HONEST AND CARING
Single male, 48 yrs, deals in the stock market, enjoys dining and dancing, old movies, music, honest, stable, caring, good natured, single mom's okay, no need to be slim, for long term loving relationship. **AD#1130**

TRILINGUAL GUY
Tall, dark, handsome man who stands 5' 11", weighs 180 lbs, and is trilingual, seeks the woman of his dreams. **AD#1109**

HEART OF GOLD
Single male, 49 yrs, 6' 2", 180 lbs, brown hair, brown eyes, intelligent, cultured, down to earth, good sense of humour, enjoys reading, music, seeks a lady in every sense of the word warm, good sense of humour, strong moral family oriented. **AD#1177**

KIND & CUTE
46 yr old Jewish male, looks young, cute smile. Seeks attractive Jewish female between 35-41 yrs for casual dating. Also seeking long term relationship. Enjoys dining, movies, dancing, long walks in the park. Kind and caring wants future family **AD#1096**

EASY GOING
Single male, Jewish, widower, 63 yrs, financially secure, professional, active, physically fit, enjoys music, opera, movies, travel. Very easy going, happy, looking for someone to be with **AD#1049**

KEEPING BUSY
Easy going, down to earth, 5' 11", wants a lady with similar interests, who has a great sense of humour. Likes to keep busy with time. Looking for someone to be comfortable with. **AD#1654**

A GENTLEMAN
A tall, attractive, gentle and well mannered 73 yr old man, who enjoys ballroom dancing, seeks a dancing companionship and sharing life. **AD#1258**

CADDY FOR SALE
Nice Caddy for sale. Attention car buffs. '59 Caddy, exterior is tall, handsome, good physique. Interior is caring, easy going, open minded, positive Performance includes movie going, travel and humour. Seeks Caddy circa;'62 - '72, mid size, shapely and pretty interior warm, easy going, and charming Performance. Let's have a wonderful life together. **AD#1444**

SEEKS NICE LADY
71 yr old, Jewish male of European background, who is physically active and financially secure, seeks a nice lady for friendship and a serious relationship. He likes movies, dancing and all things beautiful in life. **AD#1543**

HEALTHY GUY
Single Jewish male, 46 yrs, 5' 7", university educated, youthful, sensitive, adventurous, healthy, seeks serious relationship with physically active female. **AD#1651**

CUDDLY CADDY
Born 1959, and traditionalist, top shape, pristine, conscientious, sensitive, driven with passion, class, and vitality, enjoys motives, outings. Seeks honest, well rounded, full figured woman, nice and warm, 1963-1969. Waiting for you call. **AD#1572**

POETIC MALE
Poetic, 40's adventurous, traditional, humourous. Where is she that seeketh her shining armoured knight? I have stayed for the dragons to bringeth my pure delight. She is there my lady fair, I do declare the only one and haste my sweet embrace my shivalrest task will be done And when the time cometh under the canopy and our vows be made true, thus shall be proclaimed our bondship surely as the sun shineth **AD#1140**

YOUTHFUL GUY
Jewish male, 41 yrs, western european background, looks younger than his years, handsome, beautiful smile, non smoker, non drinker, romantic, good conversation, classical music, dining, reading, travel, looking for Jewish female, 29-35 yrs, who is loving, down to earth, doesn't have to possess and baggage, and must not have kids. Casual to long lasting relationship. **AD#1286**

TRAVEL & ADVENTURE
I am interested in building a new life, I am a single male, 54 yrs, professional, fit, active, I have two university aged children, interest are politics, art, adventure, and travel Looking for a Jewish female, for a mature relationship. **AD#1643**

LIKES GOOD CONVERSATION
41 yr old Jewish male, who looks younger and is handsome and romantic seeks Jewish female, between 29 and 34 yrs who is affectionate and emotionally healthy He likes quiet evenings, good conversation, classical music and walks in parks. **AD#1657**

MODERN ORTHODOX
Modern orthodox, tall medium build, open outlook on life, enjoys arts and music. Warm, caring individual, courteous, good traits, comes from a fine family of tradition, possesses a warm peaceful smile. **AD#1195**

HANDSOME AND SLIM
Single male, handsome, slim, kind, caring, good conversation, seeks female, 20-35 yrs, who is attractive, tall, down to earth, and who is not materialistic **AD#1456**

SKIING & TENNIS
Single male, 47 yrs, 5' 10", 170 lbs, easy going, romantic, flexible, enjoys skiing, tennis, boating, biking, movies. Seeks Jewish female, 35-42 yrs, with a great sense of humour **AD#1394**

JUST THE TWO OF US
Single male, 41 yrs, never married, looking for a long term relationship, with that special female, who is, 27-37 yrs. Seeks someone who is warm and fun, an outdoors type, who enjoys movies, dinner and shopping - just the two of us. **AD#1201**

MYSTICAL LADY
Divorced male, 43 yrs, 6 feet tall, Torontonian, outgoing, decent, musical, compassionate, loves theatre, arts, outdoors. A traditional male, works a a financial consultant. Seeks a lovely lady who is medium build and full figured, kids okay, family oriented. Seeks lady with many interests. **AD#1372**

EASY GOING GUY
Single male, Jewish widower, financially successful, professional, physically active, enjoys jazz and classical music, theatre, movies, travel, very happy and easy going, seeks similar type female **AD#1202**

ROMANTIC AT HEART
Single male, widower, 58 yrs old, well established, enjoys music, romantic evenings, biking. Seeks female, for long term relationship She is very easy to be with. **AD#1334**

LET'S TALK
43 yrs old, Jewish male, 5' 9", blonde hair, wears glasses, likes long walks, hiking and drives in the country, board games, chess and scrabble. Seeks bright woman 20-40 yrs, who loves to talk. **AD#1510**

LET'S TALK
Jewish male, 37 yrs, athletic, hardworking, enjoys movies, theatre, outdoors, dancing, etc . seeks Jewish female, with similar interests. Please contact me. **AD#1329**

SOPHISTICATED MAN
Israeli Canadian, 39 yrs, professionally educated, single male, never married, speaks Hebrew and Spanish. Seeks Jewish/European female, good educational background, never married, no children, good qualities, to enjoy art galleries, and tennis. Must give her undivided attention. **AD#1427**

MASSAGE THERAPY
Single male, 28 yrs, university graduate, studied massage therapy, outspoken and has a great sense of fun. Seeks beautiful woman, 38-49 yrs, single, Jewish, must be outspoken, outgoing, open minded and spontaneous, enjoys life everyday. **AD#1399**

CALL ME
37 yr old, Jewish male, hard working, interesting, enjoys sports, dancing, movies, theatre, working out, the outdoors, seeks Jewish female, with similar interests, 25-38 yrs, good Jewish values, if that sounds like you, please contact me. **AD#1216**

YOUNG AT HEART
Male, 75 yrs young, active, physically and mentally fun to be with, interesting person, highly educated, financially secure, seeks female, to give me affection, friendship, partnership, for now or more serious later, 165 cm tall, not overweight, nice looking. **AD#1287**

FRIENDS FIRST
Single male, 56 yrs old, tall slim, down to earth, vegetarian, honest, sincere & affectionate, and like-minded, to be friends first. **AD#1206**

HE'S HONEST
Clean shaven, self-employed, 49 year old who looks younger and has brown hair and eyes, seeks an attractive, medium built, honest, kind, and open lady between 38 and 46 years old. He is honest with a great sense of humour **AD#1641**

CANDLELIGHT & WINE!
Male single, Jewish, romantic, professional, good looking, 5'9", 185 lbs, physically fit, good sense of humour, well mannered, enjoys sailing, skiing, dancing, theatre, movies, travel, aerobics, cooking, candle light, glass of wine, romantic places, positive outlook on life, non smoker, seeking complimentary lady approximately 36-48 yrs. **AD#1343**

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CUSTOM BUILT HOME IN NORTH YORK
4 bdrms, fin bsmt, on quiet court backing onto park! Huge pie shaped lot, 110 feet at the rear! Wood floors, huge principal rooms, 4 bathrooms, library & den, prof landscaped +++ *Larry Wronzberg

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BAYVIEW-16TH $579,000
About 4,000 sq ft! Fabulous 4 bedroom, marble foyer and hall, oak kitchen, designer finishes, extras galore! Interlock driveway. Shows great!! **M. Waxman

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"ROSEDALE NORTH" 5 BEDROOM!
Large corner lot, 5 bdrms, newer kitchen, window & ceramics, main floor laundry room, prof landscaped & fence plus Hot Tub!! Direct entry to house thru garage. Walk to schools and shops. *Larry Wronzberg

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Only $399,900! Great 4 bdrm, large living room, 2 car garage, 2nd floor laundry room, professionally landscaped, fenced. On quiet street! *Larry Wronzberg

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4 bdrms, 2.5 baths, strip hardwood floors in living, dining rooms and den. Walk-out basement, single car garage + carport. Huge deck off kitchen, priced to sell @ $349,900. Flexible closing. Call *Larry Wronzberg

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Fab 3 bdrm, finished basement, 3 piece ensuite, family room & double garage, only $319,900!! *Helen Winer

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Lux 2 bdrm, 2 baths, tandem prking for 2 cars, locker, large unit! Facilities include indoor pool, tennis, billiard room, recreation room, security. *Larry Wronzberg

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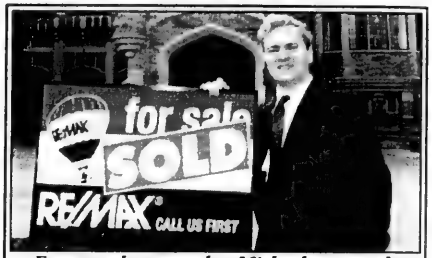

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BATHURST/STEELES
$499,000. Immaculate 4 bedroom, large family room + kitchen, finished basement w/4pc, hardwood floors, Jacuzzi, pot lights, oak trim, inground pool. Leslie Richman*, Ext. #241

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Huge sunny fam rm & big breakfast area. 2 Master ensuite washrooms & dble gar. Late 70's renovation. 55 x 140 ft. lot. $789,000. Jeffrey Joseph**, Ext. #519

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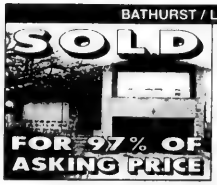

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BATHURST MANOR
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Gorgeous completely reno'd 3 bdrm. Sidesplit, 2 full baths, family room. W/I fireplace & w/o to large garden. Steps to synagogues, TTC, subway, schools. SEE IT – LOVE IT!
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$439,800. Great layout, upgrd, large 4+2 bdrm. family home with prof. fin. basement, steps to shuls, amenities, etc. Main flr. family room, comb LR/DR. Shows well! Call **Wayne Kahn at Re/Max Realtron Realty Inc. 416-222-8600.**

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Ontario Golf Hall of Fame awaits 'true legend' Lightstone

By PAUL LUNGEN
Staff Reporter

TORONTO — Back in the early 1950s, Irv Lightstone embarked on a career path that could hardly be considered typical for a nice Jewish boy from Toronto.

Lightstone accepted a partial athletic scholarship to a California college to play golf, the country club sport of the American elite.

Hardly typical for the time, but even in 2002 there still aren't too many People of the Book lining up to enroll for a higher golf education at top tier U.S. colleges, let alone in the PGA's demanding "Q school."

But Lightstone loved the game from an early age. He was one of the few boys to receive a set of clubs for his bar mitzvah and when he left for San Francisco, he was a pretty good golfer looking to get better.

Fifty years later, after a long and varied career as a top amateur player and a club professional, Lightstone's accomplishments are being recognized. On May 8 at Wooden Sticks in Uxbridge, Ont., he will be inducted into the Ontario Golf Hall of Fame in recognition of his many contributions to the sport.

Described as a "true legend" by golf course architect Ron Garl, Lightstone has done just about everything in the golf world short of outscoring Tiger Woods.

He was elected president of the Canadian Professional Golf Association (CPGA), he has served as head professional of Maple Downs Golf Course for 46 years, he was head professional at the Doral Golf & Country Club in Miami, Fla., he was named Ontario Golf Professional of the Year in 1979 and Canadian Golf Professional of the Year in 1980. Lightstone played the PGA Tour in the early 1960s as well as several amateur circuits of the day.

Besides raising more than $1 million for the Easter Seals Society at an annual tournament at Maple Downs, he is perhaps best known for the mentoring he has provided 28 golf assistants who went on to become pros at clubs across Canada.

"I was with Irv for five years," said Jeanine Perse, head pro at Lake Joseph in Muskoka, in an interview with *Globe and Mail* golf columnist Lorne Rubenstein.

"He let you find your own way, and in doing that, you learned a lot. He was always there to help you move up and never felt threatened by his assistants. He encouraged us to go and get our own jobs."

Lightstone, 67, said he gets very emotional when he hears testimonials from his former associates.

"I don't think I've ever hurt anyone in my life. I've just tried to help people," he said. "I dealt with people on a high level, trained them and showed them how to play, how to deal with people on a human level."

Throughout his lengthy career, Lightstone has had the opportunity to rub shoulders with a host of golf legends, and plenty of celebrity amateurs who were legends in their own field of work.

Back in his university days, college golf was as popular in California as hockey is here. It was dominated by the likes of Ken Venturi, Tony Lema, Bob Rossburg, Billy Casper and Gene Littler.

The level of golf was high and he admits he learned a lot at the time. Even the public courses were set up to create champions. One of them, Harding Park in San Francisco, was a PGA Tour stop and yet only charged $1 a day to play. (It charges $26 (US) for a round today.)

When he returned to Canada after 1½ years, he joined the Ontario Amateur Tour, playing with Moe Norman, Gary Cowan and Nick Weslock, all Canadian hall of famers.

"I was ranked in the top 15 in Ontario," Lightstone recalled. "I just love it so much, that's all I wanted to do."

Known for his excellent wedge play and accurate putting, Lightstone said today's golfers have a tremendous length advantage over the golfers of the '50s. Using wooden clubs, 240-260-yard drives were large back then, never mind the 310-yard monster hits of today's top hitters. The balls today, in particular, are a lot better than the old balata balls, which did not fly as far and which were inconsistent in their flight path, he said.

Lightstone played in two Canadian Opens as an amateur, and five as a pro. From 1955-56, he travelled the Southern Amateur Circuit with Norman, whom he describes as "probably the best ballstriker I've ever seen."

Norman was known for his hard work, perseverance and dedication to the game, sometimes practicing so much his hands became too raw to grip the club.

"From him I picked up course management, cutting and hooking the ball," said Lightstone, who appeared in a recent TV documentary about Norman.

In 1956, Lightstone turned pro at Maple Downs, which at the time was not much more than a cow pasture with 18 holes.

While helping build the club into a prestigious venue that would go on to host top players like George Knudson, Al Balding, Nick Price, Lee Trevino and Curtis Strange, Lightstone pursued a second career in the United States.

From November to March in the early 1960s, when Maple Downs closed down, he played the PGA Tour. "I might've picked up small money," he said, teeing off against Arnold Palmer, Casper, Rossburg and Venturi.

A few years later, he got involved with a much more lucrative venture. He was hired by entrepreneur Alfred Kaskel to serve as head golf pro at Doral in Miami. One of his main tasks was wining and dining the stars who lived in or visited "Las Vegas West."

TV star Jackie Gleason was a regular at Doral, playing seven days a week. He lived in a lodge at the course and did his show from the Miami Auditorium. Gleason was king of the course and Kaskel had a special cart constructed for him, equipped with a TV set, a bar and a telephone hooked into the club's main switchboard.

[Al Gilbert photo]

Irv Lightstone to be inducted

The front of the car was emblazoned with, "How sweet it is," the back, "And away we go," two of Gleason's signature lines.

Gleason's buddy, Ed Sullivan, would fly down to Miami after his Sunday night TV show and spend three or four days playing the course with Gleason.

Other stars Lightstone met included Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin, Sammy Davis Jr. and Vic Damone. Of the bunch, Martin was the best golfer, usually shooting in the low 80s.

As time went on and Miami lost its luster, Lightstone concentrated on Maple Downs. The members poured money into the farmer's field and turned it into a top course.

"If the course was in the United States, it would become a national park," he said.

Lightstone has also served as golf consultant for numerous courses in Ontario, even one in Varedaro, Cuba.

Though he'll be retiring as head pro, Lightstone plans to keep busy. He will continue to serve as vice-president of marketing for a golf apparel company and he'll keep up his consulting work.

What's more, he plans to play four or five rounds a week and probably improve his game.

Not bad. Retire as a head pro and get to play more golf. The love affair with the game continues.

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Not the time for locked doors

Left, right, centre

By AVRUM ROSENSWEIG

Every community has a prevalent culture and character that help to shape its identity. The Toronto Jewish community is a tight-knit group harbouring a huge love for Israel. Generally, we are not at the forefront of creative change and scholarship in the Jewish world, yet we are programmatically vibrant and communal in spirit. From the outside, Toronto is viewed as a great place to raise a family and actualize a Jewish life with little fear of anti-Semitism.

Like a person whose personality is crowded and composed of many qualities, however, our community also has certain foibles.

One of those blemishes is the quiet indifference and inactivity of so many of Toronto's Jews during crisis periods, a weakness magnified since the recent crisis in Israel.

Our Jewish community is made up of close to 200,000 people. Yet at a recent Israel rally held at Mel Lastman Square, only 2,000 individuals showed up. This month, following limited advertising, Aish Hatorah held a rally at Queen's Park, and 800 people were in attendance. Last year, approximately 250 Jews participated in a vigil voicing concern for the safety of Iranian Jews who had been arrested, and accused of spying for Israel – a capital offence.

Most Jewish organizational professionals will tell you that a well advertised rally will capture the attention of at best 5,000 people, many of whom are compassionate and vigorous elderly, motivated by their stark memories of signs on Lake Ontario beaches stating, "No dogs or Jews allowed."

So where are the Jews of Toronto? Why are we individuals – the strength of the Jewish collective – leaving a very difficult and courageous task up to a small percentage of our community's population (people frustrated and sad at their neighbours' intransigence to rise to the words of Eli Wiesel: to be Jewish is to care).

Why is it that Jewish communities in Paris, New York and Russia consistently attract thousands of local Jews to their rallies?

Our adversaries are aware of the tiny crowds we get at public expressions of concern. This serves to strengthen their position and motivation. Knowing this, where are the crowds?

The easiest response to this is that Jewish organizations are at fault, weak in their marketing machine and lacking passion in their plea. I believe that there is a certain truth to this; however, in our less-than-perfect community, organizations have generally created a magnificent infrastructure accessible to most Jewish members. E-marketing, posters and faxes advertising major events, are everywhere – enough so that Jews living in the Beaches, Brampton, Mississauga, let alone along the Bathurst corridor, can easily discover times, dates and venues.

Maimonides said, "It is wrong to consider personal danger when the public welfare is at stake." It is time for the entire population of 200,000 Jewish men, women and children in Toronto to be accountable, active participants in securing and maintaining the future and security of the children of Israel.

Buses are being blown up in Haifa, rabbis are being beaten up in Germany, and a shul in downtown Toronto was set ablaze. Be a warrior Jew. Stand up and fight! Don't leave the job up to a few burdened and courageous Jews.

A classic Chassidic quote states: The virtue of angels is that they cannot deteriorate; their flaw is that they cannot improve. Humanity's flaw is that we can deteriorate, but our virtue is that we can improve.

Let us all struggle to ensure that Toronto Jewry works together to be a powerful light unto other communities, and starting players in the fascinating and often perilous Jewish story.

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Carmelized Kugel

1/4 cup pareve margarine
1/2 cup dark brown sugar, packed
1 cup whole pecan halves
1 lb. medium noodles, cooked and drained
4 eggs, beaten
1/3 cup sugar
1 tsp. salt

Preheat oven to 350°

Melt 1/4 cup margarine in 10" bundt pan. Sprinkle brown sugar at bottom and around side of pan. Press pecan halves firmly into bottom of pan. Mix other ingredients into noodles. Pour into pan and bake 1 hour. Cool and unmold.

WE NOW SELL MATTRESSES!
See opposite page for this week's specials.

About Life

Dear Ella,

My daughter Tracy attends university in the United States. She lives off campus with her fiancé Alan. They have been together for three years and have been cohabitating for two of those three years.

Here is my issue. Tracy and Alan are coming home for Alan's brother's bar mitzvah next week. I haven't seen Tracy for a long time and am very excited about catching up on all the news. Tracy expects to stay here with Alan – in one room. I am very uncomfortable with that.

I still have another, older teenage daughter at home and feel this would be sending a bad message to her. My husband says I need to lighten up or Tracy and Alan will stay at Alan's place where staying in one room is not an issue.

Do you think I'm out of line? Should I lighten up?

One Room or Two

Dear One Room or Two,

After consulting the Beth David B'nai Israel Beth Am Sisterhood, I received the following possible solutions:

a) You shouldn't let them stay together as that goes against your principles and the rules in your home.

b) You do whatever you have to do to be with your daughter whom you have missed dearly and would do almost anything to be with.

c) Give them two separate rooms and turn a blind eye to what goes on in the night.

These are obviously different views, one of which may suit you best. My opinion tends to lean closest to (a). I believe that no one should ever be made uncomfortable in his or her own home, for any reason.

There is plenty of time to shmooze, talk and have dinners and lunches together, even if Tracy chooses not to sleep at home. But I think if you explain to her how you feel, without anger or judgement, she may respect your wishes and not want to disappoint you.

The fact that you have another teenager at home is a big factor as well. It would be hard for you to deny her request of staying in one room with her beau after you have allowed Tracy to do so. Stick to your gut feelings!

Readers may submit their questions to Ella at The CJN., *email: eb@cjnews.com. But Ella is not a professional counsellor. She brings to the questions posed by readers her unique brand of earthy wisdom. Her advice is not a replacement for medical, legal or any other advice. For serious problems, consult a professional.*

Crossword Puzzle

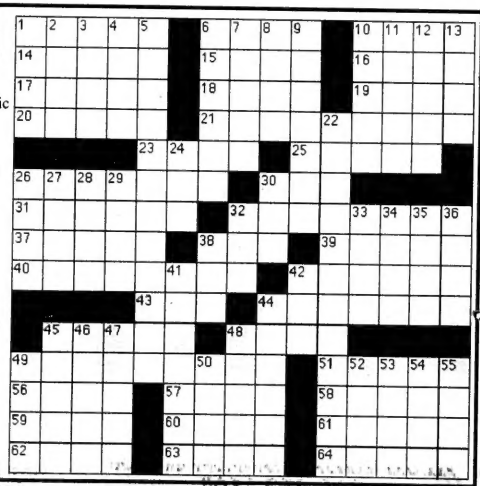
The Canadian Jewish news

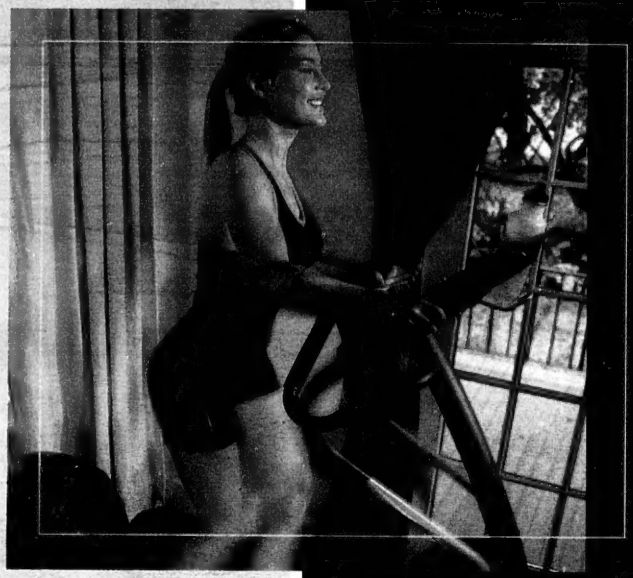
(Answers to the crossword are on page 46.)

Jerusalem & Neighbors
© 2002, R. Bernard Mann

Across
1. City, site of the Technion
6. Fill in seams
10. Jazz syllable riffs
14. _____ ski
15. Israel's continent
16. Exuded spirit
17. "Beauty is ___", Keats
18. Lose some by finding the right one
19. Atrium attire
20. Svelte
21. City, ancient capital
23. Where Tree of Life grew
25. Less, in Barcelona
26. Colonists, French or Spanish descent
30. Hurok
31. City, once David's capital
32. Head with a flow (sailor's term)
37. Spelling
38. City, tribal capital
39. Visual aid
40. Leon and family
42. City, once David's hole-in-the-wall
43. Link
44. Russian, Iranian, Danish, red, black
45. Navigational aid
48. French without
49. The City, the Capital
51. City, Sherif Hussein bin Ali's capital
56. Chooses
57. Marcel Marceau
58. VII, XIV, or DCL
59. What something can be suited to
60. Hershheiser
61. 18 Across, in Dimona
62. Neck fluff
63. Landscape writer Fairbrother
64. Football Hank

Down
1. Fedoras
2. Fr. capital's enviable month
3. "_ ___ the day"
4. Celebrate
5. City's bus stops, in this Israeli port
6. Action groups
7. An Israeli, or perhaps an Odessan
8. Jewish hearty name
9. City district, in Jerusalem
10. The Dark One
11. Former New York State governor
12. Jason's boat
13. Asserted, in Hebrew
22. City's resort assets, Israeli mecca
24. Israeli minister Melchior's nat. land
26. Shmooze
27. Aft
28. Hebrew, in Spanish (var.)
29. Lights (Heb.)
30. Shemesh, in English
32. Head, headland, in Arabic
33. Heyerdahl's raft
34. Mujeres or Cozumel
35. Mail, in Modiin
36. Units of energy or work
38. An indigo source
41. Cinnamon, in Hebrew
42. Species, in Hebrew
44. Ships of the desert
45. Prefix for thin, fine
46. Coffee __ ____ ?
47. Strategems
48. Male organ fluid
49. Led David's attack on 21 Across
50. Israeli coin, preceded new shekel
52. Resign
53. Land of Opport.
54. Ray
55. City, later known as Damascus





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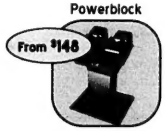

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